

## WHAT IS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY?

Through the National History Day contest, students in grades 6-12 engage in discovery and interpretation of historical topics related to an annual theme. In the process, they hone their talents and produce creative and scholarly projects in the form of exhibits, documentaries, historical papers, or performances.

After a series of district and state contests, the program culminates with a national competition. The 2008-2009 NHD national contest will be held June 14-18th at the University of Maryland.

**[nationalhistoryday.org](http://nationalhistoryday.org)**



## Get Ready for National History Day

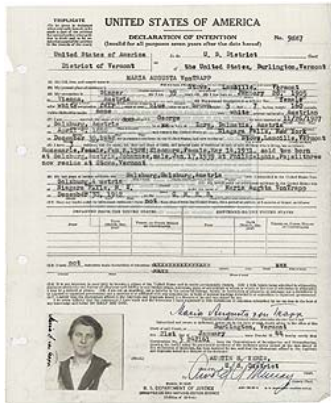
Using Resources from  
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES – BOSTON



THE  
INDIVIDUAL IN  
HISTORY  
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2009

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
& RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02452  
866-406-2379 [archives.gov/northeast/boston](http://archives.gov/northeast/boston)  
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Here are some ideas for your National History Day project, from the National Archives center in Waltham, MA. And there's more . . .



The von Trapp family, remembered in the movie "Sound of Music," fled Austria after the German annexation of Austria, fearing reprisals resulting from declining to sing at Hitler's birthday party, and Georg von Trapp's refusal to accept a commission in the German Navy.



Lewis Hayden was a clothes dealer who helped a former slave, Frederick Minkins (Shadrack Minkins), escape from Virginia in 1851. The U.S. eventually took him to court under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 for assisting a runaway slave. Examine the indictment to find out about this case.



One of the first prominent politicians to speak out against slavery, Nathaniel Banks was a major general in the Union army, one of the first to volunteer his services to President Lincoln, and was instrumental in bringing the Confederate state of Louisiana back into the Union



# Get Ready for National History Day

## Using Resources from THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES—BOSTON

Each year, thousands of 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers participate in National History Day (NHD). This year-long educational program culminates in a national contest every June. The National History Day program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain first hand experience conducting historical research and producing exhibits, essays, documentaries, media projects, websites, and performances.

Participation in the National History Day program begins at the local level, where regional activities lead to state and national competitions. Students and teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the rich array of local history resources (libraries, archives, museums, historic sites) in their communities to pursue topics of local, regional, national and global interests in conjunction with this year's theme: **The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.**

*And you can research the essential evidence of the American government and people at your National Archives.*