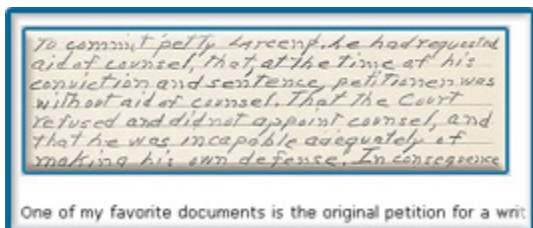




Vol. 2, No. 4- November 2009

## Online Access: Social Media

**Family Tree Fridays and NARA Staff Favorites on NARAtions:** In October, the NARAtions blog debuted two new regular features: [NARA Staff Favorites](#) and [Family Tree Fridays](#).



The first grew out of our interest in seeing which National Archives photos are being marked as favorites on our [Flickr photostream](#). Learning about the public's preferences got us wondering about which records NARA insiders are particularly fond of, so we started asking around. So far, three installments have been posted on the blog, contributed by [Tim Rives \(Eisenhower Library\)](#),

[Cynthia Fox \(Textual Archives Services Division\)](#) and [Marene Baker \(National Archives at Denver\)](#) and while others are in the queue, we'd love to hear from even more of you! If you're interested, all you have to do is decide on a favorite record (which, we've heard, is the hardest part!) and then send in a brief reflection of about 100 words or so on what the document means to you, along with either an ARC ID if the description already has a digital object attached, or a scan of the image.

We're also excited to introduce [NARAtions'](#) first official guest bloggers! At the end of October, Katherine Vollen and John Deeben, both of the Archives 1 Research Support Branch, began writing a series of posts related to family history and genealogy research, with an emphasis on online research and access. Their weekly installments feature a variety of records, both frequently used and lesser known, in an effort to involve both beginning and more advanced archival researchers. As with the rest of the blog, Family Tree Fridays works best as an exchange of ideas, rather than a one-way street, so we encourage you to send in your questions and ideas!

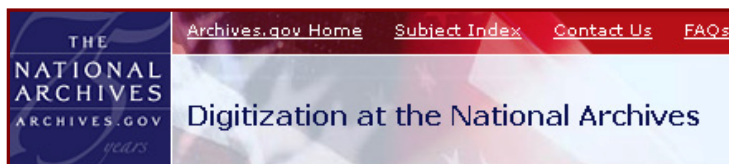


If you have any questions, comments, or ideas about NARA's work with social media, please feel free to contact us at [socialmedia@nara.gov](mailto:socialmedia@nara.gov).

## NARA Partnerships Update

The National Archives and Records Administration has partnered with Family Search, Footnote.com, the National Archives Volunteer Association, the National Park Service and Ancestry.com (The Generations Network) to make digital copies of significant textual collections housed at Archives 1 (Washington, DC) and Archives 2 (College Park, Maryland) available online. Online access to these records is free to researchers using public access computers at any NARA facility in the US. Recent projects include more than 500,000 images from the [Civil War Widows' Pensions records](#), as well as others from the [Southern Claims Commission Case Files](#) and the State Department Death Notices.

For more information on these ongoing projects, we encourage you to check out the summary provided by Cynthia G. Fox, Deputy Director of the Textual Archives Services Division, available for download [here](#).



## 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.

### → Digitized Sound Recordings in ARC

NARA is currently working to upload around one hundred digitized sound recordings and descriptions from the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS-M) to ARC. Encompassing an array of record groups and collections, this batch of recordings focuses on World War II era clips, creating a "greatest hits" list that includes press conferences, interviews, speeches and propaganda broadcasts from the United States, Germany, Italy and Japan as well as American broadcasts of decisive campaigns of the war.

Among the 95 titles are memorable fireside chats with Franklin Roosevelt ([ARC 2173187](#)), reports on the attack of Pearl Harbor ([ARC 2192572](#)), an excerpt of a speech by Heinrich Himmler, head of the Gestapo and SS ([ARC 2284333](#)), and a radio report by President Harry Truman on the bombing of Hiroshima ([ARC 1783706](#)).

The recordings will be available in ARC starting in the last full week of November, and a list of the digitized clips can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/research/ww2/sound-recordings.html#45>. To find these records in one search, use the search phrase "siVoices of World War II".

–Suggested by Gary H. Stern, NARA Staff

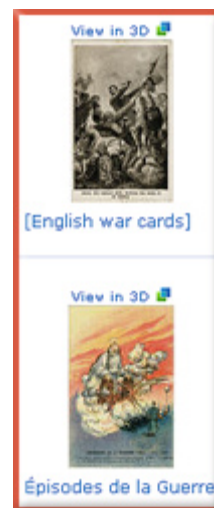
(For tips on searching within specific record groups and collections, check out the RG and Collection Index at <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/rg-collections/>.)

## Online Description in the U.S. Archival Community

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Rare Book Collection: "World War I Postcards from the Bowman Gray Collection":

A new online exhibit from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provides readers with a look inside wartime correspondence long before the age of computers and email. Over 3,000 images and descriptions of World War I era postcards are currently included in the site, with a goal of more than 6,400 by the time the project is completed. Both practical and collectible, "photographic postcards provided documentation of fighting and devastation while stereotyped cards offered political satire, reflections of valor, and comforting scenes of relief stations and benevolent aid." Visitors to the site can browse the collection as a whole or by country, subject, or one of a handful of person names. Both sides of these often colorful records have been scanned and a zoom-enabled picture viewer with drag-and-drop navigation ensures that even the smallest details can be seen clearly. To start exploring these American, British, French, German, Italian and Russian postcards, visit the project online at:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/graypc/>



"The Buzz" is a bimonthly digest of news relating to online description and access initiatives from the National Archives of the United States and our colleagues around the world. You may contact Kristen Albrittain at [kristen.albrittain@nara.gov](mailto:kristen.albrittain@nara.gov) with ideas for articles, suggestions, or comments.