

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Teaching from the Archives

Spotlight on Classrooms: Early American Literature at The University of Mississippi

We often say that the use of primary sources in the classroom brings history to life for students. Primary sources such as letters, photographs, posters, and speeches can provide a direct connection to historical events and an unfiltered view of the way people interacted with each other and responded to issues during a particular time period.

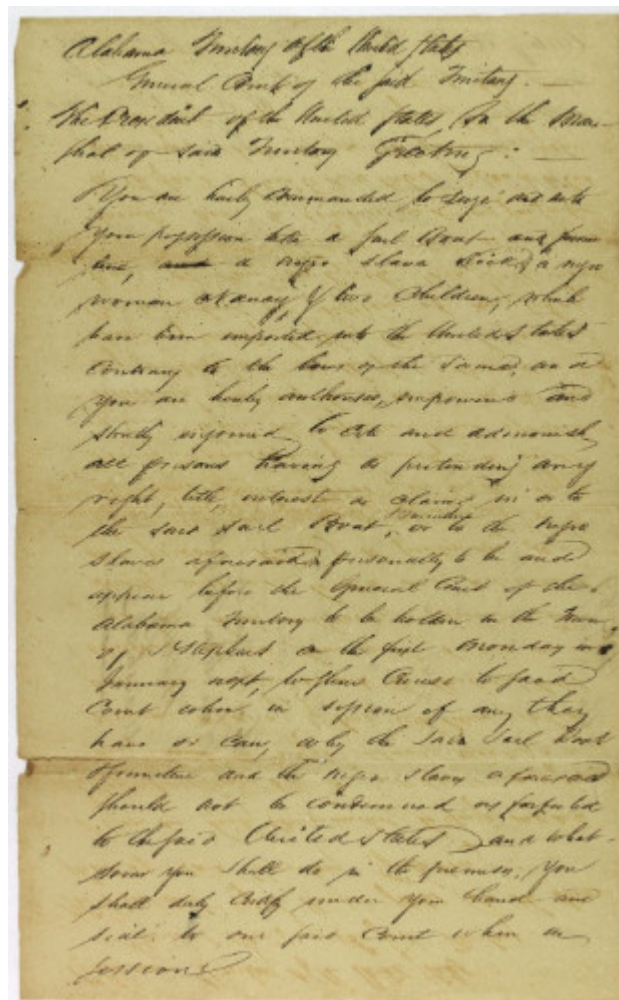


Photograph of General Dwight D. Eisenhower Giving the Order of the Day: "Full victory-nothing else" to paratroopers in England, just before they board their

airplanes to participate in the first assault in the invasion of the continent of Europe, June 5, 1944. (National Archives Identifier [531217](#))

While we encourage students and teachers to explore archival collections in order to dive deeper into historical events, we are also mindful to identify ways history inspired various aspects of American culture, including literature, art, music, and films.

After learning about the Citizen Archivist Program through a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, Dr. Jaime Cantrell at The University of Mississippi introduced her Early American Literature students to archival research by encouraging them to become citizen transcribers for the National Archives as part of their coursework.



Example of a document selected and transcribed for Dr. Cantrell's ENGL223 course. U.S. v. Sale of Negro Man, Woman, and Two Children. (National Archives Identifier [12130607](#))

Students were required to select and transcribe documents from the [National Archives Catalog](#) related to their Early American Literature studies. Dr. Cantrell's goal was to introduce students to primary sources and transcription by examining the connections between early American writers and their engagement with national issues of the time.

This innovative introduction to archival material not only conveys the importance of archival research, but emphasizes the role of transcription in elevating understanding and increasing accessibility to historical records.

“I believe the archive—and paradoxically, the past itself—is an innovative path for moving forward into a radical, digital learning future.”

- Dr. Jaime Cantrell, The University of Mississippi

Read more about Dr. Cantrell's Citizen Archivist assignment on [NARAtions](#).

Are you looking for ways to bring primary sources into the classroom? We can help get you started! Contact us at citizenarchivist@nara.gov. You can also explore documents, browse lesson plans, create teaching activities and more on [DocsTeach](#).

You did it! Update on the **BIG** Record Transcription Challenge



Thank you, Citizen Archivists! In our last newsletter, we asked for your help

transcribing a [big record](#): 238 pages. You answered the call! Within 48 hours, more than half of the record was transcribed, and within 6 days, all pages were transcribed. A BIG thank you to all our contributors who worked together to make this happen:

David Kaminski

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Nistywillow

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cnanco

David Weise

Daniel

Thank you for your help unlocking history and making the documents of our nation's history accessible to all. And stay tuned for more transcription challenges!

New in the **Catalog**

Dawes Commission: [Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914](#)

Applications for tribal enrollments under the act of June 28, 1898, as well as supporting documents such as birth and death affidavits, marriage licenses, transcripts of testimony, correspondence relating to the status of the application, and decisions and orders of the Dawes Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
COMMISSION TO THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

In By Affidavits for Enrollment, as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation,
of Brown Wilson, born on the 18 day of Dec, 1901
Name of Father: Charles Wilson, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation.
Name of Mother: Lucinda Wilson, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation.
Post-Office: Kaffee Ark

AFFIDAVIT OF MOTHER.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Central District.

I, Lucinda Wilson, on oath state that I am 36
years of age and a citizen, by Blood, of the Choctaw Nation;
that I am the lawful wife of Charles Wilson, who is a citizen, by
Blood, of the Choctaw Nation, that a Male child was
born to me on the 18 day of December, 1901; that said child has been
named Brown Wilson, and is now living.

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this 20 day of June, 1902
C. S. Lester
Notary Public

AFFIDAVIT OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, OR MIDWIFE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Central District.

I, Elige Wilson, a Midwife, on oath state that I
attended on Mrs. Lucinda Wilson, wife of Charles Wilson,
on the 18 day of December, 1901; that there was born to her on said
date a Male child; that said child is now living and is said to have been
named Brown Wilson.

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this 20 day of June, 1902
Elige W. Wilson
Byington Homer
Marcell Homer
Notary Public

Want to learn more about Dawes Commission Records? We'll explore it in our next newsletter, arriving in your inbox on February 23rd.

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.



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