

April 2008

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ruel Daggs v. Elihu Frazier, et al.

On June 7, 1850, a Federal jury in Burlington, Iowa, ruled that Elihu Frazier and five other residents of Salem, Iowa, owed Missouri slaveholder Ruel Daggs \$2,900 in damages for preventing slave catchers from bringing a group of escaped slaves belonging to Daggs back to Missouri. Daggs had asked for \$10,000, but the sum awarded was still sizable for the time. Several points were at issue in the suit: whether Daggs had provided the slave catchers with the authority to pursue the slaves, whether and to what extent the defendants had interfered with the slave catchers, and whether they had harbored the fugitive slaves. After almost two years of legal maneuvers, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Daggs.

A small town with a two-acre public square at the center, Salem, Iowa, had been established by a group of Quakers in the mid-1830s. The local Quakers opposed slavery, and were active in the abolition movement. The town was reputed to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The events chronicled in the Daggs case unfolded against the national debate over the admission of California to the Union as a free state, which would upset the congressional balance in favor of the free states. That debate resulted in the Compromise of 1850, which admitted California as a free state and passed a new, harsher Fugitive Slave Law under which the infamous *Dred Scott* case would be prosecuted.

According to the testimony of James McClure, one of the slave catchers, nine slaves escaped from Daggs' property in northeast Missouri on Friday night, June 2, 1848. They were Sam Fulcher, his wife Dorcas, their pregnant daughter Julia, John Walker, his wife Mary, and four children, Martha, William, George, and a one year old boy. Henry Brown, another of the slave catchers, testified that the four children were John Walker's (and presumably his wife Mary's), but McClure described each child as quarter-blood mulatto, and John Walker sim-

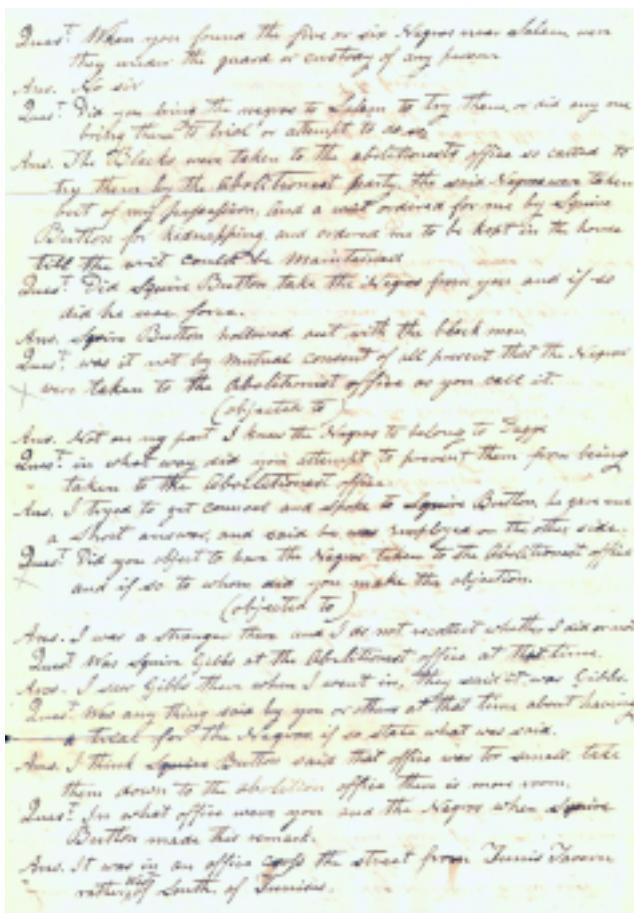
ply as a mulatto, suggesting that perhaps the children were fathered by a white man.

Daggs, in 1848, was about 74 years old, and he did not pursue the escapees himself. "After dinner" on June 5, 1848, Daggs' neighbor James McClure and two other men, Samuel Slaughter and Henry Brown, discovered the party hiding in a hazel thicket near the town of Salem, in Henry County, Iowa. According to Brown's testimony, all surrendered except John

Walker. McClure sent Slaughter to fetch Brown from Salem; a crowd of angry townfolk accompanied Slaughter and Brown back to McClure and the slaves. Walker surrendered when Brown threatened him with a pistol; but the crowd grew threatening as the slave catchers attempted to bring their captives to town, and all but Sam Fulcher and one of the children soon slipped away. The slave catchers soon found themselves at the local Quaker meeting house or "abolition office," surrounded by a hostile crowd, in danger of being charged with kidnapping, and perhaps worse. McClure, Slaughter, and Brown escaped bodily harm but did not retain any of the slaves they captured that day. According to an article by Robert J. Willoughby published in the *Missouri Historical Review*, upon leaving the meeting house, Brown threatened to shoot Sam Fulcher (the last of the slaves to depart) as Fulcher rode away on a horse belonging to one of the townsmen, but the reaction of the crowd dissuaded him. Brown did not mention this incident in his testimony.

Willoughby writes that McClure soon returned with a large party of Missourians, a compliant justice of the peace, and a constable from another county to search homes. The

Missourians remained in Salem for at least a day before a party of armed Iowans arrived from the town of Denmark to oust them. Dorcas, Julia, and the two younger children were evidently recaptured and returned to Daggs at a later date. Daggs died in 1862. Julia married Heseekiah Hall on September 22, 1865. The fate of the others is not known.



Deposition of James McClure, 1848, Ruel Daggs v. Elihu Frazier, et al.
 U.S. District Court, Burlington, IA
 RG 21; NARA Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO

NARA West Coast April 2008

Negro Shore Patrolmen at the Newton Street Station
 RG 181, P11 1944 [2/2] Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, Eleventh Naval District, Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments, NARA Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Albuquerque, NM Using NARA Records for Academic Research University of New Mexico Lecture Graduate Students 303-407-5749	5
6	7	8	9 Seattle, WA Overview of the National Archives Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115 Seattle, WA Immigration and Naturalization Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115 Flagstaff, AZ Rocky MT Council for Latin American Studies Conference Conference Academics 303-407-5749	10 Seattle, WA Brick Wall Discussion Group Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115 Hayward, CA Introduction to Chinese Exclusion Act Research Symposium Undergraduate Students 650-238-3478	11 Denver, CO Colorado Council of Social Studies In Pursuit of Civic Literacy: Primary Records Workshop/K-12 Teachers 303-407-5749	12
13	14	15	16 Fairbanks, AK Introduction to Genealogical Research @ NARA Lecture/General Public 907-261-7820	17 Seattle, WA Basic Archives Workshop Workshop General Public 206-336-5115 Corvallis, OR Pacific Northwest History Conference Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 206-336-5115 4/17/-4/19/08	18 San Bruno, CA Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records Workshop/Genealogists 650-238-3485	19 Anchorage, AK 22nd Annual Anchorage Genealogical Society Seminar Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 907-261-7820
20	21	22	23		25	26 Seattle, WA Washington State History Day Contest Other/K-12 Students 206-336-5115
27	28 Denver, CO American Association of Museum Conference Information Booth and Exhibit Archival and Allied Professionals 303-407-5740 4/28/-5/1/08	29	30			

NARA's Pacific Region

Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641
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San Bruno 650-238-3501
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NARA's Rocky Mountain Region
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NARA's Pacific Alaska Region

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Anchorage 907-261-7800
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NARA East Coast April 2008

Werner von Braun
RG 255, Records of the National
Aeronautics and Space
Administration, Marshall Space Flight
Center, Huntsville, AL



New York
An American Capital
12/1406-6/1/08

Baseball Goes To Court:
Curt Flood v. Major
League Baseball
4/1/08-6/30/08

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Philadelphia, PA Melting Pot Woes: Ethnic Suspicions on the Home Front, 1917-1918 9/24/07-8/31/08	Morrow, GA Beginning Genealogy Workshop/Genealogists 770-968-2555 Waltham, MA Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment Records of NARA 1/22/08-4/1/08	1 2	3 Baltimore, MD Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth Conference General Public 410-837-5340 4/3/-4/5/08	4 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House Open House General Public 215-606-0112 Pittsfield, MA Finding Italian Ancestors Part 2 Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	5	
6	7	8 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA Workshop/ Genealogists 413-236-3600 Waltham, MA Census, Passenger Lists & Naturalization Records Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	9	10 Watertown, MA Introduction to Genealogy Genealogy Lecture General Public 781-663-0121 Waltham, MA Maritime Records in the Classroom Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	11 Morrow, GA von Braun: Dreamer of Space/ Engineer of War Lecture/General Public 770-968-2555	12
13	14 New York, NY Finding Family: Microfilm Holdings of the National Archives Workshop/General Public 866-840-1752 Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census in your Genealogy Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	15 Philadelphia, PA Immigration and Ethnic Records Workshop/General Public 215-606-0112	16 Natick, MA Military Records Lecture Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	17 Watertown, MA Introduction to Genealogy Genealogy Lecture General Public 781-663-0121 South Street Seaport, NY NARA NY Immigration Records Workshop/General Public 866-840-1722	18	19 Cherry Hill, NJ Mid-Atlantic African American Genealogy Conference General Public 856-468-7564
20	21	22 Pittsfield, MA Finding Family Info in Military Pensions Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	23	24 Ellis Island, NY Family History Game Show 3 Shows/General Public 866-840-1752 Pittsfield, MA Using Freedmen's Bureau Records at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	25	26
27	28 Pittsfield, MA Finding Family Migrations in Federal Records Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 New York, NY Hands On Archives Workshop & Tour K-12 Students 866-840-1752	29	30 Boston, MA WWII on the Home Front Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	New York, NY From NARA's Holdings: New York Photographs 10/1/05-6/1/08 Camp Kilmer: Entertaining the Troops! 11/14/07-6/1/08		

NARA's Northeast Region
Pittsfield 413-236-3600
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston 866-406-2379
waltham.archives@nara.gov
New York 866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

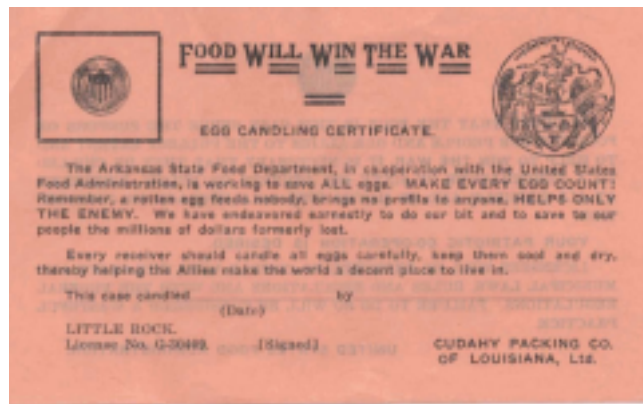
NARA's Mid Atlantic Region
Philadelphia 215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Southeast Region
Morrow 770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest April 2008

Egg Candling Certificate, c. 1917

RG 4; Records of FDA State and Local Food Administrators, AK; Records of the U.S. Food Administration, NARA Southwest Region, Fort Worth, TX



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		Exhibit: Chicago, IL <i>Cinema in the Stacks</i> 9/1/07-6/30/08			Exhibit: Oak Grove, MO <i>Finding Documents</i> 4/4/-4/17/08	Cleveland, OH World War II Records in the National Archives Conference Genealogists 440-205-1942
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Exhibit: Excelsior Springs, MO <i>Fashion Court</i> 4/7/-4/18/08					Delaware, OH Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604 Delaware, OH Finding Family Info in Federal Military Pension Records Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Exhibit: Raytown, MO <i>US v. Lee Kim</i> 4/14/-4/25/08				Cincinnati, OH Using Pre-1850 Census to Find Family Relationships Conference/Genealogists 413-236-3604 Kansas City, MO Mission Schools and Missionaries Lecture/General Public 816-268-8071	Cincinnati, OH Finding Family Migrations in Federal Records Conference/Genealogists 413-236-3604
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Exhibit: Weston, MO <i>Fashion Court</i> 4/22/-5/5/08				
27	28	29	30			

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 Chicago 773-948-9001
 chicago.archives@nara.gov

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 Kansas City 816-268-8000
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NARA's National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
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 St. Louis 314-801-0850

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