

# THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of  
The Friends of the National Archives and  
National Archives Southeast Region

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## “THE WAY WE WORKED” OPENS

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

#### • Georgia Genealogical Society

Focus on South Carolina Research

May 5, 2007 9:00—4:00

National Archives, Southeast Region, Morrow. For more information call 706-369-9420 or log on to: [program@gagensociety.org](mailto:program@gagensociety.org)

#### • National Archives and Footnote Launch Project to Digitize Historic Documents

The National Archives has entered into an agreement with Footnote, Inc. to digitize selected records from the vast holdings of the National Archives. The 4.5 million pages that have been digitized so far are now available at [www.footnote.com/nara](http://www.footnote.com/nara). They are available at no charge in all National Archives research rooms. After an interval of five years, all images digitized through this agreement will be available at no charge through the National Archives web site.

An extraordinary exhibit of 86 photographs from the holdings of the National Archives is now on display at the National Archives, Southeast Region. The exhibit opened on March 9, 2007, with a special ceremony featuring comments by Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States; Commissioner Michael Thurmond, Georgia Department of Labor; and Thora Colot, Executive Director of the Foundation for the National Archives.

“The Way We Worked” offers a lens for viewing the enormous transformation of work and workplaces in the United States through photographs held by the National Archives and Records Administration. These photographs depict a

workforce whose distinctiveness was shaped by many factors—immigration and ethnicity, slavery and racial segregation, wage labor and technology, gender roles and class—as well as by the American ideals of freedom and equality.

“The Way We Worked” will be on display through May 20, 2007. It was created by the National Archives with the support of the Foundation for the National Archives and is organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).



*NARA Volunteer Judy Zubka admires the photograph of an office before the age of cubicles.*

The exhibit is made possible by the support of these local sponsors:

GEORGIA  
HUMANITIES  
COUNCIL

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS

## APS STUDENTS CHARM THE ARCHIVIST



A special feature of the opening ceremony for “The Way We Worked” came when ten Atlanta Public Schools docents from Slater Elementary School

introduced Dr. Weinstein. Earlier in the evening, Weinstein toured an exhibition of history projects by the docents, which focused on the contributions of prominent African Americans in the United States.

Dr. Weinstein was so impressed with the students and their projects that he invited them to Washington to tour the National Archives.

Below, Juan Garcia, a first grader at Slater Elementary School, shows Dr. Weinstein his poster on Charles L. Harper.



## MURPHY BROTHERS ROLLING STORES

One of the most popular Tennessee Valley Authority photographs in our holdings is of a rolling store in Florence, Alabama. The photograph is featured in our online gallery as well as in various exhibits and publications. Imagine Doug Murphy's surprise when a friend contacted him to tell him that he had seen the Murphy family's business featured on the web site of the National Archives!

Mr. Murphy contacted the Southeast Region and shared stories and reminiscences of his family's adventures selling merchandise in the rural Alabama countryside. The Murphy family owned a merchandise store in northern Alabama. Brothers Clyde and Cecil recognized a potential customer base in the rural farmers who could not visit their store due to distance and transportation. To meet the needs of their customers, the brothers added cabinets to a pick-up truck and took their merchandise on the road. Over the years they made improvements to the trucks; their last trucks being stripped 1.5 ton Chevrolets with a covered top and a walking aisle between the shelves of merchandise. The trucks had an air horn that could be heard for miles giving people living off the main roads time to walk out and meet the store. Locals got used to hearing the horn at the same time and day each week.

They operated two trucks covering twelve routes each week. The trucks rolled out before dawn and would return after 8:00 pm. A strict inventory and accounting took place each evening before loading up at the main store for the next day trip. Drivers accepted cash as well as traded goods produced on the farms. Credit was extended to most customers—some who could not pay until the fall crops came in.

General grocery items, feed, vinegar, and flour were the main staples purchased from the rolling stores. Most customers did not



have electricity and used kerosene lamps to light their homes. The rolling stores were equipped with a 55-gallon drum that would fill one- and two-gallon containers brought by the customers.

Beginning in 1933 the TVA brought stability, electricity, and modernization to the people of the Tennessee Valley. Modernization brought several changes to the region including the rolling stores. The Murphy Brothers rolling stores were taken off the road in 1956 as their customer base was no longer dependent on their visits. This narrative demonstrates that the records of the Tennessee Valley Authority offer a unique insight into the lives of the people of the region, their families, and our history.

--Rob Richards



*"W.W. Brewer was a driver for the Murphy Brothers for 10 years"*

## FNAS HOLD THEIR 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 Meeting of the Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region, was held on Saturday, January 27, 2007, at the Morrow facility with President George Jacobs conducting the meeting. Attendance was approximately 65 individuals. Jim McSweeney, Regional Administrator, welcomed the Friends and also others who were attending the meeting.



The business portion of the meeting included the usual review and approval of last year's meeting minutes, a report by Treasurer Salina Pavlovik on the 2006 finances, and election of officers, which included reelection of the incumbents, as well as the election of a new officer (but long-time Friend), Helen Lissimore, as Secretary. For the first time in some years all key offices were filled.

Fred Munguia of the Friends then reported on the volunteer project work-

group he leads – the complete review and indexing of the World War I U.S. Food Administration records on a state-by-state basis. Fred discussed the value of these records for family history research, and the unusual amount of detail in them. He thanked the volunteers who are working with him, and stated that new volunteers would be warmly welcomed to help with this activity. (Contact Fred or Arlene Royer, the Archives' Volunteer Coordinator.)

The program portion of the meeting, centered on Native American Family History, one of the most popular research topics at the National Archives.

The first portion of the program featured a videoconference with Ms. Meg Hacker, Director, Archival Operations, the National Archives – Southwest Region, Fort Worth, Texas. She is an expert on the considerable holdings of that archives on Native Americans, many of which are centered on the tribes which settled in the Oklahoma Territory. The videoconference

was accompanied by numerous detailed handouts which attendees found most helpful. Judging by the number of questions our members had, there is great interest in these records.

Next, Ms. Anita Finger, a genealogist with the Qualla Family History & Research Group, located in Cherokee, North Carolina, gave us a special, in-person presentation entitled "Cherokee Genealogy and Tribal Records." She spoke extensively on the many rolls and the information that researchers can glean from them in connection with their Cherokee family history. She also discussed the various qualifications for membership in the Eastern Band of the Cherokees and urged all to visit their reservation in Cherokee, especially their library. In addition, Ms. Finger prepared extensive and detailed handouts for each of the attendees, and all were extremely appreciative of them and found them most valuable.

Both Meg Hacker's and Anita Finger's presentations were extremely well received and appreciated by the membership.

--George Jacobs

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Southeast Region has recently established a small computer lab for training. See the workshop schedule listed below. Please note that these are "hands-on" classes limited to 10 attendees.

Workshop	Date
<b>The Internet and the Genealogist</b> This workshop provides an introduction to web sites helpful to family historians.	Thursday, April 12, 2007 12:00- 1:30pm
<b>ARC</b> This course will emphasize locating genealogical records in NARA's Archival	Thursday, April 26, 2007 12:00—1:30pm
<b>AAD</b> This class provides information on the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) to locate a variety of civilian and military records for genealogical, social, political, and research use.	Wednesday, May 9, 2007 12:00—1:30pm
<b>Searching for Your Immigrant Ancestors Online</b> This class discusses the types of information found on Passenger Lists and Naturalization records, how and where to search for records, and hands-on practice searching online.	Thursday, May 24, 2007 12:00—1:30pm
<b>Footnote.com</b> This class provides instructions on using Footnote.com to locate selected records from the holdings of the National Archives.	Thursday, May 31, 2007 12:00 - 1:30pm
<b>Searching for Your Native American Ancestors Online</b> A hands-on class in searching for Native American records in the Archival Research Catalog (ARC)	Thursday, June 7, 2007 12:00 -1:30pm



## Help the National Archives Recover Lost and Stolen Documents

We need your help to ensure that United States government documents (*federal, congressional, and presidential records*) that have been lost or stolen are returned safely and securely to the National Archives, where they will be preserved, described, and made available to all citizens and scholars.

At times U.S. government documents, which record our shared national experience from 1776 to the present, are removed from our buildings. When such records are stolen—sometimes for resale on web auction sites—our shared history is lost and our ability to maintain accountability in our government is lessened. **Removing government documents is illegal theft, prosecutable by law.** The consequences for perpetrators of such theft can be significant.

### What can you do?

- avoid buying, selling, or trading in lost or stolen historical U.S. government documents.
- identify lost or stolen U.S. government documents and report them to the National Archives.

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## Friends of the National Archives

Southeast Region

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