

SEARCHING FOR THE SOUTH: RESOURCES FOR SOUTHERN HISTORY IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES - ATLANTA BRANCH

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I. INTRODUCTION

I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you some information about resources held at the Atlanta Branch of the National Archives which are useful for research in Southern history. By way of introduction, let me say that the Atlanta Branch is one of eleven field branches of the National Archives located throughout the country. The field branch system was created twenty years ago to acquire and preserve records of regional agencies of the Federal government and to make these available to researchers at a convenient location. Each of the eleven branches also holds microfilm copies of the U.S. population census records for the entire U.S. from 1790-1910, and other microfilm which we will discuss in more detail later. Some of this microfilm is held by every branch while other film is unique to our branch. Of course, the National Archives also has produced many microfilm publications which the regional branches do not possess.

The National Archives in Washington does not have an Inter-Library Loan program and they do not loan their paper records to the regional branches. However, in the branches we are happy to assist whenever possible by helping researchers locate the proper office to contact in Washington or to provide information about National Archives holdings. Our major purpose is to serve you, the taxpayers who pay our bills.

Where is the Atlanta Branch of the National Archives? Well, it is not in the lovely marble building on Capitol Avenue near the State Capitol, nor is it inside Atlanta's city limits. We are located in East Point, an Atlanta suburb, between Fort McPherson and the business district of East Point. You can find us by taking the Lakewood Freeway to the North Main Street, East Point exit, turning right and traveling south six blocks to Newnan Avenue, turning right and taking the first right on St. Joseph Avenue to 1557. If traveling by rapid transit, take the MARTA line to the Lakewood or East Point stations and then board a MARTA bus that travels along Main Street to Newnan Avenue. You will then have a two and a half block walk to our building. We are housed in a large warehouse along with the Federal Records Center which is also a part of the National Archives and Records Administration. The Federal Records Center stores

temporary and pre-archival records of the Federal government for the Southeast. Temporary records include income tax records and numerous other files appraised by the agencies and the National Archives as having no historical value. The pre-archival records which they store are still in the legal custody of the agency which sent them until a date when they are officially accessioned into the archives. Court records usually take about 25 years after their creation, while the time factor for other agencies varies.

The Atlanta Branch holds Federal records created in the following states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. For other Southern states, for example, Virginia and Louisiana, the records are held at the Philadelphia and Fort Worth branches respectively.

National Archives records are organized by record group. The record group concept was developed in the early days of the National Archives as an attempt to provide some manageable way to organize the vast body of Federal holdings. Usually a record group refers to a government agency at the bureau level, below the Cabinet department level. For example, we have RG 75 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Interior Department, RG 96 for the Farmers Home Administration in the Department of Agriculture, etc. Independent agencies are usually assigned a record group number. A list of record groups is available upon request. Hopefully you are familiar with *Guide to the National Archives* which has a 1974 publication date but is still a very useful source of information. Every college library should have a copy of this guide. The Atlanta Branch has prepared a publication which highlights paper records in our holdings and also a list of our microfilm holdings. Both of these are out of print right now unfortunately, so we cannot offer you copies at this time.

Dr. Reeves will mention some of our special services during his presentation. Also, we hope to have some time for questions at the end. Let us move now to a discussion of resources available for research in Southern history. There are a number of ways this discussion could be organized. I have decided upon a general chronological approach with some variations.

II. RECORDS RELATING TO EARLY SOUTHERN HISTORY

The oldest record we have in our holdings is an Admiralty Journal from the British Vice-Admiralty Court at Charleston which opens with the appointment of Nicholas Trott as judge in 1716. We hold four volumes of admiralty minutes from this court (1716-63) and

a final record book for the Court of Admiralty for the state of South Carolina during the period of the Articles of Confederation. Records of these two courts passed into custody of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina and became a part of Record Group 21. The records of the District Courts of the United States comprise our largest body of records, some 26,000 cubic feet of volumes and case files.

The records of the vice-admiralty court chronicle the work of that court in suppressing piracy, enforcing acts of trade and navigation, and other matters relating to maritime trade.

The Federal court system, as you know, was created by the Judiciary Act of 1789 and will celebrate its 200th anniversary next year. At the Atlanta Branch we are most interested in supporting activities which will commemorate that event such as the essay contest discussed this morning at the breakfast meeting.

Let us review a little court history. The Judiciary Act of 1789 established a system of lower federal courts--district and circuit--having both original and appellate jurisdiction. In 1891, the U.S. Courts of Appeals were created with only appellate jurisdiction. Use of the circuit courts declined and they were abolished in 1912. The Atlanta Branch will be accessioning records of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals based in Atlanta and serving the states of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama as these become old enough to accession. Some are already housed in the Records Center. Records for the Fourth Circuit which includes North and South Carolina are in the Philadelphia Branch, Fifth Circuit records which include Mississippi and those states now in the Eleventh Circuit until 1983 are in the Fort Worth Branch, and Sixth Circuit records which include Kentucky and Tennessee are in the Chicago Branch.

In the early years, until 1912, Circuit Courts heard most civil litigation (law and equity) and also some criminal cases. The district courts handled admiralty, bankruptcy, and some criminal cases as they do today. The Federal courts of the new nation enjoyed little prestige at first and only gradually expanded their jurisdiction and influence. There was some variation from court to court both in prestige and in practices. The Supreme Court has been studied extensively, but research about lower Federal court activities has been sadly lacking. If you know a student who is looking for a relatively untapped source of varied primary material, why not suggest they investigate these files? Since we have an essay contest offering a financial inducement for such research we hope to have more people using these records.

Some researchers are intimidated by court records. I hope to convince you that they are worth the effort. For most courts, we

have minute books, which provide a daily record of court activities. Most of these are indexed by plaintiff and defendant and in most cases we have a straight chronological series of these minutes. We also have case files--these consist of the papers filed in each case from complaint or indictment through the various motions of attorneys and orders of the judge to the judgment or dismissal of the cases. The case file may include a transcript of testimony, but not always. Exhibits are often included. The cases are usually arranged by case numbers assigned as the case is opened. Particularly in older records, cases may be in a mixed case file series. In order to locate a particular case, it is very helpful to have a case number and an approximate date when the case was filed. Also, it is useful to know where the case was filed. However, we will do our best to help you locate a case when you don't have this information. When a person is researching a particular topic, it might be useful to scan a few boxes of case files covering a certain period. Dockets can also be scanned profitably. We try to keep a "nuggets" file of interesting cases as we learn of them. Additionally, we have started a pilot program of subject indexing criminal case files. I will refer to these indexes later.

Dockets have been used by the courts since the early 1900s and some courts had some form of dockets for earlier years. These are arranged by case numbers assigned chronologically as the cases opened, are often indexed, and can be very useful for locating a particular case when the plaintiff or defendant is known.

From approximately 1865 to 1920, the clerks often prepared final record books. They were paid by the page and these voluminous written records of all actions taken in a case from opening to closing must have helped to expand their meager salaries. Some courts have index card systems for criminal or civil cases which can be very useful. In some instances, these indexes are still kept in the clerk's office. Remember that not all courts have chosen to transfer all of their old records to the National Archives. Specifically we have had problems with the Eastern District of Kentucky and the Southern District of Florida.

Federal courts hear litigation in four basic categories. First, Admiralty jurisdiction includes cases on navigable waters such as lakes, rivers, and canals as well as the high seas. Typical cases concern prize of war cases, embargo cases during the War of 1812 and other wars, salvage cases, suits establishing title and/or possession of a ship, and maritime contract and tort cases including collisions, wage disputes, and injury suits. Cases involving the 1808 law prohibiting the importation of slaves are included. A second category is

bankruptcy cases. There have been four bankruptcy acts; 1800, 1841, 1867, and 1898. Each was approved shortly after an economic upheaval. The first three were repealed after a few years. The 1898 act remained in effect continuously with a major revision in 1978. What this tells us about our economy I'm not sure.

Bankruptcy case files can be useful for economic studies. They also provide a lot of concrete historical data about prices, lists of goods of both firms and families, business practices, and many other things. Professor Louis Schmier of Valdosta State College has found our bankruptcy case files to be a valuable source of information about Jewish peddlers who came to south Georgia in the late 1800s and early 1900s and who were often in precarious financial circumstances.

The third category that Federal courts hear litigation in is Law, Equity, and Civil Action Cases. When Federal courts were established in the United States, they generally followed British practice. Equity cases were heard by the judge and generally involved an issue for which there was no readily apparent remedy at law. Law cases were heard by a jury and usually involved a suit for monetary damages. Much law and equity jurisdiction was shared with state courts, but suits between citizens or corporations from different states were heard in Federal court. Also some cases, such as those involving foreign consuls, were heard exclusively in Federal courts.

In 1938, Federal rules of Civil Procedure were approved by the Supreme Court giving U.S. courts their own rules of practice and law and equity cases were henceforth filed as one group of records called civil action cases.

The final category that Federal courts deal with is Criminal cases. The major part of Federal criminal jurisdiction rests upon the constitutional authority of Congress to enact laws "necessary and proper" to the execution of specially conferred powers. Federal crimes include counterfeiting, piracies and felonies on the high seas, revenue frauds, treason, bribery of officials, arson on Federal property, interstate theft, various postal crimes, and other offenses. Criminal codes were revised and obsolete provisions removed in 1874 and in 1909. There has always been some kind of law taxing the production of alcoholic beverages and, of course, for about fourteen years we had the prohibition law in effect so illegal liquor cases abound.

Now let us take a brief look at the court records for early Southern history by state. North Carolina: The circuit court met in Raleigh and there were three district courts. Many of the court volumes have been microfilmed. Admiralty, bankruptcy, criminal,

law, and equity case files are available from the early years. The branch has prepared an index by plaintiff and defendant of the circuit civil case files, 1790-1860, for the court meeting at Raleigh. Chief Justice John Marshall was the Justice from the Supreme Court assigned to the North Carolina Circuit Court for a number of years. Cases which he heard have been identified and indexed by plaintiff and defendant. Criminal case files for the Circuit Court meeting at Raleigh, 1790-1897, have been indexed by defendant. A privately published catalogue of the North Carolina Federal court records has been prepared based on an inventory prepared at the Archives Branch. This may be purchased from the publisher. The North Carolina court records were inventoried by Dr. Charles Reeves.

South Carolina: Case files for the pre-Civil War era are missing for the court in South Carolina, but there are some minute books available for both the Circuit and District Courts. These have been microfilmed. Also microfilmed are admiralty final record books and minutes, 1790-1857. The District Court met at Charleston, while the Circuit Court convened alternately in Columbia and Charleston. The South Carolina court records have been inventoried by Dr. Charles Reeves.

Georgia: Court began in Savannah during 1790. In 1848, the state was divided into two districts, with the Northern District seat at Marietta. This court was later moved to Atlanta. Early mixed case files for both circuit and district were indexed by the court. The Georgia court records have been inventoried by Dr. Charles Reeves.

Florida: There are some volumes from the territorial period before Florida became a state in 1845. Early courts met at Tallahassee, St. Augustine, and Key West. There are law and equity cases from 1854 and criminal cases from 1859 for the court at Tallahassee. The admiralty court at Key West was a busy one; their records date from 1828. During the Civil War, the court at Key West was one of only two or three U.S. courts in the South to remain in Federal custody throughout the conflict. It functioned as a major prize court for the Union Naval forces.

Alabama: Alabama became a state in 1819. In 1824, the state was divided into two districts with the Northern District court meeting at Huntsville and the Southern District at Cahawba and Mobile. In 1839, a Middle District was added meeting at Tuscaloosa and later at Montgomery. Minutes are available from the early years and also mixed case files, both circuit and district, with court-prepared indexes. The Alabama court records have been inventoried by Mary Ann Hawkins.

Mississippi: Mississippi was admitted as a state in 1817.

Sessions of the court were held at Natchez until 1835 when the court was transferred to Jackson. In 1838, a Northern District was created which met at Pontotoc and moved to Oxford after the Civil War, while Jackson continued as the seat of the Southern District. For the Southern District, there are a few early volumes and case files starting at 1848. The Northern District has law case files starting in 1858. The Mississippi court records have not yet been inventoried.

Tennessee: Court was established in 1797 and held alternately at Knoxville and Nashville. These cities became the seats of Eastern and Western Districts in 1801, and in 1839 the state was divided into three districts; Eastern at Knoxville, Middle at Nashville, and Western at Jackson. In 1864, the seat of the Western District was moved to Memphis where it has remained. West Humphries, Judge of the Middle District at Nashville when the Southern states seceded, refused to resign his position as a Federal judge although he publicly advocated secession. He was impeached, one of only five judges to be both impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate. The Tennessee court records have not yet been inventoried.

Kentucky: The Atlanta Branch only recently acquired court records from Kentucky. Formerly they were housed in the Chicago Archives Branch. We only have records for the Western District. The records for the Eastern District are still kept in Kentucky. They were used by Mary K. Tachau in her valuable book, *Federal Courts in the Early Republic, Kentucky, 1789-1816*. In this book, Tachau examined the entire caseload of the court in Kentucky and followed the sequence of events from the opening of each case to disposition. Court was held in Frankfort until 1860 when sessions were authorized in three additional cities; Louisville, Covington, and Paducah. The records for the Western District have been inventoried by the Chicago Branch.

III. MISCELLANEOUS MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO EARLY SOUTHERN HISTORY

M 86, one roll--Journal of Charles Mason during the Survey of the Mason and Dixon Line, 1763-1768.

M 8, one roll--Journal and Report of James L. Cathcart and James Hutton, Agents Appointed by the secretary of the Navy to Survey Timber Resources Between the Mermentau and Mobile Rivers, 1818-1819.

T 646, three rolls--Correspondence of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia with the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia, 1835-1861.

We have several microfilm publications related to black history for early years. One concerns the Negro in the military service, 1639-1886 (M858, five rolls). A couple of publications relate to African colonization and the slave trade (M 205, 2 rolls; M 160 ten rolls).

The Atlanta Branch holds a large collection of Corps of Engineer records relating district offices. For the Mobile and Jacksonville districts, we have volumes of correspondence related to early forts at Key West and Mobile (Ft. Taylor and Ft. Morgan). A related microfilm publication is the Buell collection of Historical Documents Relating to the Corps of Engineers, 1801-1819 (M 417, three rolls) which has a report on early forts and is indexed. I have prepared an inventory of our corps of Engineer district records for Mobile and am now working on one for Jacksonville.

IV. INDIAN-RELATED RECORDS

We possess some records for four Southern tribes: Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, and Choctaw. Most of these are on microfilm. We have a number of Cherokee censuses on microfilm, and also records of the Cherokee Agency in Tennessee, 1801-1835 (M 208, 14 rolls). This includes information about the economic and social conditions of the Cherokees. Another publication consists of Selected Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs Relating to the Cherokees of North Carolina, 1851-1907. We have paper records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in North Carolina for 1886-1952. This includes correspondence of Superintendents with Bureau of Indian Affairs officials and annual reports. These were used profitably by John Finger in his two books on the Cherokees. Additional Indian-related material includes the following: Creek: (1) M 4, Letterbook of the Creek Trading House, 1795-1816, consists of letters sent from a government trading post established to serve the Creek Indians. This contains information about relations with the military and conditions among the Indians. (2) T275, one roll is an 1832 census of Creek Indians by Indian "town" which lists chiefs and names of heads of household. Choctaw: We have a similar publication for Records of the Choctaw Trading House, 1803-1825 (T 500, six rolls), and also Superintendents Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports for the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi, 1920-1935 (M 1011, Roll 20).

Seminole: (1) We have 31 cu. ft. of paper records for the Indian Agency in Dania, Florida, 1934-1952, including Superintendents' correspondence and Civilian Conservation Corps project files. (2) We have Superintendents' Annual Narrative, 1913-1935 (M 1011, roll 1313).

V. RECORDS RELATING TO THE CIVIL WAR

In most of the Southern states, the federal judge resigned his commission and became the judge for a Confederate court. Often the clerk continued to use the same court volumes, just striking out the words "United States" and writing in "Confederate States." We do have some Confederate court records. The majority of the cases were garnishment and sequestration cases. In a garnishment case, a debt owed by a Confederate citizen to a citizen of the United States or a United States corporation was made payable to the confederate government instead. Sequestration was a proceeding whereby the Confederate government took possession of property located within the confederacy which belonged to citizens of the enemy country, namely the United States. To my knowledge, little research has been done in these records. I wonder if the Confederate government realized significant income from these proceedings. How many were successful? I believe these records contain some interesting stories about the Civil War period.

The Atlanta Branch has several microfilm publications about the Confederate Treasury and military operations during the war. Also, for the period right after the war, we have M 87, 14 rolls, which contain Records of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880. This commission heard claims of citizens residing in the Confederate states who remained loyal to the United States government and whose property or supplies were taken by the United States Army. We also have M 1003, 72 rolls--which contain Case Files of Applications from Former Confederates for Presidential Pardons ("Amnesty Papers"), 1865-1870.

VI. RECORDS RELATING TO THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA UP TO 1917

The Atlanta Branch has an extensive collection of Freedmen's Bureau microfilm for various southern states, both for the Commissioner's Office and for the Education Division. Other microfilm publications consist of letters received by the Department of Justice from Federal officers, state and local officials, and private

citizens in Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, 1871-1884. They cover a variety of subjects including reconstruction conflicts and voting rights issues.

The criminal case files for the Reconstruction era are a rich source of information about voting rights and other civil rights cases. Realizing this, the Atlanta Branch began a subject indexing project. We possess subject indexes for the circuit court criminal case files from the Northern District of Alabama at Huntsville, 1874-1911, and for the circuit criminal case files from the Eastern District of North Carolina at Raleigh, 1866-1897. Furthermore, we have started indexing the criminal case files for the court at Mobile. This would be a good project for a student intern under supervision of an archivist. The indexes identify Enforcement Act cases and additional civil rights cases. For example, *Ex parte Yarbrough* was an interesting criminal case in the Northern District of Georgia involving the Banks County White Cappers, a Klan type organization, who were successfully convicted of violating voting rights in a precedent case. Other cases identified include counterfeiting and various postal violations. Copies of these indexes are available.

Bankruptcy case files relating to the year 1867 are available for most of the Southern courts. These records could be used in a variety of ways since they provide information about economic conditions and also details concerning the operation of various businesses. The law and equity case files for these years also contain useful information of this type. I believe Tom Armstrong found some information about the turpentine and timber industries in south Georgia included in testimony in the Dodge land litigation, a voluminous and controversial case in the southern District of Georgia. during the late 1800s and early 1900s, railroads were reorganizing and some declared bankruptcy and were operated by court appointed trustees. Our court case files are filled with a variety of cases involving railroads during this period.

Expansion of river and harbor improvement work after the Civil War by the Corps of Engineers necessitated the establishment of district offices throughout the United States. The Atlanta Branch has records from the following districts: Mobile, Alabama; Jacksonville, Florida; Savannah, Georgia; Louisville, Kentucky; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Wilmington, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee. Civil duties for the Corps have included maintaining and improving inland waterways and harbors, formulating and executing plans for flood control, operating dams and locks, and approving plans for the construction of bridges and other works over navigable waters. The records of each district

office vary, but they generally include administrative records, engineering studies, and military and civil construction project files which often contain plans, engineering drawings, progress reports, information on funding, and photographs. These records can provide extensive data about the sites of construction projects and their impact on the surrounding area.

In the early 1900s, a young United States Commissioner, Fred Cubberly, in the Northern District of Florida, was shocked to observe poor blacks and whites employed as forced labor with little prospect of working off their debts. Cubberly used an obscure 1867 Federal statute outlawing debt servitude as the basis for a test case, *Clyatt v. United States*, which was appealed to the Supreme Court. Pete Daniel tells the story of this case and subsequent government prosecution of peonage cases in his book, *The Shadow of Slavery: Peonage in the South, 1901-1969*. Peonage cases were tried in a number of the Southern courts.

For the period of the Spanish American War, we have records of the Quartermaster General's Office (RG 92) for supply depots at Tampa and Savannah and records of the Office of the Surgeon General (RG 112) for Medical Supply Depots at Atlanta and Savannah. Corps of Engineers records also reflect increased activity at Southern forts during this period.

VII. RECORDS RELATING TO WORLD WAR I

Among the most valuable and underutilized of the Atlanta Branch records are the World War I draft registration cards. 24 million men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to register in the first nationwide draft. The records are organized by state, county, and draft board. The cards contain information about race, age, country of national origin, and occupation. The possibilities for using these cards for various statistical studies are numerous.

The branch holds records for the Ordnance Training at Camp Hancock, Georgia during World War I and for the Augusta, Georgia, Arsenal (RG 156) for the dates, 1825-1840, 1865-1920, and 1925-1939. Furthermore, in our court case files there are some cases contesting the constitutionality of the draft. We do not have all of these identified, but we are aware of their existence.

The United States Food Administration (RG 4) was created in August of 1917 to assure the supply, distribution, and conservation of foods, facilitate their movement, and prevent monopolies and hoarding during World War I. The Food Administration maintained government control over foods chiefly by means of voluntary

agreements and a licensing service. The records include the correspondence of Food Administrators for Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This correspondence includes numerous letters of complaint against local merchants, restaurants, and even individuals for violation of rationing. Such information provides evidence about the public's attitudes toward United States participation in the war and government control of the economy.

VIII. RECORDS RELATING TO THE NEW DEAL

The Atlanta Branch has 13 cu. ft. of records for the National Recovery Administration (RG 9) which consist of materials from the regional office in Atlanta which served Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. The records include correspondence relating to complaints against state offices. The case files remain in Washington. Useful for agricultural and economic history are the regional office records of the Farmers Home Administration and its predecessor units; the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 1934-1935, Resettlement Administration, 1935-1937, and Farm Security Administration, 1937-1946. These collections include general correspondence of the Regional Director and records relating to resettlement projects. Other related records are those for the Forest Service (RG 95) and the Soil Conservation Service (RG 114). One precedent New Deal court case that we are aware of is *United States v. Darby Lumber Company* which upheld the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (RG 142), 1933-1984, compose a large group of records in the Atlanta Branch (2800 cu. ft.). As you know, the T.V.A. was created by Congress in May, 1933, to conduct a unified program of resource conservation, development, and use; and to speed the economic development of the Tennessee Valley. Among the most useful materials in this collection are those of the Board of Directors including records relating to the controversial A. E. Morgan, who was dismissed by President Roosevelt, and those of David Lilienthal. Also useful are Records of the General Manager, 1933-1957, including 700 rolls of fully indexed microfilm. Reports and Histories of Engineering Projects, 1934-1975, document dam building by the T.V.A. General Correspondence Files of the T.V.A.'s Commerce Department, 1934-1948, document the development of water transportation services on the river. Records Relating to Family and Institutional Readjustment, 1933-1953, include interview forms which contain comprehensive

social and economic information on the people displaced by dam building.

IX. RECORDS RELATING TO WORLD WAR II

The War Manpower Commission (RG 211) was established in 1942 to recruit labor for essential civilian industries, train them, analyze manpower utilization practices to increase labor efficiency, and accumulate national labor market information. The Atlanta Branch has records for the regional office in Atlanta which served Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. These sources include correspondence, narrative and statistical reports, and appeals cases relating to employment stabilization programs and discriminatory hiring practices.

The Fair Employment Practice Committee (RG 228), 1941-1946, was formed to combat racial and religious discrimination in employment. The Atlanta Branch served Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Records include case files involving complaints about discrimination by private employers, labor unions, and Federal government agencies within the region.

The National War Labor Board (RG 202), 1942-1946, was established to act as the final arbiter of wartime labor disputes and to pass on adjustments relative to certain wages and salaries. We have records of the Region Four office in Atlanta including correspondence and news releases.

The Office of Price Administration (RG 188), 1942-1947, was a wartime agency created to stabilize prices and rents. It established maximum prices and operated rationing programs for all non-agricultural commodities. The Region IV office records include case files and compliance survey records.

X. RECORDS RELATING TO THE POST WORLD WAR II YEARS

The War Assets Administration (RG 270), 1941-1950, was established to manage and dispose of Federally owned personal and real property acquired during world War II but no longer needed by the Federal government. The Atlanta office records include the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Of interest, there were some prisoner of war camps in the South which were sold after the war.

The Office of Housing Expediter (RG 252), 1941-1953, was concerned with planning, expediting, and coordinating postwar housing programs including housing for veterans. The regional

headquarter records include narrative reports of area rent offices.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (RG 22) administers national wildlife refuges. The Atlanta Branch has records for 1926-1968 which include general correspondence files of the Regional Director's office in Atlanta and records of river basin projects relating to the following: (1) the impact of proposed development along the Atlantic Coast on water quality; (2) the Southeast River Basin Study Commission.

The Atlanta Branch has records of the Federal Aviation Administration (RG 237) for regional offices in Fort Worth, Texas and Atlanta which include some studies pertaining to implementation of F.A.A. policy.

Federal courts have grown in power and jurisdiction during recent years and this is reflected in the growing volume of cases. Particularly of interest are the civil rights cases. Some of these we have identified, such as *Briggs v. Elliott* which became a part of the famous Brown case which went to the Supreme Court; *Browder v. Gayle*, the Montgomery bus boycott case; the Selma march case; and others. There are many cases which we have not identified, but these can usually be located with the dockets.

CONCLUSION

I hope this partial overview of our records which relate to Southern history has given you an idea of the variety of records which we have and some possible research uses for them. We would appreciate it if you would pass the word to your colleagues at the colleges and universities around the state that we are ready to assist you with your research questions, both for yourselves and your students. We look forward to hearing from you.