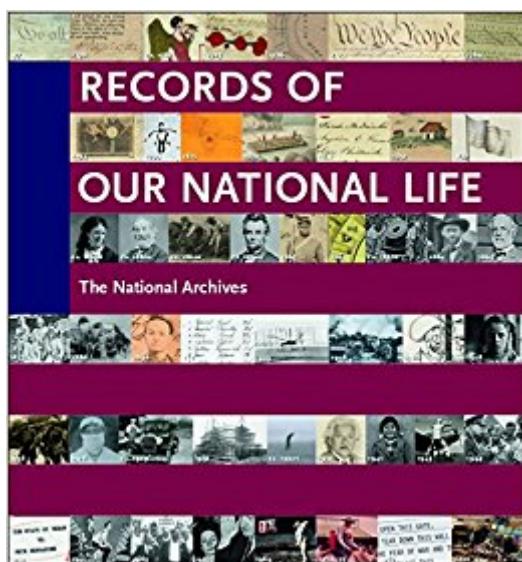


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# Records Of Our National Life: American History At The National Archives



## **Synopsis**

This highly illustrated volume takes the reader on a journey through American history, offering a close-up examination of some of the billions of documents, photographs, maps, and films in the holdings of the National Archives.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Since its birth in 1934, the National Archives has housed some of the United States' most important artifacts, from the Articles of Confederation to the official electoral vote tally from the 2000 presidential election. Now these national treasures can be read and viewed at home in this glossy new volume. Beginning with terse introductions by such contributors as Cokie Roberts and Ken Burns, the book commences with glowing if not substantial essays regarding the archives. Yet the materials themselves—e.g., photographs of the microphones President Richard Nixon disguised as Chapsticks during the Watergate years—are fascinating enough to not need effusive declarations. American history enthusiasts will relish the chance to see culturally evocative documents, like a woeful teenager's letter to the U.S. Department of Labor begging lenience for the Beatles in 1964, as well as the opportunity to glimpse the psyches of some of our most revered public figures: for example, Washington's annotations on the Constitution. The separate placement in the back of the book of paragraphs explaining each image is frustrating, yet this design succeeds admirably in visually showcasing the defining documents of American history. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Developed in collaboration between the archivists and staff of the National Archives and the Foundation for the National Archives, featuring contributed essays by Michael Beschloss, Presidential Historian and Author; Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent, NBC News; Ken Burns, Documentary Filmmaker; John Carlin, Eighth Archivist of the United States; David McCullough, Author; Cokie Roberts, Author and Political Analyst for ABC News and NPR; Allen Weinstein, Ninth Archivist of the United States; Tom Wheeler, Managing Director, Core Capital Partners; and Don W. Wilson, Seventh Archivist of the United States. Edited and designed by Anne-Catherine Fallon and Kevin Osborn of Research & Design, Ltd. Project managed by Maureen MacDonald, from the National Archives, and Christina Gehring of the Foundation for the National Archives. Thora Colot is Executive Director for the Foundation, Patty Mason is Senior Editor.

Cool book! Saw it at the National Archives gift shop and wished we had bought it then - glad we found it on .

I purchased this to give to my husband for Christmas. He is a history buff- it is beautiful!! He loves it because it has both pictures and descriptions.

This book contains part of my family history. I really feel privileged to own this copy. I people want an insight to the history of this country this book is for you.

In the wrong hands, history can be a very boring subject. The names, dates, and lists of facts can seem very disconnected from real life. Published in honor of the National Archives' 75th anniversary, the coffee-table book "Records of Our National Life" presents history in living color. Each striking full-color glossy page offers a new treasure to discover. From a map of Boston in 1775 and the agreement of secrecy taken by all members of the Continental Congress to the handwritten copy of Washington's first inaugural address, the beginnings of the United States are well-represented. Move forward in time and view documents from the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the abolitionist movement, and a map of Sutter's Mill where gold was discovered in 1848. See a collection of Civil War era photographs by Matthew Brady and items related to the Confederate government. Read the testimony of Dr. Robert Stone regarding the death of President Abraham Lincoln. Are you more interested in the modern era? See part of President Franklin Roosevelt's Inaugural Address and photos of the Civilian Conservation Corps at work.

There is a page of World War II posters and photos of the women who worked hard in the factories while the men were off fighting. There is the Supreme Court Judgment from Brown v. Board of Education and documents related to the Cuban Missile Crisis. There are photographs from the Vietnam War and President Nixon in China as well as items related to Watergate. Mount St. Helens is shown erupting. One can also read one of the sheet cards from President Reagan's famous speech at Brandenburg Gate asking Mr. Gorbachev to "Tear Down This Wall!" The most recent items are related to 9/11, the Patriot Act and the election of President Obama. Social historians will love this book the most. From the birth certificates (literally, pages out of family Bibles) of Revolutionary War Veterans, to the Homestead Application of Almonzo Wilder, and citizen applications of such notables as Greta Garbo, Albert Einstein, and Maria von Trapp, there is much to explore and pore over. While not a history text, "Records of Our National Life" is a wonderful addition to any study of American history and could be the starting point for many interesting projects and further study. It is a tremendous resource and one well-worth spending time with.

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