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The Grand Prize winner in the Fall Genealogy Fair and Pie Contest was **Selma Blackmon!** Selma is a student in public history at Clayton State University, a former intern with the National Archives, a genealogist, and an excellent pie baker. Her winning pie is called, appropriately enough, Star Spangled Cherry Pie. We proudly offer the recipe.

#### Star Spangled Cherry Pie

1 9-inch graham cracker crumb crust

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened

1 can (14 oz) Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk

1/2 cup ReaLemon Reconstituted Lemon Juice

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 can (21 oz) Comstock Cherry Pie Filling, chilled

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add sweetened condensed milk; blend thoroughly. Stir in lemon juice and vanilla. Pour into crust. Chill 2 to 3 hours. Top with cherry pie filling before serving.



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#### Friends of the National Archives

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# THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of  
The Friends of the National Archives and  
National Archives Southeast Region

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## Who Am I? Genealogy Film Crew at Southeast Region

The enormous popularity of genealogy today is not a surprise to NARA staffers. We have long been a major resource for millions of people who are actively searching for information on their family's heritage.

On December 1st, the Southeast Region saw first-hand that genealogy has made its way into the lives of mainstream America.

A film crew from Los Angeles, California, spent half a day at the National Archives—Southeast Region in Atlanta shooting a pilot for a new television series titled "Who Am I?" The show will be aired on FOX Broadcasting Company, and it features two celebrities who are tracing their family history.

Actress Shannon Elizabeth is one of the celebrities searching for her family's history. She came to examine first-hand her ancestor's World War I Draft Registration Card. Shannon is searching for information on her Native-American heritage, and the draft card offered a few clues.

Maureen Hill, Archives Technician, answered the interviewer's questions about the types of records in our holdings and especially the World War I Draft Registration Cards.



Douglas Blackmon autographs a copy of his book for FNAS member Helen Lissimore.



Archives Technician Maureen Hill shows actress Shannon Elizabeth the World War I Draft Card of her ancestor.

## Douglas Blackmon at the Southeast Region

On November 1st, the Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society together with the National Archives—Southeast Region hosted Douglas Blackmon, the author of the best-selling *Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*.

The book is a fascinating expose in which Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude. *Slavery by Another Name* is a moving, sobering account of a little-known crime against African Americans and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

Following his lecture, those attending had an opportunity to review some of the original records in the Southeast Region which Mr. Blackmon consulted in writing his book.

Blackmon is the Atlanta Bureau Chief of the *Wall Street Journal*. Check him out at [www.slaverybyanothername.com](http://www.slaverybyanothername.com).

## Footnote.com and The National Archives Launch Largest Interactive World War II Collection Online

Footnote.com and the National Archives have announced the release of the first ever interactive World War II collection, which includes an interactive version of the USS *Arizona* Memorial, WWII Hero Pages, and WWII photos and documents previously unavailable on the Internet.

The USS *Arizona* Memorial allows Footnote.com users to search for people they know by simply typing in a name. The image viewer will zoom in to the specific area of the wall where that name appears. By placing the cursor over the name, users can access an interactive box featuring additional information about the sailors including a place to contribute photos and stories about that individual.

Footnote.com is a fee-based website which is available free to NARA users in our research rooms. For a limited time, Footnote.com is providing free access to their National Archives WWII collections to everyone from any computer.

In addition to the USS *Arizona* Memorial, Footnote.com is also releasing Hero Pages, an easy way to create a tribute or memorial to our war heroes. These Hero Pages feature an interactive timeline and map, a place to upload photos, documents and letters, and a place to share stories about individuals who fought in WWII.

"There's more than just names, dates, and places," explains Ted Young, a WWII Veteran, whose oldest brother died on the USS *Arizona* as a result of the Pearl Harbor bombing. "I hope that someday our grandsons or great grandsons will see this and have a better picture of what was going on in our time."

## National Archives Creates Awards for Excellence in Genealogy!

### *Two awards to be granted for articles based on National Archives records*

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the National Archives announces two awards to recognize achievements in genealogy research, based on records from the National Archives.

The National Archives is known worldwide as a treasure chest of genealogical information. Each year, millions of people use Federal records in the National Archives to search for their family roots. Census schedules, ship passenger arrival lists, citizenship papers, military pension files, land patents, and court records offer detailed evidence to flesh out family histories. This competition provides an opportunity for students to share their research "treasures" with the public.

The awards are \$1,000 for first place and \$500 for second place.

## The Forgotten Federal Census of 1885

The new issue of *Prologue*, the quarterly journal published by the National Archives, has an interesting article on the forgotten Federal Census of 1885. The Act of March 3, 1879, which regulated the 1880 census and subsequent censuses, also requested that states and territories take a semi-decennial census. The only states which actually took the 1885 census were Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, and the territories of New Mexico and Dakota. With the exception of the 1885 Dakota Territory census, all copies were transferred to the National Archives.

For more information see <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2008/fall/1885-census.html>



### Good-bye, Erica

Our longtime Public Programs student and *Civil History* layout editor, Erica Bethel, has left us for what we hope will be greener pastures. Erica graduates in December from Southern Polytechnic State University,

and she now has a "real job" with Cengage Learning, a company that delivers customized learning solutions for universities, instructors, students, libraries, government agencies, corporations, and professionals worldwide.

We thank her for all of her hard work with the FNAS and in particular for her work on this newsletter.

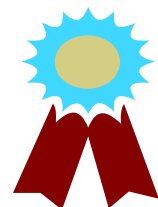


Winning articles may be published in *Prologue*, the quarterly magazine of the National Archives, and/or on the National Archives web site.

To be eligible, an applicant must be either an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning; have completed at least one semester; and have not yet advanced to candidacy, if in a Ph.D. program. An applicant does not have to be an American citizen, but must be attending an American college or university. Permanent National Archives employees are not eligible.

For complete rules, please see <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2009/nr09-18.html>

Awards will be announced at the National Archives annual Genealogy Fair on April 22, 2009.



## The Wanderer



The *Wanderer* was designed to be a luxury racing yacht. She was considered one of the most extravagant vessels of the New York Yacht Club. That distinction changed after she was purchased by William Corrie, with the assistance of Charles A.L. Lamar, for the express purpose of using her to obtain a cargo of African slaves. The voyage was successful, landing 407 Africans on Jekyll Island, Georgia, on November 28, 1858.

The records described below document the efforts of Charles Lamar to violate the slave trade law, the court trials of the men involved in the slave trade as well as Customs records documenting the movement of the *Wanderer*.

Charles Lamar appears to be the central figure regarding the *Wanderer*. Raised in a prominent, wealthy Savannah family, Lamar was passionate in his anger against the Northern states and their desire to end slavery. He fell in with the "Fire Eaters", Southern radicals calling for secession, and formulated a plan to drive a wedge between the North and South. He decided to make slavery, specifically the African slave trade, a national issue by bringing in a cargo of new African slaves. He first employed the vessels *E.A. Rawlins* and the *Richard Cobden* unsuccessfully before using a third party, William Corrie, to secure the services of the *Wanderer*.

Lamar stayed behind the scenes as his name was already a red flag amongst customs officials while Corrie, J. Edgar Farnum, and Nicholas Brown captained the vessel to Africa. Those three enlisted Portuguese sailors (and experienced slavers) Juan Rajesta and Miguel Arguirir to assist with the return voyage. Upon return, several other men were required to bring in the ship, house the slaves temporarily, and then assist in dispersing the slaves across the South. Some of those men, like Lamar, were prominent citizens of Savannah and included Richard F. Aiken, Nelson C. Trowbridge, John and Henry Dubignon, John S. Montmollin, Thomas Bourke, John F. Tucker, Randolph L. Mott, and William Brailsford.

Numerous records in the National Archives—Southeast Region detail the complicated story of the *Wanderer*, including the records of the U. S. Circuit Courts and the U. S. District Courts in Savannah and Charleston.

One bound volume from the U. S. Circuit Court in Savannah contains several cases and offenses involving the *Wanderer*. Among the crimes are importing Africans, holding Africans, Piracy, rescue of a jailed inmate, and theft of the *Wanderer*. The people indicted are Charles A.L. Lamar, Richard F. Aiken, Nelson C. Trowbridge, John Dubignon, Henry Dubignon Jr., John S. Montmollin, Thomas Bourke, Nicholas Brown, John F. Tucker, Randolph L. Mott, William C. Corrie, William Brailsford, David S. Martin, Miguel Arguirir, Juan Rajesta, and J. Egbert Farnum.

Likewise, a June 26, 1858, entry in the Bureau of Customs, Charleston, SC, lists the Schooner *Wanderer* as having arrived from New York. It was in New York that William Corrie purchased the vessel and then had it outfitted for the slave voyage to Africa. It first sailed to Charleston where it was recorded in the Customs records. On July 4<sup>th</sup> the *Wanderer* left Charleston for Trinidad before heading to Africa for a cargo of nearly 500 slaves.

The U. S. Department of Justice Microfilm Series T969, "Letters Sent by the Attorney General, 1851-1871" includes a letter dated April 2, 1859, asking what should be done about a wagon train of Africans, formerly on the *Wanderer*, headed for the Alabama line.

DOJ Microfilm Series M699 contains two letters related to the *Wanderer*. One letter, dated April 10, 1860, references the William Corrie case in Charleston, SC. The U.S. Attorney in Charleston was directed to enter a "Nolle Prosequere" plea and do whatever necessary to move the case to Savannah, GA.

Another letter dated June 1, 1861, documents the seizure of the vessel *Wanderer* in Key West, Florida, by the U.S. Navy. The Union Troops would later use the *Wanderer* as a gunboat; it was credited with capturing two schooners and two sloops during the Civil War.

A complete listing of references to the *Wanderer* will be posted soon to the website of the National Archives—Southeast Region.

For more information, consult *The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy That Set Its Sails* by Erik Calonius, published by St. Martin's Press. It is available in bookstores and through your local public library.

For information on the holdings related to the *Wanderer*, please send an e-mail to [atlanta.archives@nara.gov](mailto:atlanta.archives@nara.gov).

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