

THE WIDER WORLD: RESOURCES FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES-ATLANTA BRANCH

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I. INTRODUCTION

First let me thank you for the opportunity to talk with you about the wider world--the possibilities of using records of the National Archives-Atlanta Branch for research in non-Southern history. I am not going to try to list all of our records that could be used for such research or all the research that might be done. I certainly do not expect anyone to remember all of the records mentioned. I am going to offer some possibilities that are meant to be only suggestive for research that might be done.

What I hope to accomplish is to awaken teachers of non-Southern and non-American history to the possibilities of using our records, our facilities, and our services in teaching and research. Possible uses of these records include your own research, dissertation or thesis work, term papers for either graduate or undergraduate students, or more narrowly focused research, such as finding answers to specifically limited questions as an exercise in archival use.

II. SERVICES

We can visit your institution and present an introduction to our facilities and services for students, faculty, or other groups. We would prefer, however, that you bring your classes to tour our facilities--either during or outside our regular business hours. This allows groups to see the building and some of the records, as well as actually getting them there. We think that after an initial visit some might be less reluctant to return. The staff has developed a series of problem studies designed to let students get their feet wet (or more appropriately, their hands dirty) in archival research. We also have a list of possible research topics and can work with individuals to refine such projects to fit more nearly individual needs. Entire classes can be given an introduction to our resources and then individual students can come back as fits their schedule. A class does come over from West Georgia college as a group every quarter to do family history research. Although that can put something of a strain on our resources, we are eager to work with you in developing an agreeable arrangement for all concerned.

We also welcome the possibility of student internships, either

at the graduate or the undergraduate level. We try to give our interns an introduction to all that we do, including reference and administrative activities, but we focus their activities on the arrangement and description of a collection of records. The staff usually lets an intern choose their project from among several groups of records they are most interested in and that need processing. Some schools use such an inventory as the written requirement for an internship while others require students to do a substantive research paper in the records. We prefer the former because we think the preparation of such a finding aid, which includes an administrative history of the records creator, is enough for one quarter.

As Mary Ann Hawkins mentioned, we do have a collection of National Archives finding aids and can help you find out what records might be available in the National Archives and Records Administration Central Office or other field branches that might be appropriate for your research. Thus, at times we will be able to help you even when we do not have the records you need for your research.

III. HOLDINGS

I am going to organize my discussions of our holdings by governmental divisions of powers, with some subject--chronological grouping included. It should be understood that such divisions are somewhat arbitrary. For example, does one consider research in Atlanta Federal Court records for cases in which Woodrow Wilson was one of the attorneys to be Southern or American history? The same question could be posed for research in Alabama court records for a biography of Hugo Black or in the John Marshall cases from Raleigh. And how would one classify records of the Atomic Energy Commission from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dealing with the design of nuclear reactors, or records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama?

Most of the records in our collection that are usable for non-Southern or non-American history are part of the National Archives microfilm collection. The 45,000-50,000 rolls of microfilm in our collection represent about forty percent of the total National Archives collection. These records start with the beginning of the United States Government, i.e., microfilm publications relating to the Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. A five volume index to the papers of the Continental Congress was done as an observance of the Bicentennial of the American

Revolution. The index covers all persons and all important places and subjects mentioned in the Papers. John Adams is mentioned on 40 pages of the index, John Hancock on 37, Thomas Jefferson on 21 and so on. As you can see the index is quite thorough. The records of the Continental Congress are only the first of many which document aspects of both domestic and international affairs.

For the same time period, we have records relating to the Revolutionary War. These are mostly Department of War records such as Compiled Service Records of Soldiers, Indexes to these, and Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Application Files. In applying for pensions, men frequently listed the units they served with, the battles they were in, and descriptions of those conflicts good enough to convince the pension examiner that they actually participated and thus were qualified to receive a pension.

There is also from the Revolutionary War period a series of Judicial records; the Revolutionary War Prize Cases, 1776-1786. These cases concerned captured prize vessels and were heard by committees of the Continental Congress itself until 1780 and by the Court of Appeals in the Cases of Capture from 1780-1786.

This is an example of an event, a subject, and a period which one can examine from a number of different perspectives using records available at the National Archives-Atlanta Branch. Obviously these perspectives can and should be supplemented by additional perspectives gained from non-Federal documents as well as secondary sources.

If we continue our journey through the governmental structure, we come to legislative records. Among these are the Territorial Papers of the United States Senate created as Congress used its prerogative to admit new states, control appropriations, and exercise other authority. It is interesting and informative to note that the Departments of State and Interior had responsibilities for the territories, and as a result there are also territorial papers from them. Whenever one does research in Federal records, it is necessary to be alert for governmental reorganizations and changes of names or functions of government agencies and departments.

Among judicial records, in addition to the already mentioned Revolutionary War Prize Cases, there are Supreme court Minutes, Attorney Rolls, and Dockets for the period 1790-1950, appellate cases files of the Supreme Court, 1792-1831, and the index to these later documents from 1792 to 1909. Some of the early Supreme Court cases relate to disputes arising from the Revolutionary War. Thus they can provide even more information about the revolutionary and early National periods.

Among the Executive Departments of the Federal Government, the first created was the Department of State. Department of State records can be divided into three record keeping periods: 1789-1906, 1906-1910, and 1910-1963 (with subdivisions within this latter period). We have some records from all but the 1906-1910 era.

Most of the Department of State records that we have are from the 1789-1906 period. During that era, the records were first divided into central files (approximately 80% of the records) and non-central files. The central files are further divided into four main series as follows:

1. Instructions sent from the Department of State to diplomatic and consular officers.
2. Dispatches of diplomatic and consular officers to the Department of State.
3. Notes to diplomatic/consular representatives of foreign governments in the United States.
4. Notes from these representatives to the Department of State

The dispatches are arranged by country (and for the consular records, by city) and then chronologically.

The Department of State records which end in 1906 begin at various dates. Some of the earliest are France (1789), Great Britain (1791), Portugal (1790), and Spain (1792). Many colonial areas are included in the records of colonial powers. As an example of the scope of coverage of these records, the National Archives comprehensive microfilm catalog lists Consular Dispatches from 48 posts in Germany and the German States. We do not have records from all these consular posts. We do, however, have dispatches from a number of consular offices, primarily in the Far East and Latin America.

In 1906 the Department of State switched to a subject numeric classification system, used it for four years, decided it was unsatisfactory, and switched to a decimal file system which was used with some revisions into the 1960s. Records from this four year period have been reproduced on 1,241 rolls of National Archives microfilm (none of which we have), so the Department seems to have been quite busy during the period. I mention this also to give you some idea of the problems we face in trying to obtain materials. Even though the internal cost of buying microfilm is substantially below the \$20.00 per roll sale price, the cost for over 1200 rolls of

film is far beyond our acquisition budget.

The decimal system begun in 1910 employed eight major classifications. Class Seven was used for political relations between states, and Class Eight for Internal Affairs of States. We have a fairly good representation of these two classes for China and Japan 1910-1929, especially relating to the internal affairs of China.

In addition to this material on the Far East, we have recently begun a collection of materials relating to the same two State Department classes for the Near East. These include political relations between the United States and Egypt and between Egypt and other states, 1910-1929; internal affairs of Trans-Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon, 1930-1944; and the Palestine files of Dean Rusk and Robert McClintock, 1947-1949.

During times of war, State Department activity accelerated greatly. This increased activity is at times reflected in collections of records relating to a particular war. There is, for example, a collection of microfilmed records called the "War of 1812 Papers" of the Department of State. These records deal with such matters as issuance of letters of marque and reprisal, aliens living in the United States, and protection of American seamen. Accompanying these are records of negotiations connected with the Treaty of Ghent. Neither of these is a large collection; the first is only seven rolls of microfilm and the second only two.

There is a much larger collection relating to the First World War, made up of records of the Departments of State and War. Department of State records include correspondence between President Wilson and Secretaries of State Bryan and Lansing, 1913-1918 (four rolls and one roll of film respectively). The collection also includes Records of the Department of State Relating to World War I and its Termination (rolls 1-175 of 518) and, Records of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace (rolls 1-179 of 563).

We also have all 21 rolls of Records of the American Supreme War Council (1917-1919), both rolls of the Historical Files of the American Expeditionary Force for North Russia-the Murmask area (1918-1919, and all 11 rolls of A.E.F., Siberia. We are developing a concentration of resources for the study of World War I and American participation in the conflict. As we get money, we gradually add to this collection.

The State Department had a number of domestic functions in the early years of our history. Two other major series of central files records for the 1789-1906 period are Domestic Letters (letters sent) and Miscellaneous Letters (letters received). These series contain all correspondence other than that with consular or diplomatic officers

of the United States or foreign nations. Some of it might be with United States ship captains, United States businessmen, or United States travelers abroad and thus could relate to foreign affairs, but the majority is indeed domestic in nature. It refers to such things as administration of territories, printing and distribution of the laws, the taking of the census, registration of copyrights, and other domestic functions of the Department. These files are quite extensive, the Domestic Letters are reproduced on 171 rolls of microfilm and the Miscellaneous Letters on 1,300 rolls.

As was already mentioned, the State Department supervised affairs in the territories until 1873, and some of the Territorial papers are within records of the Department of State. State Department records also include a series of appointment papers, arranged by presidential administration, and under that by name of the applicant or the person recommended for the position. These are mostly for positions within the State Department, but since the Department was at one time responsible for most domestic functions not related to war or finance, they do include most positions in the Federal Service. We have records for the administrations of John Adams through that of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson (1797-1869). Many of these letters are either from or about persons prominent in the affairs of the country. It should be noted in this frame of reference that the appointment papers of the Washington administration were donated to the Library of Congress some time ago.

The Department of the Treasury was created on 2 September 1789. In the days before income taxes, most revenues were raised by customs duties of one kind or another. Much of the early Treasury Department correspondence was with customs officials at various ports. These relate not only to collection of customs duties, but also to the control of importation and exportation of merchandise, documentation of vessels, detection and prevention of smuggling, and the operation of lighthouses and marine hospitals. These series of correspondence run from 1789 to about 1870.

We have a much larger group of records from the Department of War. These include the already mentioned Revolutionary War files along with indexes to compiled service records for a number of other wars and campaigns. Except for the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, these are almost exclusively for men who served from units raised in the Southern states. As with other Cabinet Departments, the War Department records begin with the correspondence of the head of the Department, from 1789 until about 1870. They are arranged into a number of series, with some ending a little earlier than 1870 and some a little later. Most of these series are indexed in a series

of registers. These records relate to such things as Indian affairs, fortifications along the frontiers and the seacoasts, military campaigns against the British and the Indians, and the construction and opening of military roads.

There are microfilm records of the Corps of Engineers in addition to the textual records which Ms. Hawkins has already discussed. These microfilm records relate primarily to internal improvements; river and harbor improvements, canal and railroad routes, state, territorial, and Indian Reservation boundaries, and exploration of the West. They also include records of the United States Military Academy which was under Corps of Engineers supervision from 1812 to 1865.

Much of the general correspondence of the Secretary of War deals with Indian affairs. In addition to this, there are also a number of series which are specifically related to Indian affairs. Then, in 1823, a separate Office of Indian Affairs (commonly known as The Bureau of Indian Affairs) was established and given responsibility for managing Indian relations.

When the Department of the Interior was created in 1849, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was transferred to its jurisdiction along with the records relating to Indian affairs. These include correspondence of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1824 to 1881 (with some as late as 1903), including a 962 roll publication of letters received. This source contains significant information on the administration of Indian affairs, intertribal relationships, the relations of Indians with white traders, settlers, and soldiers, Report Books containing reports of the B.I.A. to the Secretaries of War and Interior, and letters to the President and members of Congress. There are also a number of Indian censuses, but mostly for Southern Indians, a series of Special files, 1807-1904, consisting of claims for damage compensation arising out of Indian-White contact, and records of Indian Superintendencies in Michigan, Oregon, and Washington.

In less euphemistic days when there was a Department of War, there was also a separate Department of the Navy. Our Navy Department records relate primarily to various surveying expeditions, including those to the North Pacific Ocean 1852-1863, the Gulf Coast 1818-1819, and Central and South America 1838-1842. They generally consist of letters and reports received by the Navy from commanders of the expeditions, deck logs of the vessels, or journals of people on the vessels.

Our other major collection of Navy Department records are the not altogether unrelated "Squadron Letters" from 1841 to 1869. These were received by the Secretary of the Navy from commanding

officers of various Naval Squadrons. Such communications were named for the locales in which the Navy operated, such as Mediterranean, West India, Pacific, East India, Brazil, Home Waters, and African (basically to combat the slave trade). Such documents are particularly useful because at times the first or only contact the United States government had with some countries was that established by these naval forces and their personnel. These records relate to the regular Naval affairs and explorations similar to material found in the records of the expeditions and surveys. More importantly, they sometimes relate to treaty negotiations and foreign affairs.

The Office of the Attorney General was established by the Judiciary Act of 1789. The records of the Office of the Attorney General and its successor, the Department of Justice, include general and miscellaneous letters sent from 1818 to 1904, and opinions of the Attorney General, 1791-1811. These letters were sent to the President, members of Congress, judges, district attorneys, marshals, clerks of court, state officials, and private citizens. They include opinions on questions of law and supervision of the activities and accounts of United States attorneys, marshals, and clerks of court throughout the country. Letters received are generally arranged by the states of origination. Ms. Hawkins has already discussed those from Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, which are the only ones in our collection.

Post Office Department materials contain records of the appointment of postmasters from 1789 to 1971. These list the dates post offices were established as well as names of postmasters, which makes them quite useful for local and community history.

Our largest collection of microfilm is from the Bureau of the Census which is part of the Commerce Department. We have census records from the entire country from 1790 to 1910. Although these are primarily used by genealogists, they could also be used for biographical research, local history, demographic studies, and statistical studies. Among the questions included on the census are several pertaining to occupation and place of birth of individual citizens as well as their parents. The researcher can investigate such things as the extent that occupations were passed from generation to generation, and the geographic mobility of the work force.

For World War II, we have a number of related publications concerning the Nazis. These are in three major categories: National Archives Collection of World War II War Crimes Records (records of the international Military Tribunal), United States Army investigation and trial records, and several series of captured German documents.

The War Crimes Records include documents of the office of United States Chief Counsel for War Crimes, the War Diaries of General Alfred Jodl, and Prosecution Exhibits submitted to the International Military Tribunal. The U. S. Army records consist of case files in a number of trials. The captured German records include material from the Reich Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, Reich Ministry of Economics, Reich Ministry for Armaments and War Production, Office of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germandom, records of Nazi cultural and research institutions, and records pertaining to Axis relations and interests in the Far East. Two of the papers submitted in this year's essay contest made extensive use of these records.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one other set of records--the Russian-America Company Records. The bulk of these records are from 1817-1867. This company had both political and economic control of Alaska until its purchase by the United States in 1917. These are among our least used records, possibly because they are in Russian longhand.

The one group of textual records I do want to talk about relate to the Atomic Energy Commission from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. These date from the early 1940s, when Oak Ridge was the headquarters of the Army Corps of Engineers' Manhattan project to develop the atomic bomb, up to the mid-1960s. They come from several different parts of the organization and cover varying date spans.

the first thing that needs to be said about these records is that while some of them are quite technical in nature they contain more information about the building and running of the town of Oak Ridge than they do about the building of the atomic bomb. Both before and after the Atomic Energy Commission was established as the successor to the Manhattan Engineer District in 1957, the organization has been divided functionally as well as geographically. Thus activities of branches, offices, and contractors from throughout the country are documented in records sent to us from Oak Ridge. For example, among the files of the Assistant Manager for Public Education are news releases from offices in Washington, Las Vegas, Chicago, Schenectady, and other locales.

Much of the work of the A. E. C. is "ageographic;" it could take place anywhere. In conjunction with the records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which we do have, and records of National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Centers for Disease Control which have significant facilities in our region and whose records we hope to acquire some day, we are beginning to

build a substantial collection that could be used for the history of science and technology.

The records from Oak Ridge tell a great deal about planning, building, and administering a city, which in a period of three years grew from nothing to one of the largest in the state. For years everything was controlled by the government. Even the fact that clandestine work was being done, was, for a time, kept secret. Later there was the entire process of normalizing the city which included selling homes and businesses to residents. These records are quite useful for studies in public administration, city planning, and general administration. They can tell the story of what happens when the government moves into an area on a mass basis. Together with the T.V.A. records, the Oak Ridge materials could tell the story of the unique transformation of East Tennessee during the late 1930s and 1940s. One could also utilize the Oak Ridge records to study the role of the Federal government in developing Atomic Energy and public attitudes toward the whole question of nuclear power for both military and peaceful uses.

One last thing to mention is the relationship between the Atomic Energy Commission and the private sector of the economy. Almost all Oak Ridge work was contracted out to private corporations by the Corps of Engineers, Atomic Energy Commission, or Department of Energy. Much might be revealed about the relationship between government and private contractors by examining these records. They might provide some insights into the beginning of what President Eisenhower referred to as the military-industrial complex.

I have had time to mention only some of the records in our holdings that might be used in exploring the wider world beyond the reaches of Southern history. The discussion of the uses that might be made of these records has been even more limited. Both endeavors were meant to be only suggestive of the kinds of studies that might be done using the records of the National Archives-Atlanta Branch. What we at the Branch hope to achieve at sessions such as this is to enter the consciousness of the academic community so that you will automatically think of us as a possible source when you plan your teaching or your research. You can then call us, write us, or simply check some of the lists and other aids we have prepared. We hope and think you will find the efforts of the Government of the United States, and the records we have documenting those activities, have much to say about the wider world within which we all live.