



National Archives *at* Kansas City Newsletter

September History Happy Hour with the Truman Presidential Library and Museum

On **Friday, September 14 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, the National Archives, in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, will host a *History Happy Hour* program. This program will feature archivist **David Clark** who will discuss *Truman and the Rich and Famous*. The event will place at the Truman Library, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. The History Happy Hour is free for Truman Library members; paid museum admission applies for non-members. [Reservations](#) are requested.

Babe Ruth, Bob Hope and Groucho Marx aren't the first names that come to mind when you think about Harry Truman's circle; and it might be hard to imagine him rubbing elbows with Jack Benny and Mickey Mantle. However, during his administration and after he left the White House, Truman was associated with a cadre of famous entertainers, politicians, and athletes who are household names today. Clark will draw on the Library's audiovisual and manuscript holdings to showcase President Truman's relationships with the rich and famous of the 40s, 50s, and beyond.



Above: Photograph of movie stars posing with President Truman and his family at the White House, January 28, 1946. Audiovisual Collection, 1957 - 2006, Photographs Relating to the Administration, Family and Personal Life of Harry S. Truman, 1957-2004, Harry S. Truman Library. National Archives Identifier 199331.

2018-2019 Film Series with American Jazz Museum and Greater KC Black History Study Group

On **Tuesday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives, in partnership with the American Jazz Museum, will host a film screening of *Marion Anderson: A Song of Dignity and Grace*. This program serves as the first in a year-long film series with the American Jazz Museum and the Greater KC Black History Study Group. The event will place at the American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

On Easter Sunday in 1939, before an audience of 75,000, a slender African American woman stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and opened her mouth in song. In that moment, Marian Anderson did more than captivate her listeners. With the dignity and grace that were her hallmark, the renowned contralto made a gentle but powerful statement against racial injustice that lifted her beyond critical acclaim to international influence. This story takes viewers from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera to the banks of the Jordan River, and through the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights Era.

September 2018

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Upcoming Events

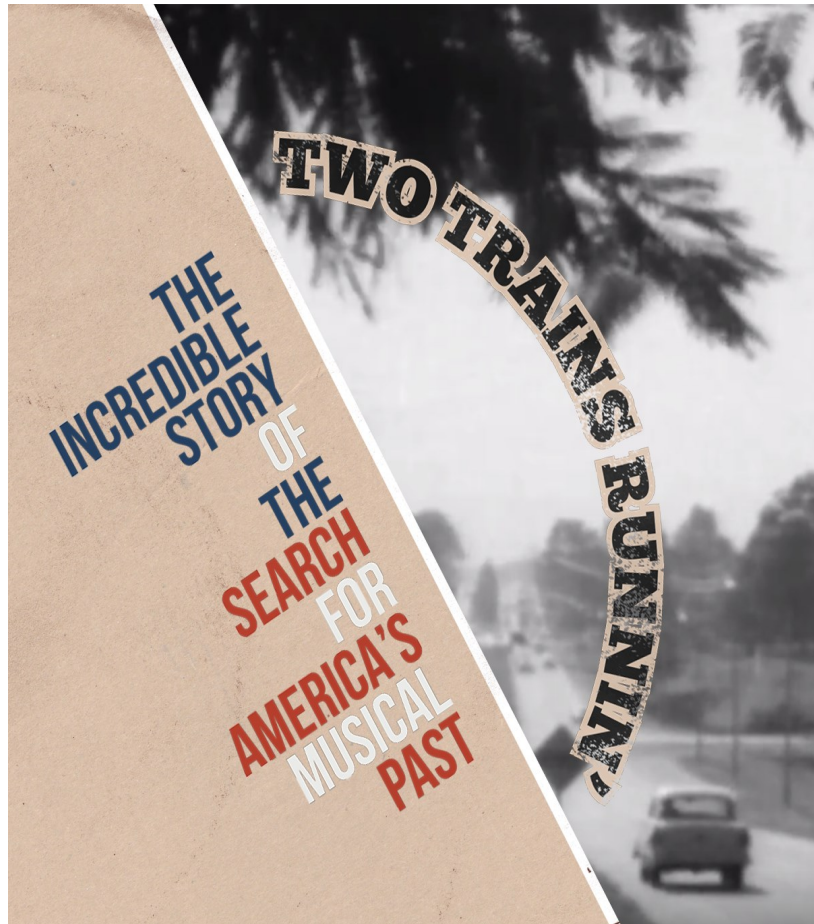
Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 W. Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

- **SEPT. 3 - LABOR DAY:**
FACILITY CLOSED
- **SEPT 12 - ALL DAY:**
FACILITY CLOSED
- **SEPT. 14 - 4:00 P.M.**
*HISTORY HAPPY HOUR:
TRUMAN AND THE RICH AND FAMOUS
- **SEPT. 18 - 6:00 P.M.**
*FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *MARION ANDERSON: A SONG OF DIGNITY AND GRACE*
- **SEPT. 24 - 6:00 P.M.**
*FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *TWO TRAINS RUNNIN'*

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

Film Screening and Discussion of *Two Trains Runnin'* at Park University

On **Monday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Park University, will host a film screening and discussion of *Two Trains Runnin'*. This program will take place in the David Theater in Alumni Hall on the Park University campus, 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO.



Two Trains Runnin' pays tribute to a pioneering generation of musicians and cuts to the heart of our present moment, offering a crucial vantage from which to view the evolving dynamics of race in America. In June 1964, hundreds of college students, eager to join the civil rights movement, traveled to Mississippi and started what would be known as Freedom Summer. That same month, two groups of young men made up of musicians, college students and record collectors also traveled to Mississippi. Though neither group was aware of the other, each had come on the same errand: to find an old blues singer and coax him out of retirement.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sam Pollard, *Two Trains Runnin'* features the music of Gary Clark Jr and is narrated by Common. The documentary was nominated for a 2018 Grammy Award for Best Music Film and it was named one of the "Best Music Docs of 2017" by *Rolling Stone*.

[Email](#) or call 816-584-6214 to make a reservation for this **free program**. This program is presented in partnership with the American Jazz Museum, Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, and Park University.

Upcoming Facility Information and Reminders

- **Monday, September 3** - Labor Day Holiday - facility closed to the public.
- **Wednesday, September 12** - Stand Down Day - facility closed to the public for staff training.
- **Monday, October 8** - Columbus Day Holiday - facility closed to the public
- **Tuesday, November 6** - Election Day - the National Archives at Kansas City is a polling site. Increased foot traffic and limited parking are expected.
- **Monday, November 12** - Veterans Day Holiday Observed - facility closed to the public.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?

We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can find us on Instagram @kansascity.archives or tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.

All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000.

By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Design Patents. Utility Patents. Plant Patents?

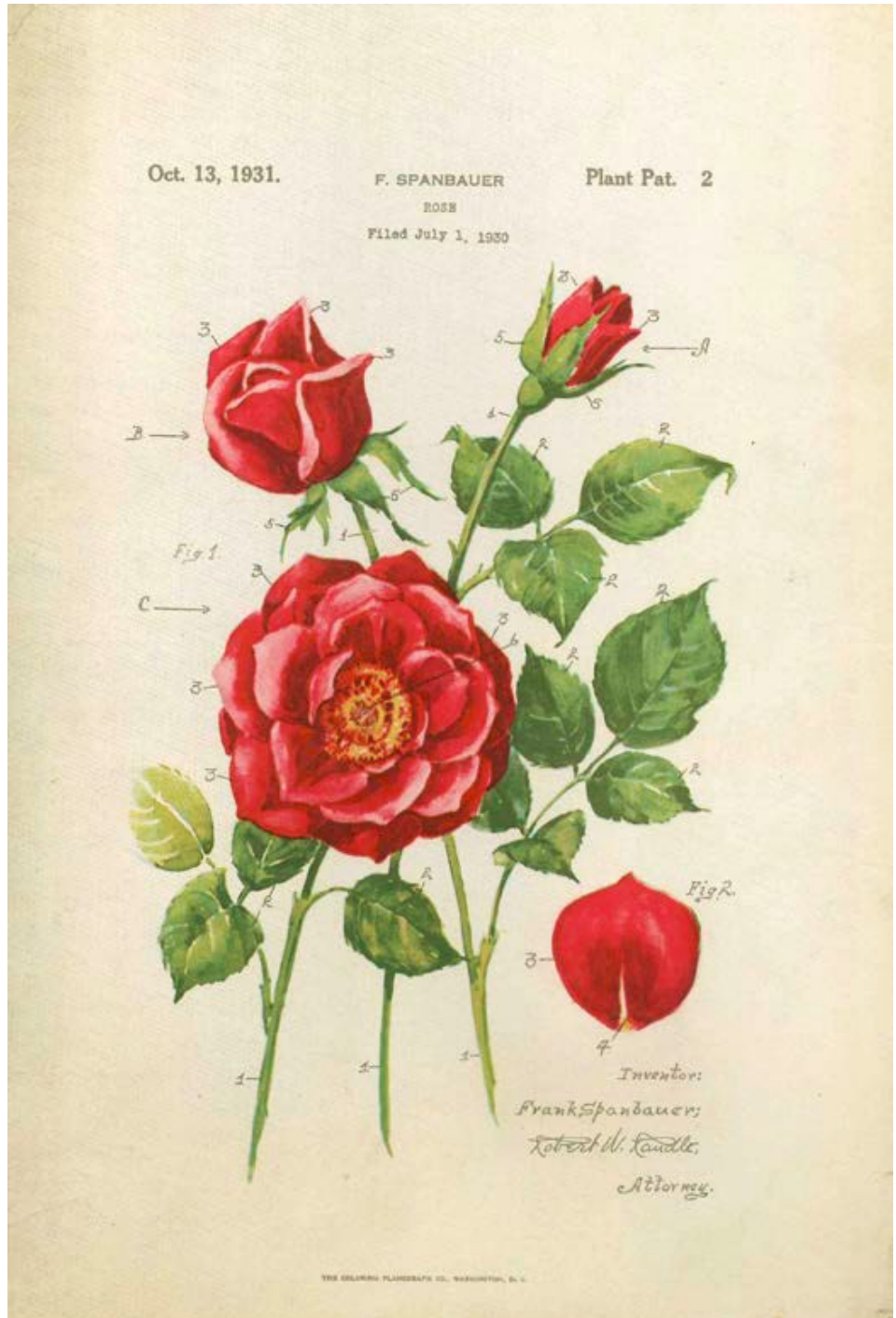
Could a plant be patented if it were a product of nature? How could a new plant variety be described in such a way that met the patent application criteria? "It will be almost as bad as trying to get a patent on a baby" newspapers claimed. On May 23, 1930, President Herbert Hoover answered these questions when he signed into law the Townsend-Purnell Act, also known as the Plant Patent Act of 1930. Prior to the signing of the Plant Patent Act, research and development was an expensive process that left the plant breeder with very little financial protection or reimbursement for their costs. By enacting the Plant Patent Act, Congress determined that the breeder and his or her work "aided" nature and therefore it was considered to be a patentable invention. Plants eligible for a patent under the law had to be asexually reproduced and the specific variety or characteristics previously unknown.

Once a person received a patent for a plant they discovered or bred, the individual had a 17 year monopoly on the growth, the production, and the sale of the new plant. If they chose to allow others to grow and to sell their patented plant, they were entitled to collect royalties from the transactions--just as any other inventor of new or improved mechanical devices had been allowed to do since 1836.

The content of the nearly 2,600 Plant Patent Case Files dating from 1930-1969, available at the National Archives at Kansas City, are similar to traditional Utility Patent Case Files. Utility and plant patent files both include specifications for the item, legal documentation, and any correspondence from the patent office to the applicant. However, unique to the Plant Patent Case File is the colorized drawing of the new plant variety, and the application permitted the use of traditional, botanical descriptions.

On June 28, 1930, Frank Spanbauer, a florist of North Kansas City, Missouri, submitted his patent petition for a new, useful, and ornamental rose. His description of the rose specified that the flower was "especially noticeable as predominately scarlet crimson in color, with a white streak in the center of the inner portion of the petals." Spanbauer's application described his flower as unusually hardy in growth and in disease resistance; his rose "retains its fragrance and beauty for an unusually long period of time." The Patent Office approved Spanbauer's plant patent and officially issued his patent on October 13, 1931, as Plant Patent no. 2.

(Continued on next page.)



Above: Patent drawing from U.S. Plant Patent 2. Rose issued to Frank Spanbauer on October 13, 1931. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, 1836-1978, Plant Patent Case Files, 1930-1969, Plant Patent 2, National Archives at Kansas City. National Archives Identifier 85571690.



Above: Photograph of James Markham and family with his patented peach tree. Peach issued to James Markham February 16, 1932. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, 1836-1978, Plant Patent Case Files, 1930-1969, Plant Patent No. 7, National Archives at Kansas City. National Archives Identifier 85571690.

In addition to multiple roses and flowering plants that received a patent under the new law, other patented varieties include a rapidly maturing and disease resistant variety of sugar cane, bred by Benjamin Arthur Bourne of Florida. James Markham of Illinois, patented an improved peach tree - and its fruit. Markham's patent file included photographs of his "extraordinarily vigorous" tree which he reported bore "uniformly large" fruit that averaged more than three inches in diameter.

Though browsing Plant Patent Case Files is not currently available through Google Patents, staff at the National Archives at Kansas City can assist patrons and researchers with gaining access to these original records. Case files can be searched by plant patent number, plant serial number, inventor name, or plant name. For more information about these records and other patent files, please visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Distance Learning Programs from the National Archives

Visit the National Archives without leaving your school or home! We offer free distance learning opportunities for students and educators.

K-12 Distance Learning Programs

Our standards-based, interactive programs feature historical documents, photographs, maps, posters, and other primary sources.

[Elementary School Programs](#)

[Middle School Programs](#)

[High School Programs](#)

Educator Professional Development Webinars

Join the National Archives for [free, one-hour professional development webinars](#) that highlight primary source documents and classroom resources.

National History Day Google Hangouts and Webinars

National History Day Students, Teachers and Parents – [Join us for NHD workshops](#) to learn about:

- resources for projects and primary source research from the National Archives and our partner organizations,
- the theme and categories,
- using primary and secondary sources effectively, and
- teaching tools for NHD.

We also offer help and training in person at our DC, regional, and Presidential Library locations. Explore all of our resources on our [National History Day pages](#), [DocsTeach.org](#), and our [Education Updates blog](#).



K-12 Videoconference Programs

www.archives.gov/education/distance-learning

Distance Learning Programs from the National Archives

Our interactive programs feature primary sources from our holdings. Each free, standards-based program includes a teacher guide with pre- and post-program activities. Programs are available upon request.



Elementary School

**The Charters of Freedom:
Building a More Perfect Union**
Grade Level: 3–5 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: What is the purpose of each of the founding documents and why are they important?

**The Constitution at Work:
Elementary Edition**
Grade Level: 4–5 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: How is the U.S. Constitution relevant to the daily lives of American citizens?

Our Classroom Bill of Rights!
Grade Level: K–2 Length: 30–45 minutes
Guiding Question: What are rights and why are they important?

Superhero Bill of Rights!
Grade Level: 3–5 Length: 45 minutes
Guiding Question: What are rights and what would the world look like without them?



Middle & High School

**The Charters of Freedom:
Building a More Perfect Union**
Grade Level: 6–12 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: Why do the Charters of Freedom (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights) exist?

**The Constitution at Work:
Middle School Edition**
Grade Level: 6–8 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: How does the Constitution check and balance power?

The Bill of Rights in Real Life
Grade Level: 6–8 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: Why should we care about the Bill of Rights?

Know Your Rights!
Grade Level: 9–12 Length: 45–60 minutes
Guiding Question: How can understanding the Bill of Rights empower civic engagement?

Professional Development Webinars

Join us for free, regularly scheduled and on-demand webinars about teaching with documents, primary source research, DocsTeach.org, and more

See the upcoming schedule and register online: www.archives.gov/education/distance-learning/professional-development

? Questions?
Email distancelearning@nara.gov

DOCSTeach

Visit the National Archives without leaving your classroom! We offer free distance learning opportunities for students and educators.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.