



CATALOG

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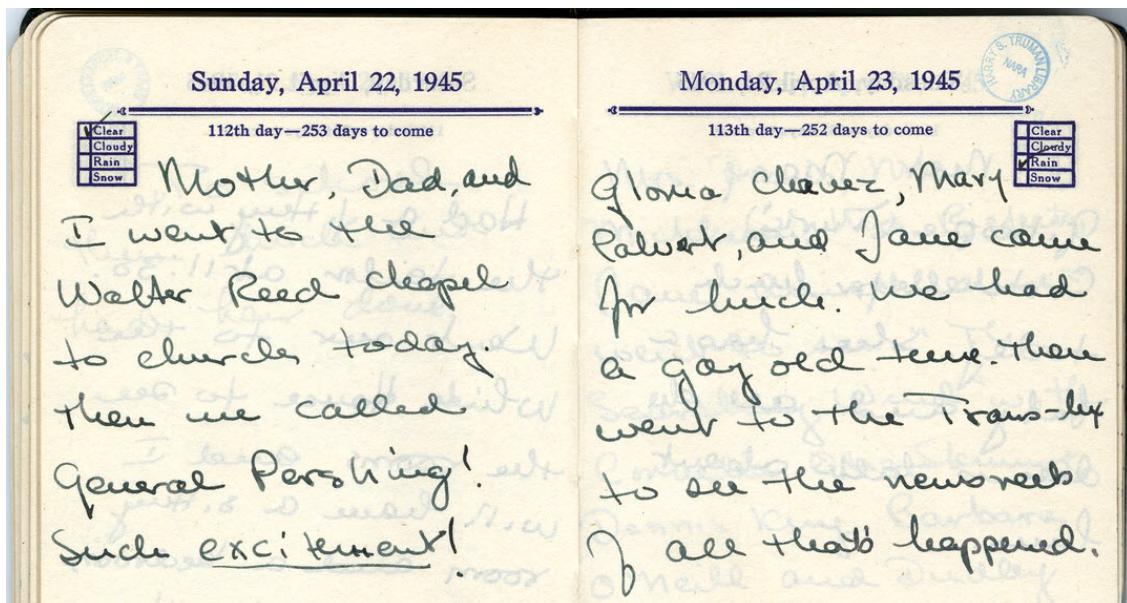
Comments Welcome!

You've transcribed historical records, and you've added tags to photographs, but did you also know you can contribute comments to the National Archives Catalog?


The comment field is a free text box where we invite you to share your knowledge about the record, ask questions, tell others about related records, or even what you might expect to find in a particular item, file unit, or series. Citizen archivists even use comments to let us know when they've discovered themselves, or a family member in the records!

The best comments add contextual information, helping to enhance understanding of the record.


For example, one of our citizen archivists not only transcribed the Diary of Margaret Truman from 1945, but also extensively researched and included references to many of the topics included in Margaret's diary!




When citizen archivist Susan Ottignon began transcribing Margaret Truman's diary, she researched the people, places and events mentioned in the diary. Many of Susan's comments include biographical information about personalities and contextual information about the subjects and events mentioned by Margaret Truman:

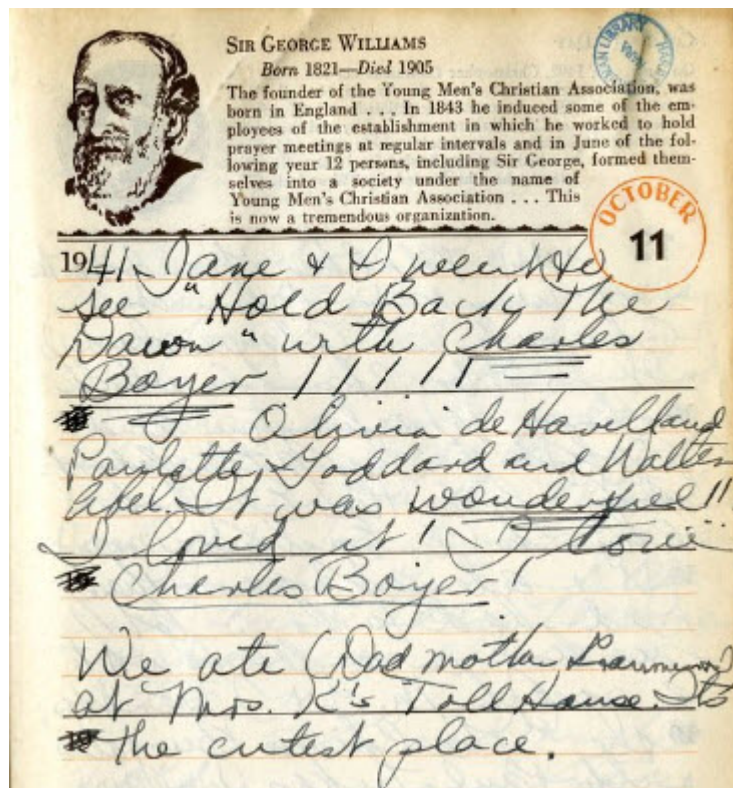
Mary Calvert was classmate to Margaret both at Gunston Hall and GWU. " and most of the other guests were Gunston Hall girls, too. . . Miss Mary Calvert . . ." "Miss Truman Complimented." The Washington Post (1923-1954), Feb 24 1946, p. 1. ProQuest. Web. 14 Oct. 2018. ; Margaret Truman and Mary Calvert were sorority sisters. "Pi Beta Phi" The 1946 Cherry Tree, p. 149. Yearbook. The George Washington University. Internet Archive. 6 September 2018.
https://archive.org/stream/gwu_cherry_tree_1946#page/n149/search/calvert
Susan Ottignon 6 months ago - Edited  [Reply](#)

In her April 23, 1945 diary entry, Margaret mentioned going to see the newsreels. Susan included a comment citing a newsreel dated April 23, 1945, to provide a better understanding of the newsreels Margaret may have seen at that time:

Video. "This April 23, 1945, Universal Newsreel report on the final days of war in Germany as U.S. and Russian forces moved towards a meeting . . ." April 1945 Universal Newsreel - Apr 23 1945. C-SPAN.org. © 2018 National Cable Satellite Corporation. 6 September 2018. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?325096-1/april-1945-universal-newsreel>
Susan Ottignon 6 months ago - Edited  [Reply](#)

"In the pre-TV era, people saw the news every week in their neighborhood movie theaters. Newsreels were shown before every feature film and in dedicated newsreel theaters located in large cities." A Selection of 1945 Universal Newsreels. Universal News Reels. Internet Archive. 6 September 2018. [https://archive.org/details/universal_newsreels?&and\[\]=year%3A%221945%22](https://archive.org/details/universal_newsreels?&and[]=year%3A%221945%22)
Susan Ottignon 6 months ago  [Reply](#)

Since Margaret Truman was an avid moviegoer, Susan comments often include a brief synopsis of movies and information about the movie stars referenced in the diary from the time. Actor Charles Boyer was a favorite!



Charles Boyer. "...When talking pictures became important, Boyer's deep voice and charming accent found demand. . . ." Categories--Personality: Charles Boyer. OTRCAT.com: Old Time Radio Catalog. © 2001-2018 OTRCAT Inc. 29 October 2018. <https://www.otrcat.com/p/charles-boyer>; "... was a French actor who appeared in more than 80 films between 1920 and 1976. After receiving an education in drama, Boyer started on the stage, but he found his success in American films during the 1930s . . ." Charles Boyer. Wikipedia. 29 October 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Boyer; On February 12th, Margaret Truman wrote in her diary about Charles Boyer: "He's my favorite actor now I believe."
Susan Ottignon 4 months ago Reply

As Susan says, "The Diary awakened my excessive inclusion of references! Now I search the President's library and museum site for links that add to "Margaret's story."

Thank you for your great work, Susan!

Here are a few more examples of comments that have prompted discovery, or enhanced understanding of the records:



LTC Kevin Pippard, right, is met by LTC Frank Mwangangi, center, of the Kenyan army and another officer following the arrival of a United Nations-sponsored assistance group led by Pippard.

LTC Kevin Pippard discovered himself in the records, and [commented to provide more context](#) about the photograph:

"I would like to clarify and add some detail for this photograph. I am LTC Kevin Pippard and I flew into Namibia in March 1969, with the initial soldiers of the Australian engineer contingent, by courtesy of the extremely competent 60th Military Airlift Wing, USAF. LTC Frank Mwangangi met us on behalf of the military commander of the United Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), Lieutenant General Prem Chan. The Australians were the first contingent of the multi-national force to arrive in the capital, Windhoek. The other officer in the photograph is my boss, the commander of the Australian contingent, COL Richard Warren who had flown in earlier from higher level UN planning meetings. The transition of Namibia to an enduring independent nation is a feat that all participating and supporting nations should reflect on with pride and respect."



Recently renovated front gate, 4/15/1987, Lindsey Air Station, Wiesbaden, West Germany (FRG)

[Mjbrooks2112](#) was the [photographer](#) assigned to Lindsey Air Station at the time this photograph was taken:

"I was assigned as a photographer to Lindsey Air Station from 1986-1989. I'm pretty sure I took this photo of the main gate after it was renovated. - Sgt. Michael J. Brooks, Still Photographic Specialist, OL-K, Det. 3, 1367 AAVS (Aerospace Audiovisual Services)"



President Bush Visits the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 7/14/1990

[Alwilter provided a comment remembering the day](#) this photograph was taken:

"The Boy Scout with President George H. W. Bush is our Son, Eagle Scout Orlan B. Wilson. He was selected because he was the newest Eagle Scout in National Capital Area Council before Flag Day 1990. Troop 1650, St Timothy's Episcopal Church Of DC. Orlan still has the flag that was presented to him on that day. Peace and Blessings."



Logbooks of U.S. Navy Ships and Stations, 1941 - 1983 Constellation (CVA-64) - May 1967

[Bosnbillsowers remembers what it was like to serve](#) on the USS Constellation in May 1967:

“I was the PO in charge of that barricade engagement! It was quite a issue as the A5 had received a nassive amount of shrapnel and the Captain wanted the film from the cameras. It was the first Viggie engagement made. He had no flaps and engaged at over 160 knots. in a monsoon rain! If he hadn't have caught the 3 wire I always thought he would have gone righ thru that barricade. It was a proud moment for the ships arresting gear crew!

Thanks to all of our citizen archivists who help contribute to the historical records of the National Archives. Together we are helping to unlock history.

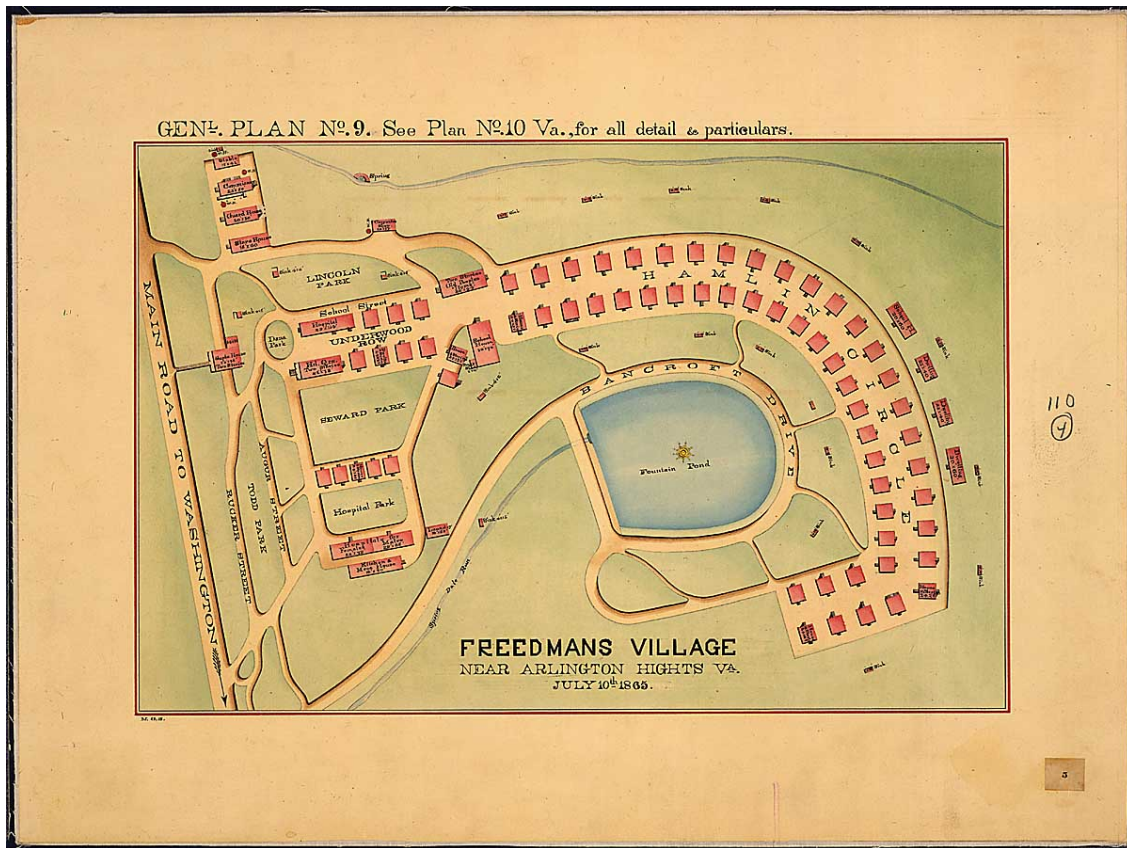
How have you used comments? Share your ideas and knowledge with us!

Get Started Commenting

Please note that while we review contributions and regularly respond to comments and questions, you will not receive a notification of a reply to your comment. Comments are not used for official reference requests, so if you would like to receive a response or have a question about the Catalog, please email us at catalog@nara.gov

Cartographic Records Relating to African American History

In honor of African American History Month, the Cartographic Branch at the National Archives is featuring records relating to African American History.



Freedmans Village near Arlington, Hights [Heights] Virginia, July 10, 1865. RG 92, Post and Reservation Maps, Map 110-A-5. [National Archives Identifier 305826](#)

This plan shows the layout for the Freeman's Village that was established on the estate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, about half a mile from Arlington House, at what is now Arlington National Cemetery. The village was established during the Civil War as a temporary camp for newly freed slaves. Learn more on the [Unwritten Record blog](#).



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