

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

February 2013

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Denied the Opportunity to Draw You a Beer or Pour You an Old Fashioned!

In the late 1960s, Chicago police officers arrested three women—Phyllis Carter, Thelma Riley, and Shirley Hill—for tending bar. These women faced criminal prosecution in the Cook County Circuit Court because of a 1951 city law that prohibited women from pouring, mixing, or drawing intoxicating liquors unless they owned the tavern or were related as wife, sister, or mother to the owner. Ten years after its initial enactment, nearly 400 African American unionized female bartenders who had lost their jobs picketed city hall demanding repeal of the law. Their union, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, and their Local 444 refused to help. The fight of female bartenders found its way to the Federal courts in 1968.

Carter, Riley, and Hill, along with 11 other women, 2 male tavern owners, and the Metropolitan Tavern Association brought a class-action suit against local officials including Richard J. Daley, Mayor and Local Liquor Control Commissioner of Chicago; James Conlisk, Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department; Raymond F. Simon, Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago; and others. They claimed “their rights, privileges, and immunities as U.S. citizens were violated” and “that the city ordinance and its enabling state statute were unconstitutional.” Judge James Parsons, the first African American federal judge, would hear the case in the fall of 1968.

Judge Parsons reviewed the plaintiffs’ complaint and dismissed their suit because he believed it did not raise a substantial Federal issue nor violate the Constitution. The plaintiffs filed an appeal. The panel of judges from the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Judge Parsons erred and felt that significant differences existed between Chicago’s ordinance and Michigan’s law and thus warranted consideration and examination. The case was sent back to the district court for Parsons’s review. These judges also mentioned that Section 703 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, even though it was not explicitly referenced in the original complaint, was relevant to this case.

Following the actions of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Robert Tucker and Ellis Reid, attorneys for the plaintiffs, filed an amendment to their original complaint citing the aforementioned Civil Rights legislation as a basis for their argument. A portion

of this law reads: “It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions or privileges or employment, because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”

Attorneys for both sides appeared in court on February 5 and March 16, 1970. Witnesses such as John Thomas Coughlin for the Bartender’s Union Local 278 responded to questions concerning a woman’s ability to physically and emotionally handle the job—whether a woman could tap the keg and if a woman could maintain an orderly house [bar]. Thelma Riley took the stand for the plaintiffs and was asked about her part-ownership in the El Matador Lounge on E. 75th Street and her previous arrest for tending bar. Overall, the defendants’ lawyers, Benjamin Novoselsky and Michael Jordan, continually stressed the argument “that there is a danger to the public health, safety and welfare and that morals are in fact going to be endangered.” Other testimony, though humorous now, leaves us wondering that these comments were even made in a court of law.

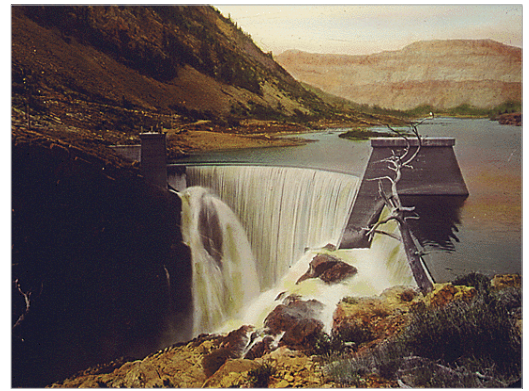
In March 1970, after listening to the testimony and deliberating, the judge found that “sex is not a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the business of tending bar in the City of Chicago. . . . This ordinance is void in view of the supremacy clause of the Constitution, because it violates the 14th amendment to the Constitution, and it conflicts with the 1964 Civil Rights Act.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in recent years, approximately half of all bartenders in the United States are women. Yet this court case and other similar cases remind us of the status and “place” of women less than a lifetime ago.

Above: The case referenced in this article is *Carolyn S. McCrimmon, et al. vs. Richard Daley, et al.*, Civil Case 68C1665, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Chicago, Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21, National Archives at Chicago.

NARA WestCoast February 2013

Sun River Project Diversion Dam, Montana, ca. 1906
Records of the Bureau of Reclamation, 1889–2008, RG 115
National Archives at Denver



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Exhibit:
Seattle, WA
"Faces of the Pacific Northwest"
Ongoing

1 2
Denver, CO
Beginning Genealogy Workshop
9 A.M.
Workshop
General Public
303-604-4740

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Denver, CO
Black History Month Research Workshop
9 A.M.
Workshop and Tour
General Public
303-604-4740

Denver, CO
Denver Metro Area National History Day Competition
8 A.M.
K–12 Students
303-604-4740

24 25 26 27 28

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 February 2013

Post Office on Tennessee Highway 71, 1938
Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 1918-2000,
RG 142
National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Exhibit:
Philadelphia, PA
"Documented Rights"
Ongoing

Event:
New York, NY
National Archives at One Bowling
Green, New York City
"Grand Opening!"
2/4/13

Philadelphia, PA
First Friday
Genealogy Round
Table
Noon
Open House
Genealogists
215-606-0100

Morrow, GA
First Friday
Freebies: How to
Use the Archives
Noon
General Public
Lecture
770-968-2100

Morrow, GA
The Legacy of the
Emancipation
Proclamation:
Its Impact Upon
America and the
African American
Experience
9 A.M.-3:45 P.M.
Symposium
(Registration
Required)
770-968-2530

Waltham, MA
Oh Freedom: They
Emancipated
Themselves
6 P.M.
Workshop
K-12 Teachers
866-406-2379

Morrow, GA
The Long Civil
Rights
Movement: A
Documentary
History
1:30 P.M.
Lecture
General Public
770-968-2530

Morrow, GA
Naturalization
Ceremony
8:30 A.M.
General Public
Open House
770-968-2100

York, PA
Overview of the
National Archives
Noon
Meeting
Genealogists
610-436-3959

Waltham, MA
Genealogy for
Kids
10 A.M.
Workshop
K-12 Teachers
866-406-2379

Philadelphia, PA
Beginning
Genealogy from
Generation to
Generation
Noon
Open House
Genealogists
215-606-0100

Waltham, MA
They Came from
Canada: Acadian
History & Genealogy
6 P.M.
Lecture
General Public
866-406-2379

Morrow, GA
Naturalization
Ceremony
8:30 A.M.
General Public
Open House
770-968-2100

Morrow, GA
Home School
History
10 A.M.
K-12 Students
Workshop
770-968-2530

The National
Archives at

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

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

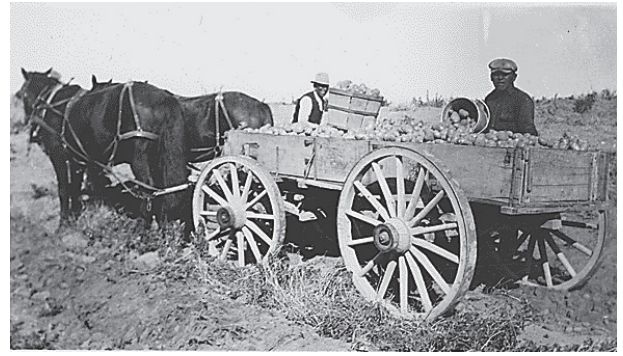
Philadelphia
215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

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

NARA Midwest February 2013

Horse drawn wagon loaded with potatoes, ca. 1936

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
1793-1999, RG 75
National Archives at Kansas City



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa" Through 4/27/13					Fort Worth, TX Introduction to African American Genealogical Research Noon- 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 817-831-5620	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Exhibit: Chicago, IL "Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872-1991" Ongoing			Kansas City, MO Basic Preservation Techniques 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000		Kansas City, MO United States Colored Troops During the Civil War 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000	Chicago, IL "Keep 'em Shooting": Activities of the World War II Midwest Home Front 9:30-11:30 A.M. Workshop Teachers 773-948-9001
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Independence, MO National Archives Catalog Systems 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "School House to White House" Through 2/23/13			Kansas City, MO Exploring Civil Rights and Wrongs in the Holdings of the National Archives Noon Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO African American Census Research 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000 Kansas City, MO Mr. Madison's War: 1813, The Tragic Conflict Continues 6:30 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000	Chesterfield, MO National Archives - at the Core! 1:30 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	
24	25	26	27	28	Genealogist Workshop: Olathe, KS "African American Census Research" (10 A.M.) 2/26/13	
	Overland Park, KS National Archives - at the Core! 10 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Overland Park, KS National Archives' Lessons and the Common Core 1:30 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Becoming a U.S. Citizen: A Look at Naturalization Records 10 A.M. Genealogists 816-268-8000			

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