

## 1940 Census Preparations at the National Archives



Original 1940 caption: A census enumerator takes information from a family living in a railroad car.

Since the opening of the 1930 Census in 2002, National Archives staff and patrons have anxiously awaited the availability of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census. The 1940 Census will open to the public on Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. EST, 8:00 a.m. CST. This will be the first time that the Census will be accessible from any computer for free. During the initial months following its release, researchers will conduct their searches via enumeration districts as opposed to name indexes. Conducting successful searches will require some advanced planning. The National

Archives at Kansas City is offering a series of workshops explaining how to search and what information researchers will find on the 1940 Census. Workshops will be held on **Wednesday, March 7 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.** and on **Saturday, March 31 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** Advanced registration is requested. Please call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

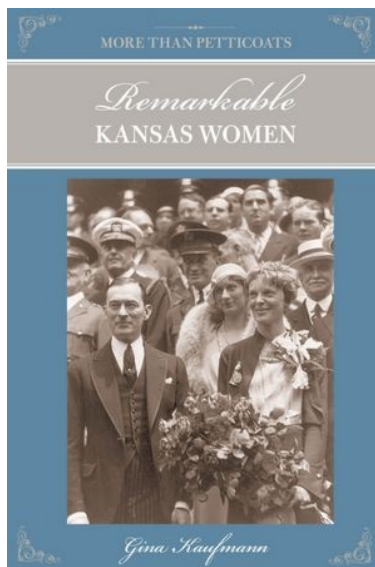
The National Archives at Kansas City will be open to the public on Monday, April 2, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Staff and volunteers will be available to provide assistance to researchers. For more information on the 1940 Census, such as the questions asked on the Census, frequently asked questions, instructions to enumerators, and Bureau of Census movies, visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html> or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov)

## Gina Kaufmann to discuss *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Kansas Women*

On **Thursday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Gina Kaufmann for a discussion and signing of her book *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Kansas Women*. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.

In her debut publication, *Remarkable Kansas Women*, Kaufmann celebrates the women who shaped the Sunflower State. Short, illuminating biographies, archival photographs, and painting help to tell the stories of women from across the state

Copies of *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Kansas Women* will be available for purchase at The Kansas City Store onsite. Following the program the author will sign copies of her book. **To register for this free event** call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).



## Upcoming Events

All events are held at the National Archives  
400 West Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

- MARCH 1 - 6:30 P.M.  
AUTHOR EVENT: GINA KAUFMANN, *MORE THAN PETTICOATS: REMARKABLE KANSAS WOMEN*
- MARCH 3 - 8:30 A.M.  
GIRL SCOUT DAY
- MARCH 7 - 1:00 P.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: *INTRODUCTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS*
- MARCH 13 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: TONY R. MULLIS, *BORDER VIOLENCE AND VIGILANTE JUSTICE*
- MARCH 14 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: *INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY*
- MARCH 22 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: TERENCE O'MALLEY, *THE OTHER SIDE OF CRIME: THE PENDERGAST MACHINE IN THE 1930S*
- MARCH 24 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: *A HOUSE DIVIDED: YOUR ANCESTORS AND THE CIVIL WAR*
- MARCH 27 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: ETHAN RAFUSE, *MISSOURI AT WAR: THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON*
- MARCH 31 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: *INTRODUCTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS*

# Girl Scout Day, Saturday March 3 at the National Archives



The National Archives at Kansas City will be hosting Girl Scout Day on Saturday, March 3. Troops from grades 4-8, are invited to participate in this **free** event and can sign up for one of the following time slots: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.; or 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Scout troops will learn about the National Archives and how they can use the records and photographs at the archives for family history research or studying the Federal government. Troops will tour two exhibitions, learn about genealogy, and participate in a hands-on educational activity. To register call 816-268-8013 or email [mickey.ebert@nara.gov](mailto:mickey.ebert@nara.gov).

## ***Divided Loyalties*** Exhibition

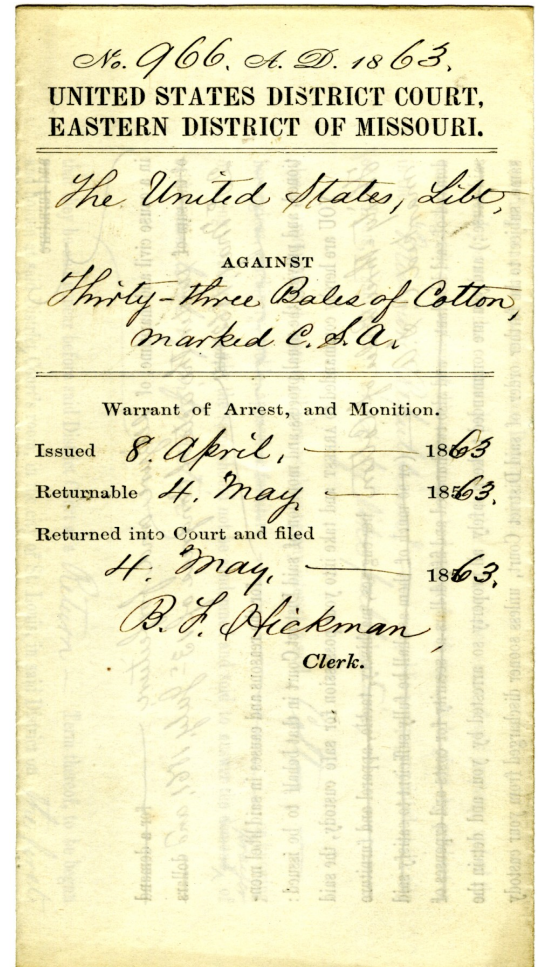
### Civil War Seizures: Documenting Captured Property

During the Civil War, Congress enacted the Captured and Abandoned Properties Act allowing the Federal government to confiscate land and goods either abandoned or owned by southern sympathizers. In addition, General Order No. 3 authorized county boards to demand payment from Confederate sympathizers to compensate Union loyalists for their losses during the war. If the citizen refused, the Federal government could seize and sell their property for payment.

With a prime port location on the Mississippi River for shipping goods to and from the south and a strong base of Confederate support, St. Louis was a hotbed of property seizure activity. *Divided Loyalties* features a display of court cases related to property seized in St. Louis, including one notice for 33 bales of cotton marked C.S.A. (Confederate States of America). Destined for delivery to a Confederate state, the cotton was seized and later sold at public auction with the net proceeds going to the Federal treasury. Another case involves former Missouri Governor Trusten Polk, who was expelled from the U.S. Senate on January 10, 1862, for supporting the South. After Polk received an appointment as Colonel in the Confederate Army, the Federal government confiscated his Missouri property.

You can view this document and other original Civil War-era items from the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City on exhibit in *Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives*, on display through April 28.

Right: Warrant of Arrest and Monition, U.S. v. 33 Bales of Cotton marked C.S.A., May 4, 1863. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, ARC ID: 562790.



## ***Divided Loyalties*** Lecture Series

The following programs will be offered during March and April in conjunction with the *Divided Loyalties* exhibition. They are presented by staff from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

**Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.** – *Border Violence and Vigilante Justice* presented by Dr. Tony R. Mullis.

**Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m.** – *Missouri at War: The Battle of Lexington* presented by Dr. Ethan Rafuse.

**Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.** – *Missouri at War: The Battles of Boonville and Wilson's Creek* presented by Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh.

A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede all events. To make a reservation for any of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

## Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering three free genealogy workshops in March. *Introduction to the 1940 Census* will be held on Wednesday, March 7 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 31 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., and *Introduction to Genealogy: Finding Your Ancestors in Federal Census Records* will be held on Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

*Introduction to the 1940 Census*

**Wednesday, March 7 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 31 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

On April 2, 2012, the 1940 Census will celebrate its 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday and become available to researchers for the first time. Learn what questions were asked, what is new since the 1930 Census, and what you need to know in order to successfully search for your ancestors. Explore what your ancestors' lives were like in 1940 by discovering this "new" record.

*Introduction to Genealogy: Using Federal Census Records to Find Your Ancestors*

**Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

This course will introduce beginning genealogists to the United States Federal Census while providing direction with how and where to start researching your family history. Learn to discover clues, codes, and other telling details about your ancestors' lives.

To make a reservation for these **free events**, please call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

### Preservation Matters: Caring for Personal Papers, Pictures and Paraphernalia

Saturday, May 5

8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

The *Preservation Matters* workshop will soon arrive and now is the time to register by phone 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov) to attend one or all of the workshops offered. Sessions will be taught by archives, museum, and library professionals from the National Archives and other Kansas City area institutions. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear expert advice on a variety of preservation specialties, such as print photographs, scrapbooks, quilts, and other unique heirlooms. Attendees will also have the chance to learn oral history techniques and some tips on organizing family history research.

In addition to sessions on preservation, a Preservation One-on-One Clinic will be offered from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Patrons are invited to bring **ONE** item and meet individually with a member of our staff to determine what steps need to be taken to best protect and preserve it for the future. **Please note: items cannot be appraised; this session is for housing and preservation advice only.** Archivists will assess the condition of your object and offer suggestions about housing, storage, and supplies to assist you with your preservation project. Due to time constraints, each patron will be limited to only one item.

Don't let your precious family heirlooms fall victim to age and neglect, learn how to protect and preserve them so they can continue to tell your family story for another generation. Space is limited, for more information on individual sessions visit [www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/preservation-matters-flyer.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/preservation-matters-flyer.pdf)

### Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on Twitter - @KCArchives

The National Archives at Kansas City is now on Twitter. Follow us @KCArchives and the Archives will keep you informed of the latest genealogy workshops, public programs, exhibitions, and educational activities happening at the National Archives at Kansas City.

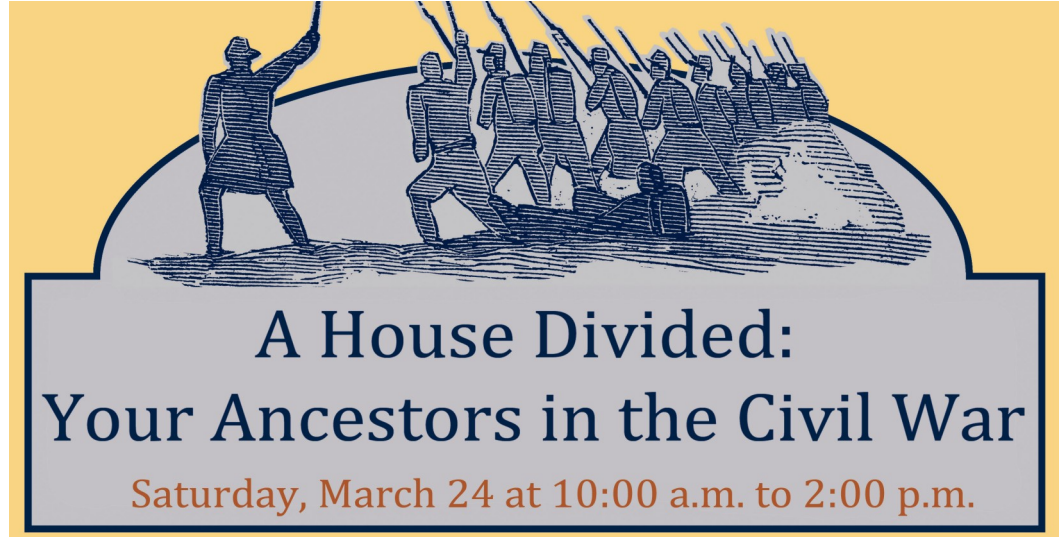
Twitter is an online social networking tool and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based posts of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets."



# A House Divided: Your Ancestors in the Civil War

Saturday, March 24  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Union and Confederate soldiers and their families left behind a legacy in paper. In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War and in conjunction with the exhibit *Divided Loyalties*, the National Archives at Kansas City will host a day of courses dedicated to records that can be beneficial to genealogical research. Please note these workshops will not address specific battles, politics, or strategies of engagements. Sessions will be taught by National Archives staff members on the following topics:



**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

## **Draftees and Deserters: Your Ancestors in the Civil War**

Was your ancestor a draftee, substitute, or deserter? The U.S. Provost Marshal General was responsible for collecting information on all men eligible to fight regardless of their political loyalties. Come learn what details these unique records contain and how to search them.

**11:00 – 11:50 a.m.**

## **Military Records Online**

Curious about what types of Civil War records are available online? This course will explore free and subscription-based websites with Civil War military record content, including: indexes, original images, and unit histories.

**12:00 – 12:50 p.m.**

## **Ordering Compiled Service Records and Pension Records**

Did your ancestor serve in the Civil War? Did he or his widow apply for a pension? Come learn how to locate and order these records from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. This session will include a basic overview of the information needed to make a request via online or by mail.

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

## **Confederate Records Available through the National Archives**

While the Civil War divided the nation, it also divided the records created about it. Confederate records were not created by the U.S. Federal government, but by both the Confederate government and states that joined the Confederacy. It can be difficult to locate records on ancestors who fought for the Confederacy. This course will help you discover what records can be found at the National Archives and how to order them.

All workshops are free and open to the public and will be held at the National Archives at Kansas City. Since some of these workshops will take place during the noon hour please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. To register for one or all workshops, please call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

## Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City mailing list?



If the answer is “no,” then send us an email with your U.S. postal mail information to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## Wheat for War: The International Wheat Show

On Wednesday, October 9, 1918, a special Missouri Pacific train arrived in Wichita, Kansas, pulling eight extra heavily-loaded coaches. The excited passengers were headed to the new Exposition Building at William and Water Streets to see the International Wheat Show and Eighth Annual Wichita Fair and Exposition.

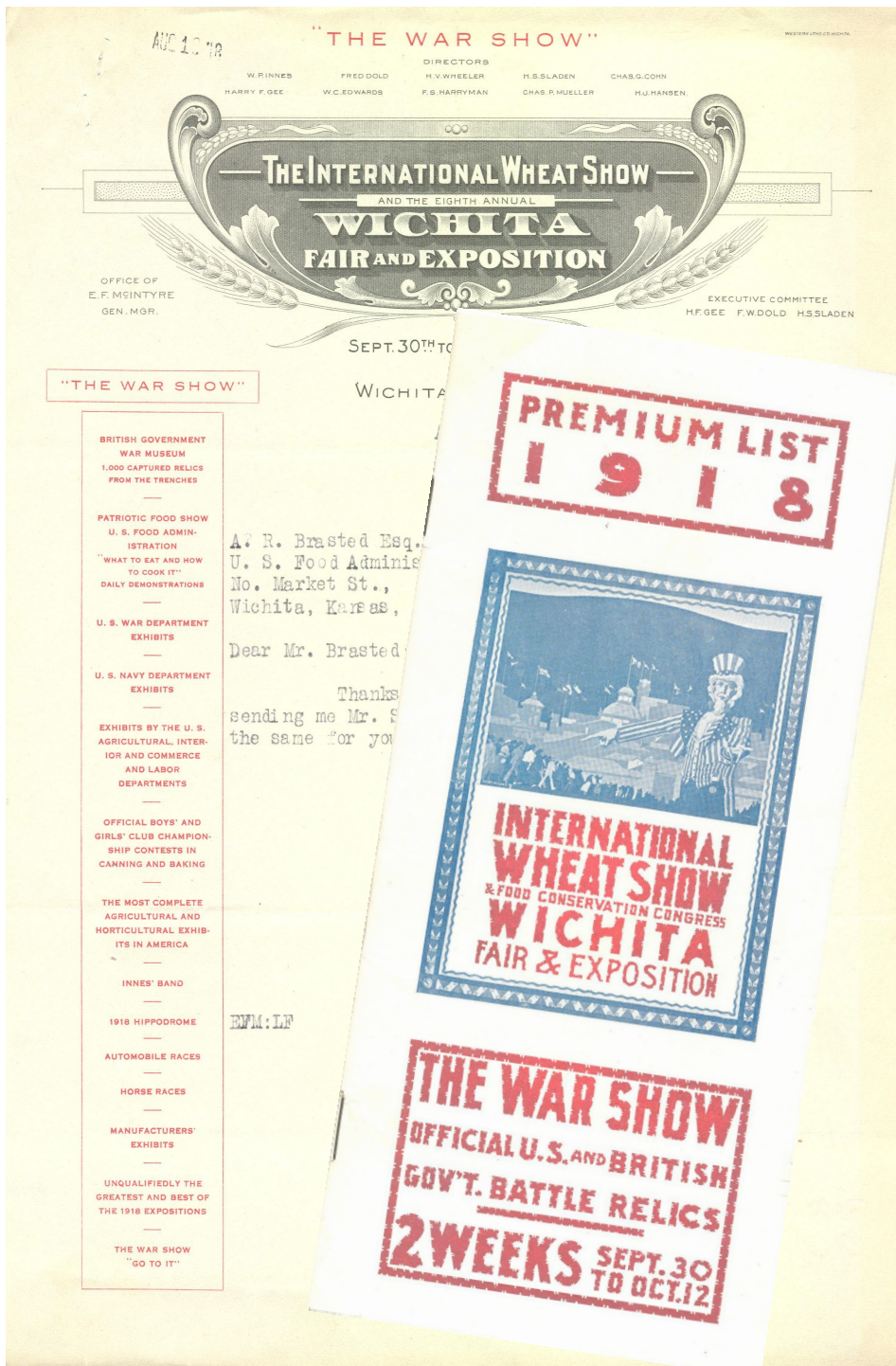
At just 25 cents for adults, and 15 cents for children, the International Wheat Show featured agricultural, horticultural, industrial and automobile shows, as well as the U.S. Government War and Navy Exhibits, the Department of Agriculture Exhibit, and the Food Conservation Exhibit. The object of the International Wheat Show was "to assist the farmer in his effort to grow more and better wheat and crops of all kinds," and to feature agricultural products, including grains, grasses, forage crops, fruits, vegetables, and other products of the soil.

Hosted at the height of World War I, the fair had a decidedly patriotic theme. Exhibits showed farmers how to achieve the best results in planting crops, and "how the agriculturalist may help his country and come to the rescue of starving millions in war-torn Europe." Women could enter bread making competitions with "war breads," such as liberty muffins and earn special prizes for the best display of Red Cross articles, knitting, hospital garments, and surgical dressings.

In addition to the agricultural activities, the Wheat Show also featured *The War Show*—a special event featuring 10,000 square feet of battle relics from World War I. Visitors could see a British airplane that brought down a Zeppelin, a destroyed Zeppelin, field guns, trench howitzers, gas masks, bomb throwers, and aerial torpedoes.

The National Archives at Kansas City holds the records of the International Wheat Show in Record Group 4, Records of the U.S. Food Administration. Found in correspondence of the Federal Food Administrator for Kansas, these records document the efforts of the Kansas State Food Administration to encourage cities and counties throughout Kansas to put on agricultural fairs despite economic hardships caused by the war.

To learn more about these records, please visit Online Public Access (OPA): <http://research.archives.gov/description/5111294>.



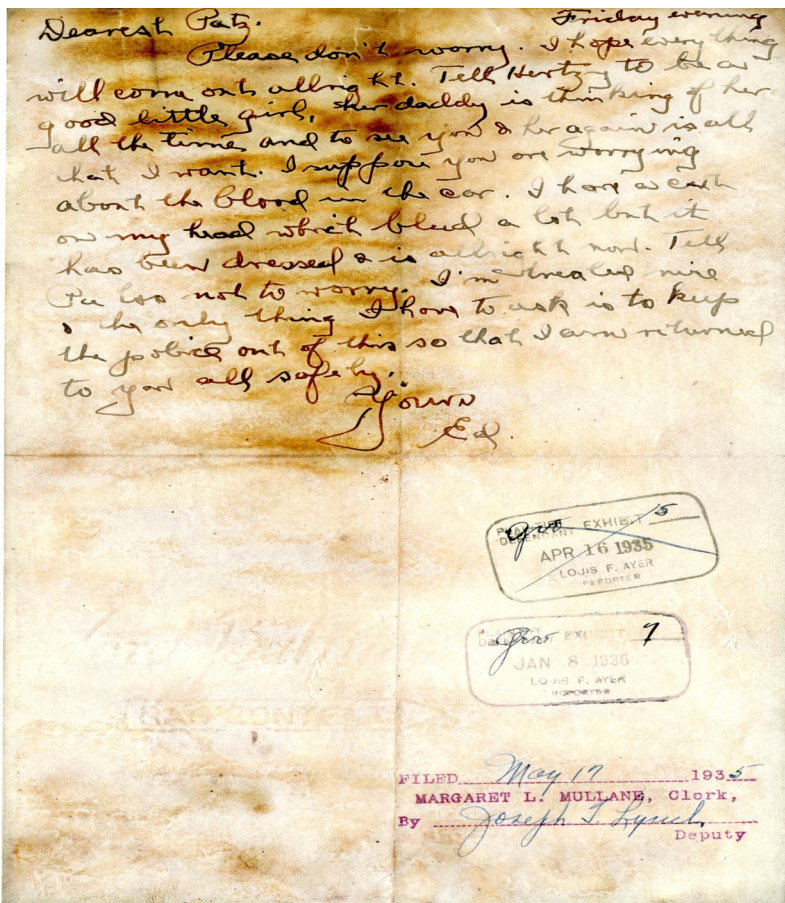
Letterhead and Premium List from the International Wheat Show and the Eighth Annual Wichita Fair and Exposition, 1918. RG4, U.S. Food Administration, Kansas State Food Administration, Correspondence of the Federal Food Administrator for Kansas.

# “They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s

## Quelling Fears: Edward Bremer’s Letter to His Wife

It was a frosty cold January morning in 1934 when Edward Bremer dropped his 8-year-old daughter Betty off at school. President of the Commercial State Bank in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bremer was headed off to work when his car was suddenly boxed in at a stoplight. As two men jumped into his car, Bremer attempted to escape out the passenger door, but was cracked across the forehead with a pistol. He was being kidnapped by the Barker-Karpis Gang.

By evening, Bremer was hidden in a safehouse in Bensenville, Illinois, but news of the kidnapping had been leaked to the press. His car, found with blood from his head wound, caused speculation that Bremer was dead. In order to secure the ransom money, the gang decided to have Bremer write a letter to his wife, assuring her that he was alive and well.



### Crime in the 1930s Lecture Series

The following lectures will be offered in conjunction with the *Crime in the 1930s* exhibition.

**Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.** - *The Other Side of Crime: The Pendergast Machine in the 1930s* presented by Terence O'Malley.

**Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.** - *Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Red Crowne Affair* presented by James Spawn.

A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede all events. To make a reservation for any of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

He wrote: “Dearest Patz. Please don't worry. I hope everything will come out alright. Tell Hertzky to be a good little girl, her daddy is thinking of her all the time and to see you & her again is all that I want. I suppose you are worrying about the blood in the car. I have a cut on my head which bled a lot but it has been dressed & is alright now. Tell Pa also not to worry. I'm treated nice and the only thing I have to ask is to keep the police out of this so that I am returned to you all safely. Yours, Ed.”

This original letter survives today as a part of the court case that was brought against members of the Barker-Karpis Gang for the Bremer kidnapping. After holding Bremer hostage for a week, the gang received the ransom money and released Bremer. The FBI began tracking down several leads that resulted in a Federal indictment against the gang and their accomplices. The letter and several additional pieces of evidence from this court case are on display in the exhibit “They’re Not Going to Get Me:” *Crime in the 1930s*, open through August 18, 2012.

Left: Letter written by Edward Bremer to Mrs. Edward Bremer, *U.S. v. Alvin Karpavicz, alias Alvin Karpis, et al.*, 1934. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.



The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 13 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity)

### HOURS OF OPERATION

RESEARCH ROOMS: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT GALLERIES: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.