



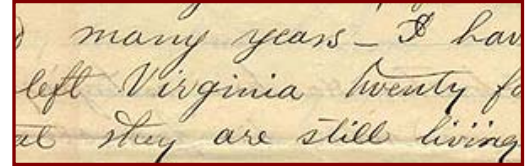
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Online Description in the U.S. Archival Community

Virginia's Freedmen's Bureau Records Now

Available Online: Last month, Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that the historic Virginia [Freedmen's Bureau records](#), the earliest major compilation of information on the African-American community, are now available online.

Under the direction of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and in collaboration with FamilySearch, volunteers indexed the records of names, marriages, educational pursuits, labor contracts, health care and legal services and other important information from the Virginia Field Office Records of the Freedmen's Bureau. The records can now be viewed temporarily at the [FamilySearch website](#), and negotiations are currently ongoing to permanently host the records through the Smithsonian Institution's [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#).



This online publication is the ultimate goal for a [five-year effort on the part of the National Archives](#) to preserve and microfilm all 1.2 million document pages of the field office records of the Freedmen's Bureau. The microfilm was digitized by the FamilySearch organization in Utah, and now allows access to historical data which was never before available. Building on Virginia's trailblazing effort, the project now moves to the remaining states in which the Freedmen's Bureau had established headquarters. FamilySearch will provide direct administrative support for this important second phase of the freedmen project.

The pilot project site, which requires Adobe Flash Player 10, is online at: <http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html>

-Submitted by Cynthia Fox, NARA Staff

Online Access: Social Media



NARAtions: Over the past few months, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) presence online has grown significantly, with several new social media and outreach initiatives underway. We're particularly excited about our new blog, [NARAtions](#), because it allows you- National Archives researchers, professionals, and [ARC](#)-users- a chance to let us know what you think about the roles of online public access, digitization, and social media in research today and in the future.

We hope that you'll come share your own experiences, ideas and questions about online historical research on NARAtions. Our plan is to post periodic discussion questions to get people talking about what you like about online public access catalogs, and where you think there's room for improvement. The ideas generated so far have been great and we look forward to keeping the discussion going! <http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/>

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas about NARA's work with social media, please feel free to contact us at socialmedia@nara.gov.

Online Description at NARA

Spotlight on Holdings in Our Catalog: If you have a favorite ARC-described record group or series to share, send it in and we'll highlight it here.

→ **"America's Newsreel Album"** (RG 428, item numbers 9457A through 9457Z; [ARC ID 74354](#)):

Tucked within the numerous motion picture series here at the National Archives lies a group of 26 black-and-white newsreels produced in 1959 by Gotham Recording for the U.S. Marine Corps, entitled "America's Newsreel Album." These 15 – minute newsreels were hosted by TV announcer and personality Dennis James, and consisted of three feature stories (including a guest interview) that included some amazing footage of political, sports, and entertainment personalities dating back to the earliest "flickers." Interspersed within these stories were recruitment spots for the Marine Corps.



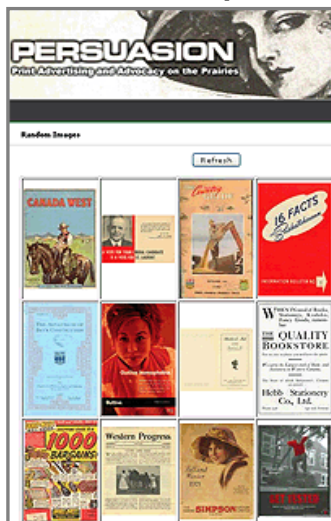
Viewers can see profiles of political personalities such as Theodore Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie, General John Joseph Pershing, and Fiorello La Guardia; sport icons such as Mildred ("Babe") Diedrickson, Babe Ruth, and Jesse Owens; and aviators Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, and Douglas G. ("Wrong Way") Corrigan. Momentous events such as the Scopes Monkey Trial are explored, with footage of William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow, and the defendant John Scopes; as are stories that capture the humor and inventiveness of our country's early daredevils, fashion designers and fads.

Full descriptions of the newsreels can be found in ARC by searching within the series "Commercial Motion Picture Films, compiled ca. 1967 - ca. 1978" (ARC ID [74354](#)) or by entering the search string "Americas Newsreel Album" OR "America's Newsreel Album" in the main ARC search box.

–Submitted by Marcia Kolko, NARA Staff

(For tips on searching within specific record groups and collections, check out the RG and Collection Index at <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/rg-collections/>.)

Online Description in the International Archival Community



University of Saskatchewan Archives- "Persuasion: Print Advertising and Advocacy on the Prairies":

The University of Saskatchewan is home to a great new online archival source. Their online exhibit, Persuasion: Print Advertising and Advocacy on the Prairie, explores the different forms of advertisement in newspapers, magazines, billboards, and other types of printed material from the first three quarters of the 20th century in Canada. Easily navigated, this site not only boasts quality scans of images, but also includes [archival metadata](#) and descriptions, including a curator's note (similar to a scope and content note). Pamphlets that are more than one page in length are scanned individually, allowing the viewer to explore the entire document. A nice feature of the site is the "[Random Images](#)" search, which presents a dynamic cross section of the documents available from all the categories on the website. Check it out at <http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/persuasion/>.