

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

October 2012

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Predicting the Presidency

On Tuesday, November 6, the American people will once again head to the polls to cast their ballots for the next President of the United States. Current President Barack Obama, the Democratic Party's incumbent, is opposed by Governor Mitt Romney of the Republican Party. Americans will base their vote on how well the candidates' views align with their own on such issues as the economy, and social issues such as gun control, immigration, and health care.

The quest for the Presidency in 1860 was no different. Candidates included Republican Abraham Lincoln, a former U.S. Representative from Illinois; Stephen A. Douglas, Northern Democrat from Illinois; John C. Breckenridge, Southern Democrat of Kentucky; and John Bell of the Constitutional Union Party of Tennessee. The most pressing issue was slavery and how newly added states to the Union and territories would handle the issue. Republicans opposed the idea of popular sovereignty established by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Because of regional interests, the Democratic Party split into two factions, forming the Northern and Southern Democrats.

A fascinating document at the National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas, helps highlight how everyday individuals understood the importance of the political process. It contains predictions for the outcome of the 1860 Presidential election. One side of the document, dated July 6, 1860, in New Orleans, is a statement by G. T. (Pierre Gustave Toutant) Beauregard, superintendent of construction for the New Orleans Custom House. He believed that Lincoln would win 11 states, Douglas 10 states, and Breckenridge 12 states. However, he made a notation that Tennessee, Maryland, and Missouri could go for Bell and Everett (Edward Everett, Vice Presidential running mate of Bell) instead of Douglas. Beauregard predicted a Breckenridge victory, but in a postscript stated, "But I believe it most likely that the election will go to the house without even Douglas's name before it as he may be distanced by Bell."

On the reverse, dated July 15, 1860, is the signature of J. K. (Johnson Kelly) Duncan, chief engineer of the Louisiana State Board of Public Works. He listed all 33 states and which candidate he thought would win each one, although two states were tied, and he did not make a prediction for the state of Texas. In his "Recapitulation" of the votes he mistakenly credited Breckenridge with winning five states when he actually projected that he would win six states. Duncan predicted that Douglas would win the election.

We can only assume that these personal opinions were scribbled correspondence between Beauregard and Duncan, and ended up in the papers relating to Beauregard's work at the custom house. The document was found in a series of records titled "Records Relating to the Construction of the New Customs House," compiled 1848-1861.

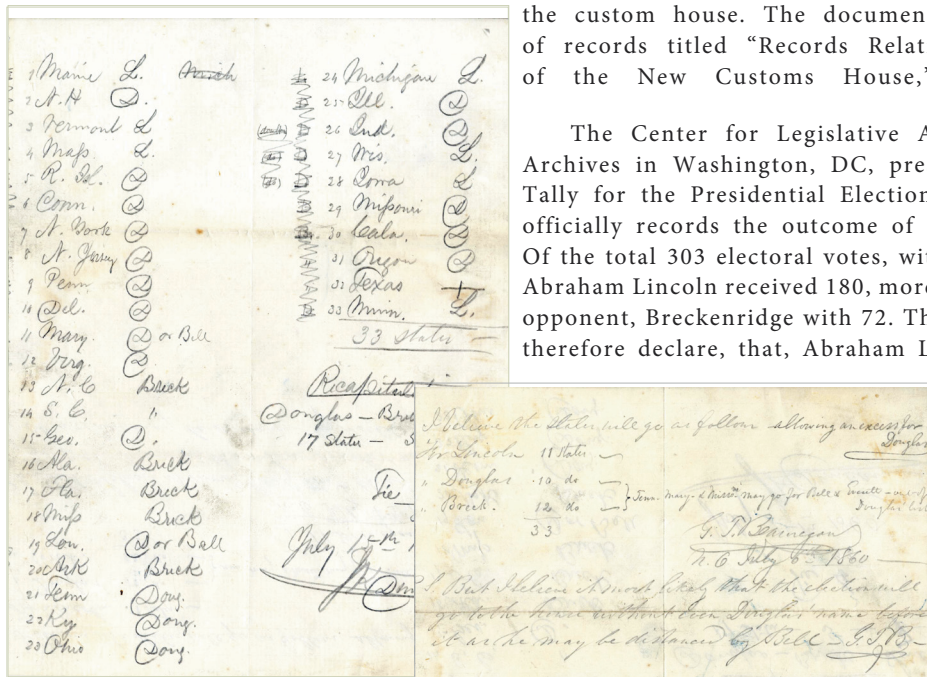
The Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives in Washington, DC, preserves the Electoral Vote Tally for the Presidential Election of 1860. The document officially records the outcome of that momentous election. Of the total 303 electoral votes, with 152 being the majority, Abraham Lincoln received 180, more than double of his closest opponent, Breckenridge with 72. The document concluded, "I therefore declare, that, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, having received a majority of the whole number of Electoral votes, is duly elected President of the United States, for four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, 1861."

Lincoln became President, but the 1860

election prompted the outbreak of the Civil War. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, and the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter only a month later on April 12. Ironically, it was the same G. T. Beauregard who had wrongly predicted the outcome of the election who fired those first shots. The Civil War had begun.

Jenny McMillen Sweeney, education specialist, National Archives at Fort Worth.

Presidential Election Predictions by J. K. Duncan and G. T. Beauregard, July 1860; Records Relating to the Construction of the New Customs House, compiled 1848-1861; Records of the U.S. Customs Service, 1745-1997, Record Group 36; National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas. (ARC Identifier 6016137)



NARA WestCoast October 2012

Rotunda of the New York Custom House, 1937
Records of the Public Building Service
National Archives at New York



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Apprenticeship: Seattle, WA "Service Learning Orientation for Undergraduate Students" 10/4-5/12		Anchorage, AK Development of Law 8 - 9:45 A.M. Workshop Graduate Students 907-261-7800			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Colorado Springs, CO Genealogical Research at National Archives 7 P.M. Workshop General Public 303-407-5749	Seattle, WA "Brick Wall" Genealogy Discussion Group 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115		Blackhawk, CO Genealogical Research at NARA 9:30 A.M. Workshop General Public 303-407-5749 Loveland, CO 1940 Census and Genealogical Research at NARA 11:00 A.M. Workshop General Public 303-407-5749
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Conference: Seattle, WA "Pacific Northwest Historians Guild: Researching Civil War History in the Northwest" 10/19-20/12				Seattle, WA History Day Workshop for Teachers 4 - 7 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115	Anchorage, AK Naturalization Ceremony 2 P.M. Workshop Graduate Students 907-261-7800	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						Anchorage, AK Archives Roadshow 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. Open House/ Workshop/Tour General Public 907-261-7800
28	29	30	31	Exhibit: Seattle, WA "Faces of the Pacific Northwest" Ongoing		

The National Archives at

Riverside
951-956-2000
riverside.archives@nara.gov

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

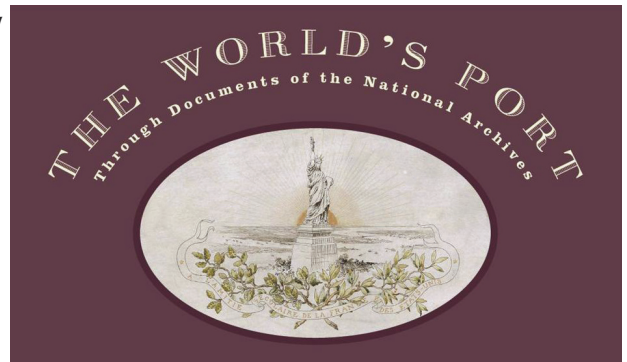
Denver
303-407-5740
denver.archives@nara.gov

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

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

NARA EastCoast October 2012

Detail from the Deed of Gift for the Statue of Liberty
General Records of the Department of State
National Archives at New York



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Morrow, GA Naturalization Ceremony 8:30 A.M. Open House General Public 770-968-2555	Waltham, MA Navigating the Census 2 P.M. Workshop General Public 866-406-2379		Waltham, MA America Votes 5 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379	Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House Noon Genealogists 215-606-0100	New York, NY World's Port Tour and Family Activities 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. Tour/General Public 866-840-1752	New York, NY Open House New York 10 A.M. Open House General Public 866-840-1752
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Exhibit: New York, NY "The World's Port" Through - 11/25/12				Waltham, MA America Votes 5 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379	New York, NY World's Port Tour and Family Activities 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. Tour General Public 866-840-1752	New York, NY Archives Education Institute 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	Morrow, GA Naturalization Ceremony 8:30 A.M. Open House General Public 770-968-2555		Philadelphia, PA A Look at the DE County Archives Noon Open House Genealogists 215-606-0100	New York, NY Family History Game Show at Ellis Island 1 P.M. General Public 866-840-1752			
			Morrow, GA Home School History 10 A.M. Workshop K-12 Students 770-968-2555	Waltham, MA They Came from Italy 6 P.M. Workshop General Public 866-406-2379	New York, NY World's Port Tour and Family Activities 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. Tour General Public 866-840-1752		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Exhibit: Morrow, GA "Ellis Island: The Lost Mural" Through 12/31/12					New York, NY World's Port Family Activities and Tours 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. General Public Tour 866-840-1752	Morrow, GA African American Historical and Genealogical Society 9:30 A.M. Lecture General Public 770-968-2555	
						New York, NY The Genealogy Event Workshop Genealogists 866-840-1752	
28	29	30	31				
Exhibit: Boston, MA "America Votes: Our Power and Responsibility. Presidential Elections Preserved in the National Archives" Through 1/21/13					Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA "Documented Rights" Ongoing		

The National Archives at

Boston
866-406-2379
boston.archives@nara.gov

New York City
866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

Philadelphia
215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Atlanta
770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest October 2012

Aerial of New York City Skyline, ca. 1942
Records of the Bureau of Public Records
National Archives at New York



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Between the Rivers: Life on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers" 9/25/12 – 4/27/13						Chicago, IL Local History Group TBD TBD 773-948-9001
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Fort Worth, TX General Information Noon– 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 817-831-5620	Kansas City, MO Township, Section, Range: Looking at Land Records 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kansas City, MO Order in the Court: Finding Family in Federal Court Records 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000						Kansas City, MO The Presidency of John Quincy Adams 6:30 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Exhibit: Chicago, IL "Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872–1991" Ongoing		
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "School House to White House" Through 2/23/13						

The National Archives at

Chicago
773-948-9001
chicago.archives@nara.gov

Kansas City
816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

St. Louis
314-801-0847
stlpublic.programs@nara.gov

Fort Worth
817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov