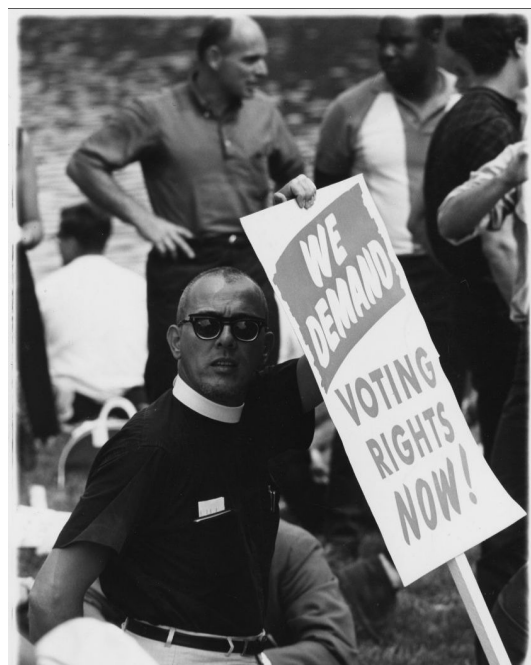


other areas of research, here are a few of the major civil rights court cases, decisions, and acts that can be found in the National Archives Catalog.



Radiogram about Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, 6/26/1937. [National Archives Identifier 197859987](#)

The Chinese Exclusion Act limited rights of Chinese American laborers and prevented Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens. Under this act, Lee was not a citizen, and therefore was unable to vote. Yet she and others still fought for universal suffrage even without the ability to benefit directly from its success.



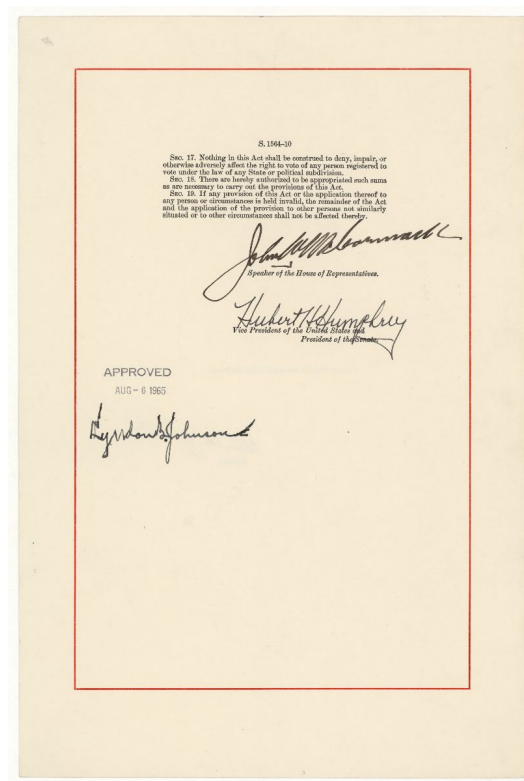
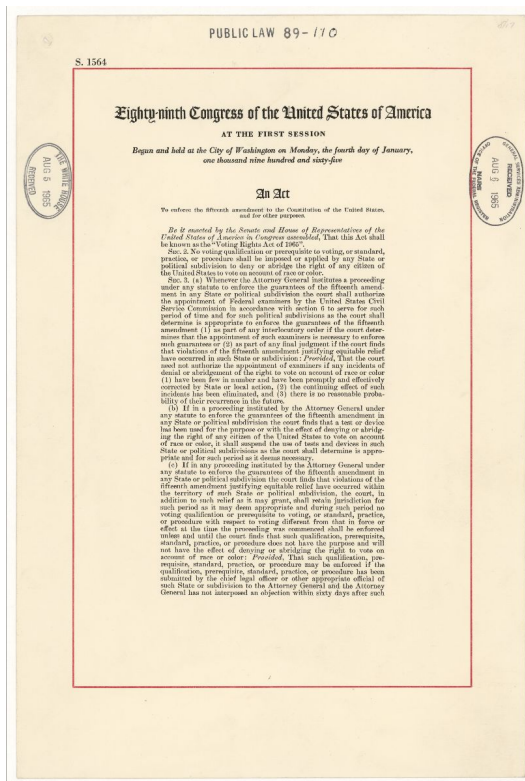
L: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Civil Rights March on Washington, DC, August 28, 1963. Records of the U.S. Information Agency, Record Group 306. [National Archives Identifier 542014](#)

R: Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. [A man holding a sign that reads "We Demand Voting Rights Now!"], 8/28/1963. [National Archives Identifier 542036](#)

Voting Rights

Voting Rights Act of 1965

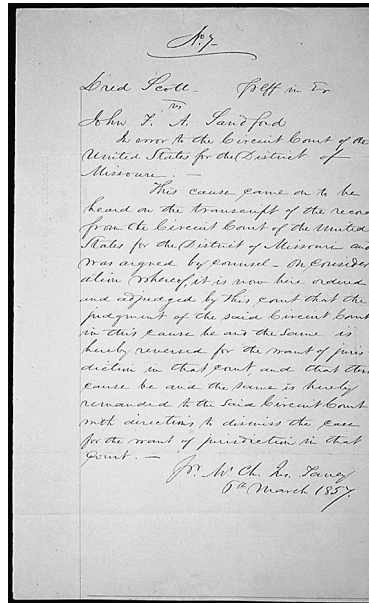
Considered one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation, the Voting Rights Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, was necessary to remove state and local barriers that prevented African Americans from voting in many southern states after the Civil War. [Learn more on DocsTeach.](#)



Act of August 6, 1965, Public Law 89-110, 79 STAT 437, Which Enforced the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 8/6/1965. [National Archives Identifier 299909](#)

Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)

Dred Scott was an enslaved man that sued his owners for his freedom after he had been taken from Missouri to Illinois, claiming that he had automatically been freed once crossing into a territory where slavery was illegal. In this ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that slaves were not citizens of the United States and, therefore, could not expect any protection from the Federal Government or the courts. The opinion also stated that Congress had no authority to ban slavery from a Federal territory. [Learn more on DocsTeach.](#)



Judgment in the U.S. Supreme Court Case Dred Scott v. John F. A. Sandford, 3/6/1857. [National Archives Identifier 301674](#)

Learn more about the [Laws and Court Cases related to Voting Rights.](#)

Education

Mendez v. Westminster

Mendez v. Westminster School District landed an important blow to school segregation in California. And it underscored that the struggle for civil rights in America crossed regional, racial, and ethnic lines. [Learn more on DocsTeach.](#)

1 DAVID C. MARCUS.
 2 Attorney at Law.
 3 213 Spring & Second Bldg.
 4 Los Angeles, California.
 5 VA. 6311

FILED
 MAR 2 - 1945
 EDMUND J. SMITH, Clerk
 By *Edmund J. Smith Jr.*
 Deputy Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
 FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 CENTRAL DIVISION

11 GONZALO MENDEZ and SYLVIA, GONZALO and
 12 GERONIMO MENDEZ, by their father and next
 13 of friend GONZALO MENDEZ,
 14 WILLIAM GUZMAN and BILLY GUZMAN, by his
 15 father and next of friend WILLIAM GUZMAN,
 16 FRANK PALOMINO, and ARTHUR and SALLY
 17 PALOMINO, by their father and next of friend
 18 FRANK PALOMINO,
 19 THOMAS ESTEYADA and OLIVERA, ROBERTO, FRANCISCO,
 20 SYDIE, DANIEL and YVELINA ESTEYADA, by their
 21 father and next of friend, THOMAS ESTEYADA,
 22 LORENZO RAMIREZ and IGNACIO, SILVANO and
 23 JOSE RAMIREZ, by their father and next of
 24 friend LORENZO RAMIREZ,

Petitioners.

-vs-

25 WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY,
 26 and J. A. HOULIHAN, LEWIS CONRADY, RAY SCHMITT,
 27 as Trustees and J. HARRIS, Superintendent of
 28 said School District,
 29 GARDEN GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
 30 ORANGE COUNTY and WILLIAM C. NOBLE, ROBERT B.
 31 SMITH and PAUL APPLEBURY as Trustees and
 32 JAMES L. KENT, Superintendent of said School
 District,
 SANTA ANA CITY SCHOOLS and GEORGE F. WELLS,
 HIRSH M. CURREY, JAMES K. GIVENS, DANIEL W.
 SVOVER and GEORGE J. BUDICKER its Board of
 Education and FRANK A. HENDERSON and HAROLD
 YOST its Superintendent and Secretary,
 EL MODENO SCHOOL DISTRICT and HENRY CAMPBELL,
 THEODORE HOWER, CLARENCE JOHNSON as Trustees,
 and HAROLD HAMMARSTEN, Superintendent of
 said School District,

Respondents.

PETITION

No. 4292-M

PETITIONERS allege:

I.
 The Garden Grove Elementary School District, is a legally
 constituted School District in the County of Orange, State of
 California and William C. Noble, Robert B. Smith and Paul C.
 Applebury, are the duly elected, qualified and acting Board of
 Trustees and James L. Kent, is the District Superintendent of
 said School District.

II.
 The Westminster School District is a legally constituted
 School District in the County of Orange, State of California and
 J. A. Houlihan, Lewis Conrady and Ray Schmitt, are the duly qual-
 ified and acting Trustees and J. Harris is the District Superin-
 tendent of said School District.

III.
 The Santa Ana City Schools is a legally constituted School
 system within the City of Santa Ana County of Orange and State of
 California and George F. Wells, Hiram M. Currey, James K. Givens,
 Daniel W. Stover and George J. Budicker are its duly elected
 qualified and acting Board of Education and Frank A. Henderson
 and Harold Yost its Superintendent and Secretary respectively.

IV.
 The El Modeno School District is a legally constituted
 School District within the County of Orange, State of California
 and Henry Campbell, Theodore Hower and Clarence Johnson are its
 duly qualified and acting Trustees and Harold Hammarsten, its
 Superintendent of said School District.

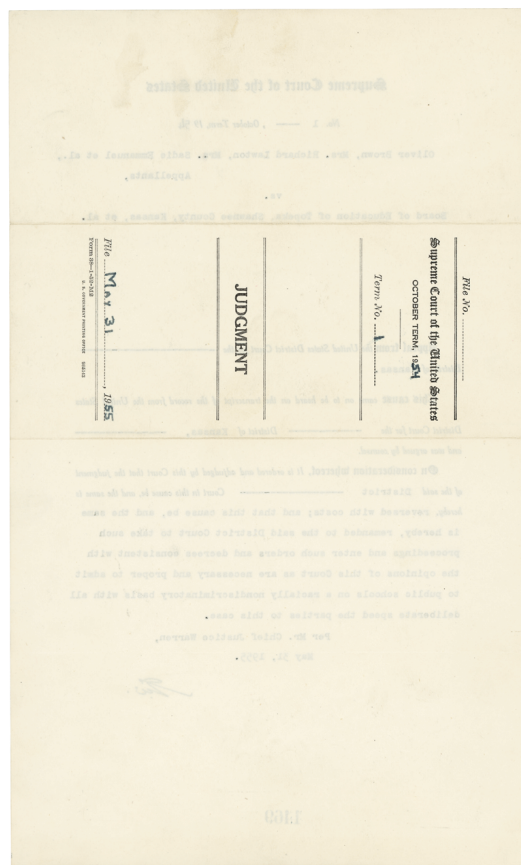
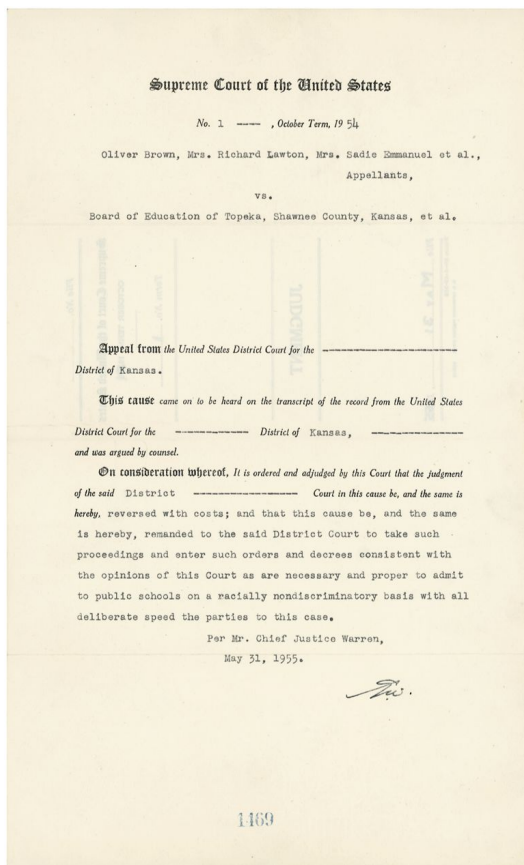
V.
 That for many years past the foregoing School Districts
 and Systems were and now are the owners of and beneficially inter-
 ested in and have and do now maintain, operate, manage and control
 the Public Schools within their respective Districts and Systems,

-1-

Gonzalo Mendez et al v. Westminster School District of Orange County et al. This Petition summarizes the complaint made by several parents of children in the Westminster, Garden Grove, and El Modeno School Districts and the City of Santa Ana schools. It charges that the schools were violating students' civil rights by segregating students of "Mexican and Latin" ancestry in separate schools. [National Archives Identifier 294940](https://www.archives.gov/details/294940)

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

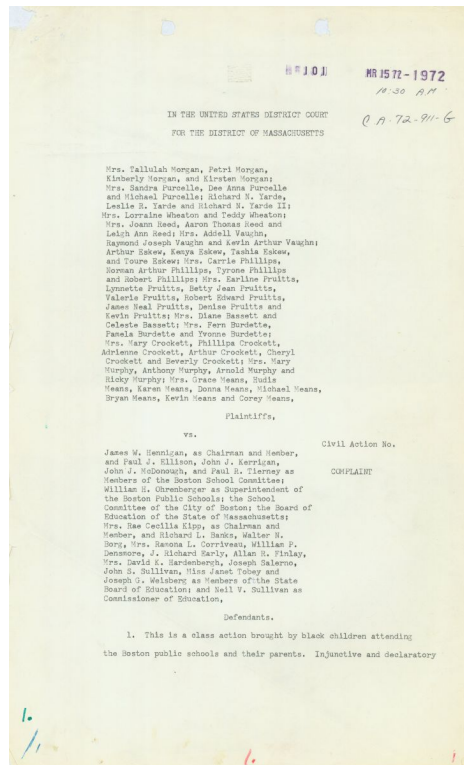
On May 17, 1954, in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (five separate cases consolidated under a single name), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that separate but equal public schools violated the 14th Amendment. A year later in what is now referred to as "Brown II," Chief Justice Warren required that the students be "admit[ted] to public schools on a racially nondiscriminatory basis with all deliberate speed."



Judgement in the Supreme Court Decision for *Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka et al.*,
5/31/1955 [National Archives Identifier 596300](#)

Morgan v. Hennigan

In 1972, the parents of African American children brought a class action lawsuit alleging that the Boston School Committee violated the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution by a deliberate policy of racial segregation in the Boston Public Schools. Learn more about this case on the [Rediscovering Black History blog: Morgan V. Hennigan: Desegregation of Boston Public Schools.](#)



Tallulah Morgan et al. v. James W. Hennigan et al. Complaint. [National Archives Identifier 4713867](#)

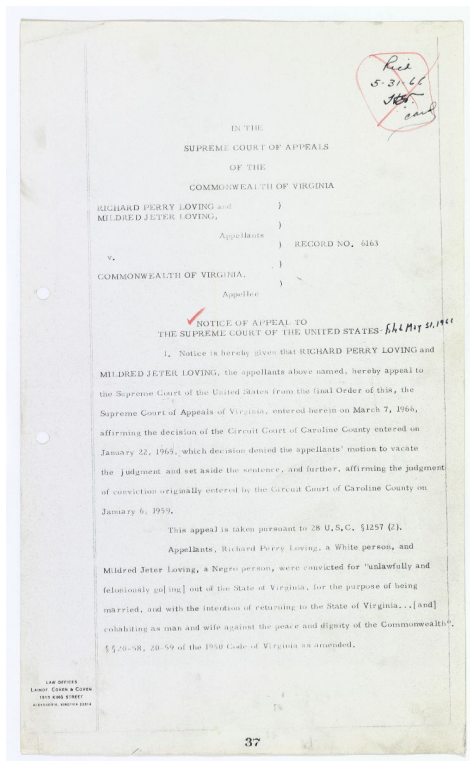
View the [full case file in the National Archives Catalog](#).

Explore more [documents related to school desegregation](#) on DocsTeach.

Marriage Rights

Loving v. Virginia

Loving v. Virginia (1967) was a landmark civil rights decision of the United States Supreme Court which invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage. Chief Justice Earl Warren authorized the court's opinion, stating: "the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."



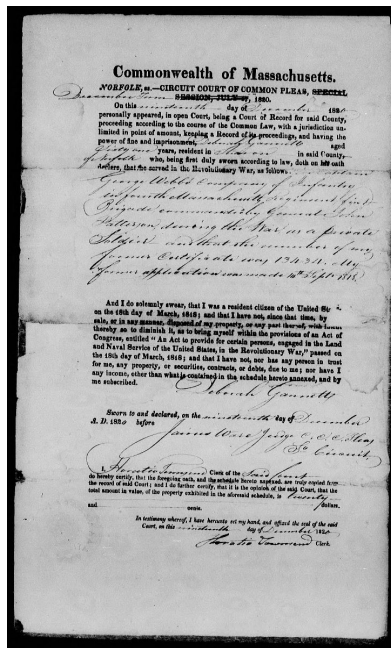
Loving v. Virginia Appeal, 5/27/1966. [National Archives Identifier 7873520](#)

Learn more on the Prologue blog, [The Fight for the Right to Marry: The Loving v. Virginia Case](#), and on the Rediscovering Black History blog, [Virginia is for the Lovings](#).

Disability Rights

File for Deborah Sampson Gannett

During the American Revolution, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man and enlisted, under the name of Robert Shurtleff, in the Continental Army under the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. She fought in several battles before her true identity was discovered following an injury. In 1809, after 20 years of petitioning the federal government, she received a disability pension of four dollars per month. [Learn more on DocsTeach](#).



Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File S 32722, Deborah Gannett, Mass. [National Archives Identifier 54636851](#)

From personal letters to historic legislation, records from the Presidential Libraries provide insight into efforts over the past century to establish programs and to protect the rights of people with disabilities. Learn more on the [Americans with Disabilities Act web page](#).

For further research, resources at the National Archives provide a variety of documents, photographs, articles, and other educational resources covering many different topics related to civil rights, including slavery, racism, citizenship, women's independence, immigration, and more.



After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, relocating 117,000 Japanese Americans. Photograph, Poston, Arizona, January 4, 1943. Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority National Archives. [National Archives Identifier 536627](#)

Browse textual, photographic, motion pictures and electronic records with the [Black History Guide: Civil Rights](#). Additionally, explore [Civil Rights Cases held at the National Archives at Chicago](#).

Learn more about [photographs and other materials in the custody of the Still Picture Branch](#) including images documenting the Civil Rights Movement and other social movements in the United States.

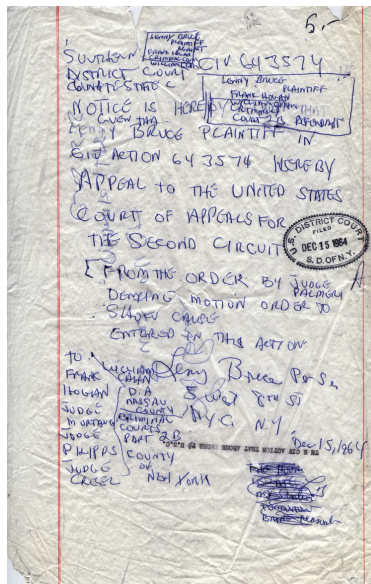


Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. Young women at the march, 8/28/1963. [National Archives Identifier 542022](#)



Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. Marchers sitting on the grass, 8/28/1963. [National Archives Identifier 542009](#)

For primary sources, teaching activities and more, explore [DocsTeach: Rights in America](#).

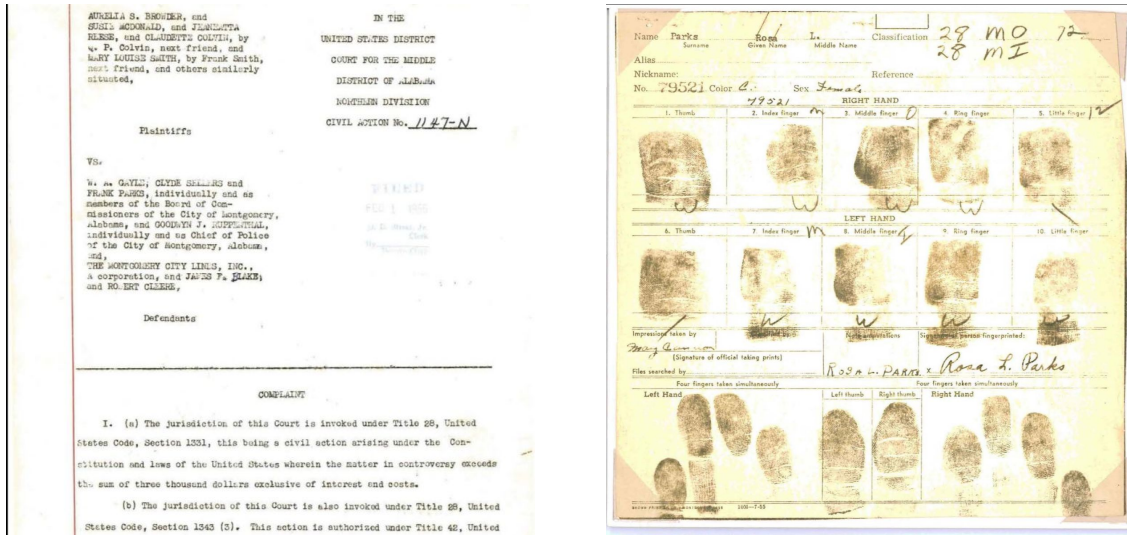


Appeal Request from Lenny Bruce, December 15, 1964. Lenny Bruce vs Hon. John M. Murtagh, Criminal Court of the City of New York: Special Sessions: County of New York. [National Archives Identifier 2641487](#)

After his conviction, Lenny Bruce appealed, claiming that his rights to due process, guaranteed under the 14th Amendment, were violated. The appeal overturned his conviction, but only after Bruce had died on August 3, 1966.

Aurelia S. Browder et al. v. W. A. Gayle et al.

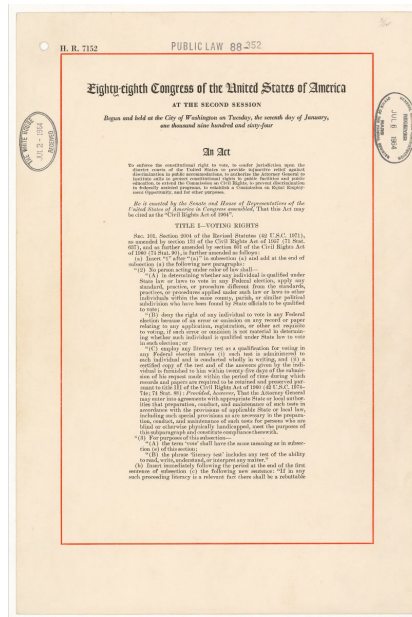
This case file contains documents resulting from a Federal court suit that challenged segregation within Montgomery, Alabama's public transportation system. The case is renowned for its relation to the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, a pivotal event in the Civil Rights Movement. Although not a party to the case, Rosa Parks' arrest record and fingerprints are exhibits to the case. The plaintiffs in this case were Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, Claudette Colvin, and Mary Louise Smith, all of whom had been either arrested for refusing to give up their seats to white passengers or harmed by being forced to comply with segregation codes. In this case, the three-judge panel ruled Montgomery segregation codes unconstitutional due to their violation of the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court later affirmed the District Court's judgment.



Civil Case Files, 9/1938-11/26/1968. Aurelia S. Browder et al. v. W. A. Gayle et al., No. 1147. [National Archives Identifier 279205](#)

Civil Rights Act of 1964

This act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964, prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, made employment discrimination illegal, and enforced the constitutional right to vote. It was the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. [Learn more on DocsTeach.](#)



Civil Rights Act of 1964, 7/2/1964. [National Archives Identifier 299891](#)

Start your research on History Hub

Have a question? [Find your answer on History Hub!](#)

For those looking to conduct research or learn more about Civil Rights records and resources, we encourage you to browse recent posts and questions on History Hub:

- [LGBTQIA+ Equal Protection Records in Federal Courts](#), from Civil Rights Subject Matter Expert
- [Where can I find section 402 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?](#)
- [Seeking records of the Civil Rights Movement in St. Petersburg, Florida.](#)
- [I'm looking for information on my family involved in the Civil Rights movement.](#)
- [Primary Sources on Civil Rights](#)
- [Suggestions for teaching a class on Civil Rights](#)

History Hub is our support community for researchers, genealogists, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists. Ask questions, share information, work together, and find help based on experience and interests. Researchers can ask—or answer—questions on [History Hub](#), or search to see if a question has been asked before.

Civil Rights Collection on GIPHY

Have you seen our new [Civil Rights collection on GIPHY](#)? Find historic footage of First-Time Voters, Civil Rights Marchers, and more!

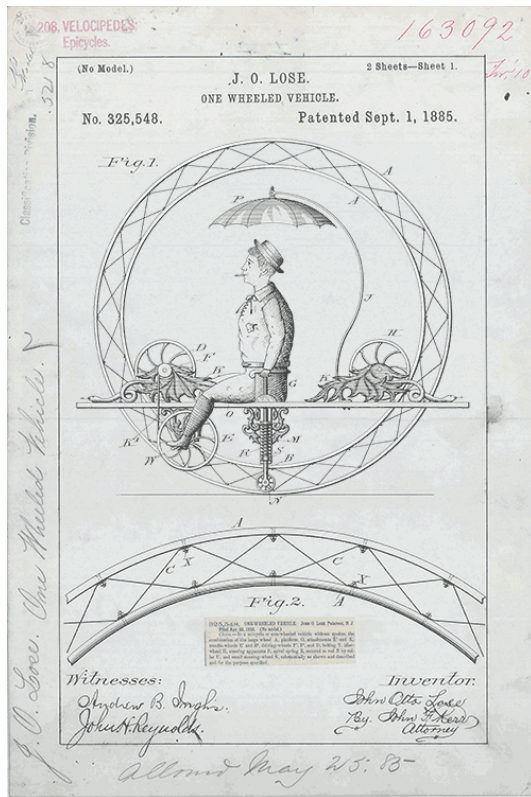


[Scene from the "March on Washington," August 1963](#)

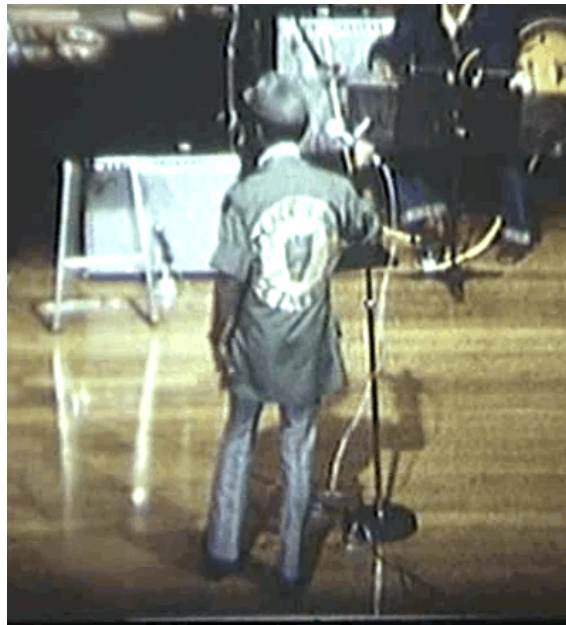
It's just one of several new GIF collections in the [National Archives' GIPHY channel](#), which just surpassed 3 Billion total cumulative views!

The screenshot shows the GIPHY website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the GIPHY logo and tabs for Reactions, Entertainment, Sports, Stickers, and Artists. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search all the GIFs and Stickers'. The main content area features a grid of GIFs, including a building, a monument, a can of tomatoes, and a lightbulb. Below the grid, there's a section for 'US National Archives' with the title 'African American History' and the handle '@usnationalarchives'. The description reads 'Scenes from the history of African Americans and the struggle for Civil Rights.' Below this, there are two sub-collections: 'Civil Rights' and 'Prominent African Americans'. On the left side of the 'African American History' section, there are statistics: '849 GIF Uploads' and '3B GIF Views'. At the bottom of this section, there's a small text box that says 'Explore animated history from the holdings of the U.S. National Archives on our official Giphy channel. Find vintage archival GIFs.'

The channel features hundreds of vintage animated GIFs featuring everything from [fun retro patents](#) to [famous prominent Americans](#).



[One-Wheeled Velocipede Patent](#)



[Sammy Davis, Jr. performs at a USO show, ca. 1972.](#)

COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public

health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.



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