

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

December

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

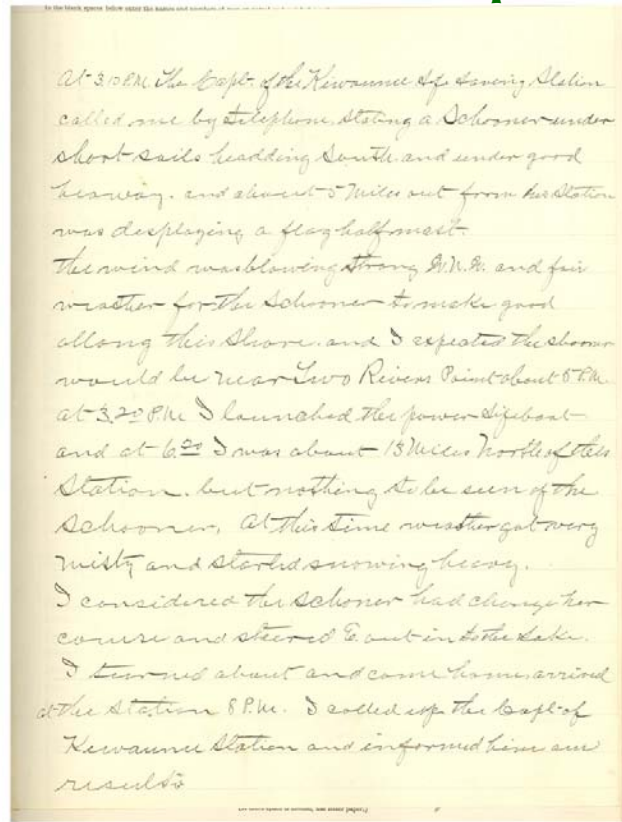
Document of the Month

Christmas Tree Ship

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, numerous schooners plied Lake Michigan in the late Fall and early Winter with cargoes of Christmas trees bound for Chicago markets. The ever-green trees, harvested from forests and nurseries in Wisconsin and Michigan, were bound for sale in Chicago's festive holiday market where there was a high demand for inexpensive trees for the urban dwellers.

By November, 1912, Captain Herman Schuenemann, veteran master of the schooner *Rouse Simmons*, had routinely hauled Christmas trees to Chicago for several years. The mustachioed Great Lakes mariner even had become somewhat of a Chicago institution for his generosity in providing Christmas trees to the City's underprivileged residents. Captain Schuenemann's voyage this stormy November was much like any other he had made in the past, but as the *Rouse Simmons* made its way south, something went terribly wrong.

At a little after 3:00 P.M. on November 23, Life Saving Station Keeper George E. Sogge, at Two Rivers, Wisconsin, received a telephone call from the next station north at Kewaunee. The call alerted Sogge that a schooner was headed south flying its flag in distress. Sogge immediately ordered the Two



Citation: Handwritten log entry, November 23, 1912, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, Life Saving Station Logs, 1876-1941, Chicago District; Records of the U.S Coast Guard; RG 26; NARA's Great Lakes Region (Chicago).

Rivers' powerboat launched. Shortly thereafter, it reached the schooner's approximate position, but darkness, heavy snow, and mist obscured any trace of the *Rouse Simmons* and its crew. The ship and its cargo of 5,000 Christmas trees had vanished.

Over the years since the 200 ton schooner's disappearance, the legends surrounding the ship grew. In the early 1970s, the ship, still loaded with its cargo of Christmas trees was discovered by a scuba diver lying in 180 feet of water south of Two Rivers.

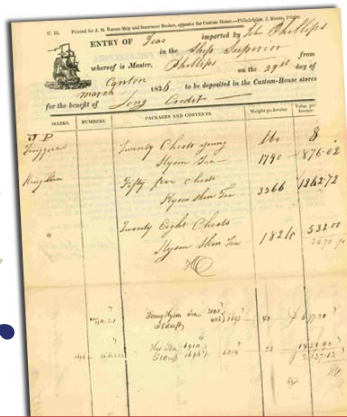
Today, the legend of Captain Schuenemann and the Christmas Tree Ship appeals to a large audience, but children seem

most attracted to the story. At least three books, two documentaries, several plays, musicals, and folk songs have been written or produced about the ship. Each year, the voyage of the Christmas Tree Ship is reenacted by a Coast Guard cutter which makes the voyage from Michigan to deliver a symbolic load of Christmas trees to Chicago.

The Great Lakes Region's Life Saving Station logs provide a glimpse into the dangers and everyday life of seamen on the Great Lakes.

NARA East Coast December

Citation: Permit for Tea,
29 March 1826
Inward Foreign Manifests;
Port of Philadelphia,
Records of the U. S. Customs
Service; RG 36; NARA's Mid-
Atlantic Region (Philadelphia)



Exhibits:
Mid-Atlantic Region
Philadelphia, PA

Tea & the Constitution
An Exhibit to Mark Constitution Day

This permit was issued by the Customs Bureau to John Phillips allowing him to import tea in the Ship Superior. Despite the inflammatory response of colonial Americans to the taxation of tea by the British, the government of the new country also taxed tea imports. Congress passed the first tea tariff in 1789.

Education in Black & White

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Police Report on Arrest of Rosa Parks, December 1, 1955.

Citation: Records of the District Courts of the United States, RG 21; NARA's Southeast Region (Atlanta).

Exhibits:
Southeast Region
Morrow, GA
First Hand History

Of Ballots Uncast:
The African-American
Struggle for the Right to Vote

1

Springfield, PA
Springfield Public Library
Introduction to the National Archives

Workshop
General Public
patrick.connely@nara.gov

2

Philadelphia, PA
First Friday Genealogy Open House
Open House
General Public
215-606-0103

3

Pittsfield, MA
Archival Research Strategies
Workshops/Genealogists
413-236-3604

Pittsfield, MA
Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA
Workshops/Genealogists
413-236-3604

4

Waltham, MA
380 Trapelo Road
Holiday Trolley Tours
Open House & Tour
General Public
866-406-2379

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Waltham, MA
Public Library
Passenger Lists
Lecture
Genealogists
508-949-3880

Waltham, MA
Beyond the Census
Lecture & Tour/Genealogists
866-406-2379

New York, NY
Teaching with Documents: Document Analysis
Workshop/K-12 Teachers
866-840-1752

Pittsfield, MA
Genealogy in the Classroom
Workshop/K-12 Teachers
413-236-3604

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Pittsfield, MA
Beginning Your Research at NARA
Workshop
Genealogists
413-236-3600

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Waltham, MA
Application of Research Methods
Workshop
K-12 Teachers
866-406-2379

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Pittsfield, MA
Using Pre-1850 Census to Find Family Relationships
Workshop/Genealogists
413-236-3604

Pittsfield, MA
Using Military Pension Files to Find Family Relations
Workshop/Genealogists
413-236-3604

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Citation: Faneuil Hall, Records of the Works Progress Administration; RG 69; NARA's Northeast Region (Boston)

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Pittsfield, MA
Archival Research Strategies & Document Analysis
Workshop/K-12 Teachers
413-236-3604

New York, NY
Using NARA's AAD for Genealogical Research
Lecture & Workshop
Genealogists
866-840-1752

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Morrow, GA
Holiday Open House
Open House
General Public
770-968-2100

Pittsfield, MA
Using Federal Census Records
Workshop/Genealogists
413-236-3600

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Pittsfield, MA
Using Federal Census Records
Workshops/Genealogists
413-236-3604

Pittsfield, MA
Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA
Workshops/Genealogists
413-236-3604

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Exhibits:
Northeast Region
New York, NY

From NARA's Holdings:
New York Photographs

U.S. vs. Alger Hiss
Documentary Evidence from the Case

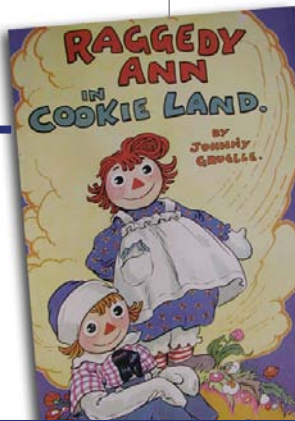
Citation: WWII Bond Drive; General Records of the Department of Treasury; RG 56; NARA's Northeast Region (New York).



Avenue of Allies & Benny Goodman plays a hero's horn.

Pittsfield, MA
Using Military Records
Workshop
Genealogists
413-236-3600

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Book cover:
Raggedy Ann in Cookie Land

Citation: Records of the District Court of the United States; RG 21; NARA's Mid-Atlantic Region (Philadelphia).

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Pittsfield, MA
Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA
Workshop/Genealogists
413-236-3600

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, GA 770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest December

Citation: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Flandreau Indian School Decimal Correspondence, 1916-1954; RG 75; NARA's Central Plains Region (Kansas City).

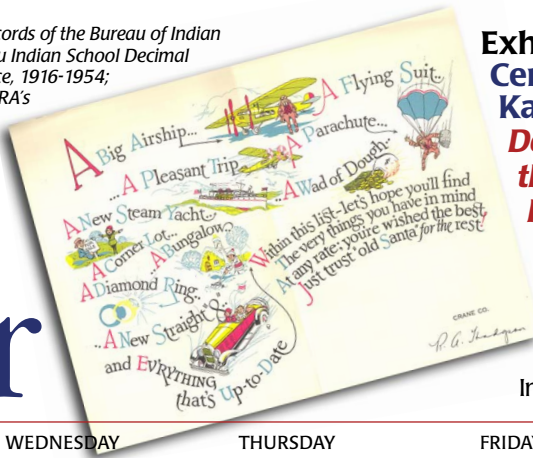


Exhibit:
Central Plains Region,
Kansas City, MO
**Documents of
the Season:
Holidays As Found
in the Archives**

A collection of colorful Christmas letterheads were found in correspondence records of the Flandreau Indian School.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

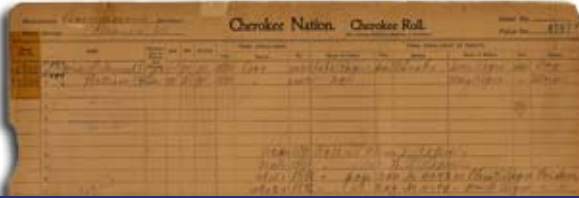
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Citation: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 175; NARA's Southwest Region (Fort Worth).

Will Rogers' Dawes Act Enrollment Card



Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Historical Society
Researching Family & Local History
Lecture
Genealogists
317-232-1882

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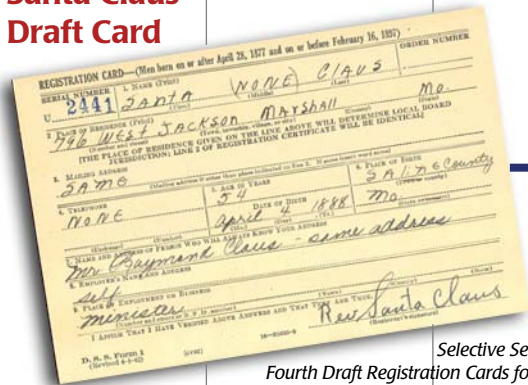
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Santa Claus Draft Card



Independence, MO
Naturalization Records
Lecture
Genealogists
816-268-8012

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Citation: Records of the Selective Service System
Fourth Draft Registration Cards for men born between April 28, 1877 and February 16, 1897; RG 147; NARA's Central Plains Region (Kansas City).

NRDA/Chicago
The Christmas Tree Ship
Lecture
General Public
773-948-9001

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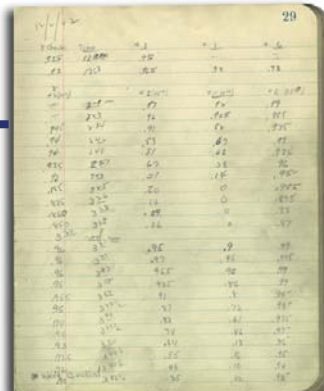
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Citation: Entry by scientist Richard Watts, December 2, 1942, Notebook 150, University of Chicago; RG 326; NARA's Great Lakes Region (Chicago).



We're Cookin'!

On December 2, 1942, scientist Richard Watts recorded his excitement over the first controlled self-sustaining nuclear reaction at the moment it was observed.

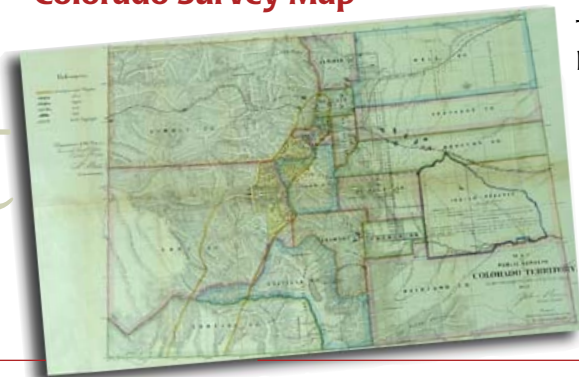
NARA's Great Lakes Region
Chicago 773-948-9001
chicago.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Central Plains Region
Kansas City 816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Southwest Region
Fort Worth 817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov

NARA West Coast December

Colorado Survey Map



This map of public surveys in Colorado Territory was completed in 1866.

Citation: *Records of the Bureau of Land Management; RG 49; NARA's Rocky Mountain Region (Denver).*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Spanish Land Grant Document



Citation: *Records of the Bureau of Land Management Spanish Documents; RG 49; NARA's Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel, CA).*

Denver, CO
Using Textual Records for Primary Research
Lecture & Tour
Graduate Students
303-407-5749

Seattle, WA
Immigration & Naturalization
Workshop/Genealogists
206-336-5115

San Bruno, CA
Archival Research for Industrial Archeologists
Guided Visit
Academics
650-238-3480

Huntington Beach, CA
Introduction to Military Records
Workshop/Genealogists
realtorkp@earthlink.net

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Seattle, WA
Using Maritime & Customs Records
Workshop/Genealogists
206-336-5115

Seattle, WA
U.S. Military Research
Workshop/Genealogists
206-336-5115

San Bruno, CA
Introduction to Asian Immigration Records Research
Guided Group/Research
Genealogists
650-238-3480

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Los Angeles, CA
Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles
Military, Naturalization, & Census Records

Workshop
Genealogists
pamela@jgsla.org

Explosion of the USS Shaw



This photograph is labeled "The terrific explosion of the destroyer USS SHAW when her magazine exploded after being bombed by Japanese aircraft in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941."

Citation: *Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus Cases, 1900-1952, box 31; Records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, Honolulu Division; Records of United States District Courts, RG 21; NARA - Pacific Region (San Bruno).*

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Citation: *Records of the Forest Service; RG 95; NARA's Pacific Alaska Region (Anchorage).*



Photograph of Chief Johnson Totem

NARA's Pacific Region

Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641
laguna.archives@nara.gov

San Bruno 650-238-3501
sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Rocky Mountain Region

Denver 303-407-5740
denver.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Pacific Alaska Region

Seattle 206-336-5115
seattle.archives@nara.gov

Anchorage 907-261-7800
alaska.archives@nara.gov