

Announcing the Premiere of  
"Stories from the Great Depression"  
Starring

Bob Arnold	Stanley Blackburn
Jack Gray	Guy Hall
Jim McSweeney	Susana Munguia
Fred Munguia	Peggie Sides
Henry Smith	Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Ed Trippe	Brenda Wright

Saturday, November 17, 2007 1:00pm

Special Guest:

"Eleanor Roosevelt" from Warm Springs, Georgia



Friends of the National Archives  
Southeast Region  
5780 Jonesboro Road  
Morrow, GA 30260



# THE CIVIL HISTORY

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

Fall, 2007

Volume 6, Number 3

## A FAMILY HISTORY CHRISTMAS

### Creating a Family History Christmas Tree



Join us on **Wednesday, November 28, 2007, from 10:00a.m.— Noon** for a special workshop on making your Christmas Tree a "Family Tree." Students will learn to incorporate family photos and documents in their holiday trees.

The workshop will be taught by Donna Rosser. Donna is the proprietor of Donna Rosser Photography in Fayette

County. Her photos have been featured on local news shows and their websites, and in local newspapers. She will be presenting a second workshop in January on preserving your family photographs.

#### Bring Your Camera!

Check out Donna's website at:  
[www.thebarefootphotographer.com](http://www.thebarefootphotographer.com).

### Holiday Shopping at the National Archives

Join us on **Wednesday, November 28, 2007, from 8:30a.m. – 5:00p.m.** for a special shopping day at the National Archives, with gift items ranging from books, documents, preservation supplies, apparel,

accessories, etc! Included will be a demonstration of Order Online!—an online feature requesting reproductions of National Archives microfilm and other records.



### Discover Your Family's Roots: A Beginner's Genealogy Workshop

Thursday, November 1, 2007 10:00 a.m.- Noon

This workshop offers a basic overview for those just beginning to search for their family's history. Learn how to get started, what kind of information is available, and what types of records are in the National Archives. This class is for beginners with no experience in research.

#### Friends of the National Archives Southeast Region

George Jacobs, President  
Linda Geiger, Vice President  
Helen Lissimore, Secretary  
Salina Pavlovick, Treasurer  
Mary Evelyn Tomlin, Editor,  
*The Civil History*  
Erica Bethel, Layout Editor,  
*The Civil History*

# WHAT IS SCRIP?

One of the most interesting experiences that all archivists have from time to time is stumbling across the unusual—something compelling, funny, beautiful, or just curious. In searching for another file, archivist Rob Richards noticed



a box containing two exquisite cigar boxes. Intrigued, he explored further.

The file was a U. S. District Court case involving a saw mill in central Florida. The evidence submitted during the trial was not the cigar boxes, but rather what was inside.

The boxes contained tokens and “checks” distributed to employees of a saw mill. Also known as scrip, these tokens were to be redeemed only at the company’s commissary. The practice of paying workers

in scrip, rather than wages, was especially common in coal mining operations and mills throughout the country.

Large timber and mining corporations created their own towns, with company housing and company stores for their workers. In many situations, workers were deeply in debt; they owed their souls to the company store.

The U. S. District Court records, particularly in Kentucky, contain numerous



examples of scrip. The practice was outlawed in 1938.

*“You load sixteen tons and what do you get?  
Another day older and deeper in debt.  
Saint Peter, don’t call me ‘cause I can’t go.  
I owe my soul to the company store.”* – Tennessee Ernie Ford

# The Unwritten History of TVA

In May of 2008, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will celebrate seventy-five years of work. To observe that anniversary, the Southeast Region plans a number of special events. Since the records of TVA are one of the largest and most interesting of agency records in the Southeast Region, we plan to feature various series from that agency in upcoming issues of *The Civil History*.

We begin with an overview of the oral history interviews conducted by the agency, beginning in 1965. TVA realized that a large quantity of significant information can only be found in the memories of those people who have been employed by TVA or who have been affected by its policies and decisions. The interviews serve a unique purpose in that they capture and preserve the unwritten history of the agency. Several of the early interviews relate to women workers during World War II.

Amy Brooks went to work for TVA in 1942 and continued until the end of the war. In her interview, Mrs. Brooks discussed what it was like to be one of the first women employed by the agency and what life was like on the homefront during the war. She provided particular insight into morale and security at TVA during World War II.

**“They warned us the men were not going to like it.”**

“There were four of us hired at the same time, and we were the first four girls to be hired in that department., and they warned us that the men were not going to like it. At first, I don’t think they did. But they weren’t too bad. . . . They had to give up one of their washrooms, which didn’t help any..

“I think they had been used to telling their kinds of jokes, but they were pretty nice to us really, all in all.”

When Mrs. Brooks remembered what life was like during the war she said that she got most of her news from the newspaper. “They were still giving out ‘extras’ for the newspaper, which was an experience to be downtown when an extra came out.”

“As I remember it, I think the morale was very, very high. Everybody was working together. I think you have to give the President credit for pulling us together and making us feel like we

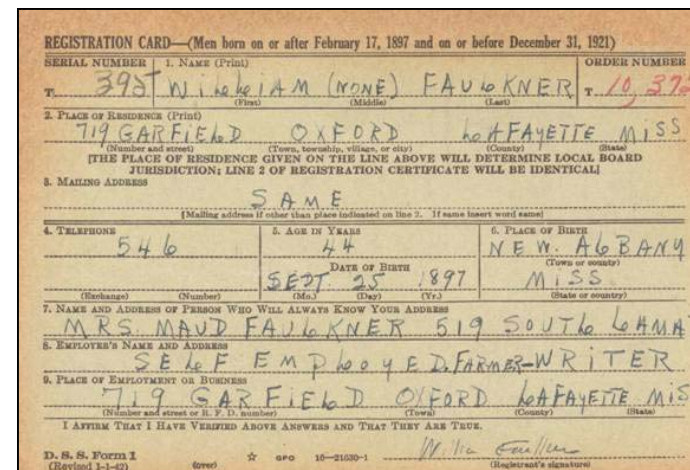
were all in it together, and we were. . . . I feel like he was probably a master at that.”

When asked about how she felt to hear about the atomic bombs in Japan, Mrs. Brooks said it was “very scary. . . . We had to use those fallout shelters, and they also planned evacuation routes to leave the cities. . . . Our church had a big basement, and they stored water and canned foods. . . . Everybody planned what they were going to do if we did have that kind of an attack.”

About Oak Ridge, Mrs. Brooks said that “You knew it was there, but you didn’t know what was going on.”



# ARE YOU IN THE ARCHIVES?



The 1942 DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD FOR “FARMER-WRITER” WILLIAM FAULKNER.

Nearly 16 million Americans served in uniform during World War II. The National Archives website contains an extensive list of information available online and to researchers who visit one of our facilities.

Checkout the resources listed at:  
<http://www.archives.gov/research/ww2/>

Military records can be valuable resources in personal and genealogical research. The National Archives is the official repository for records of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard and other government agencies. These records include service records; textual documents including unit reports and rosters; maps and plans; photographs; posters; motion pictures and sound recordings; and electronic records.

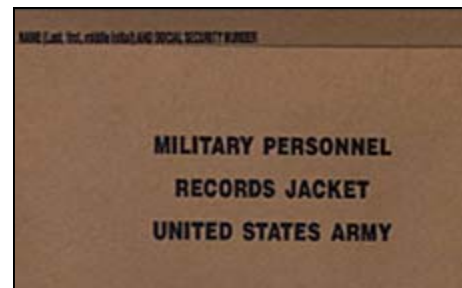
The National Archives in Atlanta now has draft registration card for Southerners of the “Greatest Generation.”

- Millions of men living in America completed draft registration cards between 1940 and 1943 as part of the WWII draft.
- The National Archives offers unrestricted access to cards of men born up to and including 1940.
- Contact us for restricted access to draft registrants born 1941 – 1957.

# Military and Veterans Records

**Friday, November 9, 2007  
10:00 – Noon**

In honor of our veterans, please join us for an overview of military records housed in the National Archives. Learn about America’s diplomatic and military records—from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War—which paint a vivid picture of heroism, inspiration, and service. The workshop will include a discussion of eVetRecs, an online system for requesting military personnel records for veterans and next of kin of deceased veterans.

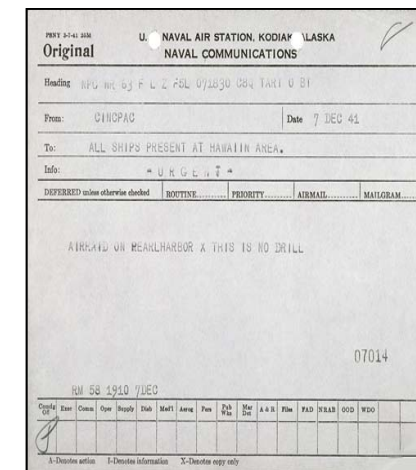


**“A Date Which Will Live in Infamy”**

Early in the afternoon of December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his chief foreign policy aide, Harry Hopkins, were interrupted by a telephone call from Secretary of War Henry Stimson and told that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. At about 5:00 p.m., following meetings with his military advisers, the President calmly and decisively dictated to his secretary, Grace Tully, a request to Congress for a declaration of war. He had composed the speech in his head after deciding on a brief, uncomplicated appeal to the people of the United States. He declared that December 7<sup>th</sup> would be a date which would live in infamy.

**Friday, December 7, 2007  
10:00 – 12:00**

The National Archives, Southeast Region, remembers Pearl Harbor Day with a workshop focusing on World War II.



“ARRAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NO DRILL”