



STA Meeting

Nov 1-3, 2017

Tennessee's Newest Archives In Its Oldest County



Celebrating 40 years of Archives in Action



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Archives in Action: Activism and Advocacy
International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, Tennessee
November 1-3, 2017

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Special Pre-Conference Workshop 1:00pm-4:00pm

Kelly Wilkerson and Casey Gymrek

Advocating for social studies: education outreach at the Tennessee State Library and Archives

In recent years, the Tennessee State Library and Archives has devoted significant resources to expanding its education outreach program with the goal of supporting teachers and students in the classroom. Join us for a workshop that explores how the Library & Archives shares the historic documents and photographs in our collection with teachers and students in grades Kindergarten through 12 and at the college level. This workshop will include hands-on activities demonstrating how we engage teachers and students in primary source analysis and will give participants ideas for attracting teachers and students to your own collections.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Conference Registration 9:30am – 10am

Morning Sessions:

9:30am – 10:30am

Parlor: Brianne Wright and Kari Roueche, Archives of the City of Kingsport

Celebration and Advocacy, Kingsport's 100th Anniversary

For several years, the City of Kingsport has been planning its Centennial events. Find out how the Archives has been involved in the planning and execution of these events. The Archives of the City of Kingsport has been actively preserving and documenting the town's history while raising awareness of the archives' importance.

Library: Ralph Sowell, STA Archivist, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Forty years of progress: Tennessee archivists from pre organization to present

Society of Tennessee Archivists' own archivists takes you on a tour of the history of the organization. We invite you to walk down memory lane or discover the history of Tennessee's archivist organization.

Break 10:30am – 11:00am

11:00am – 12:00pm

Parlor: Jennifer Randles & Allison Griffey, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Streamlining digital collections: Getting the most out of your microfilm

This session will introduce attendees to the newly-published Record of Ex-Soldiers in World War I, Tennessee Counties, 1917-1919 collection on the Tennessee Virtual Archive. This collection of 130,000 service abstracts fills a gap left by the 1973 National Personnel Records Center fire, which destroyed the majority of Army personnel records between 1912 to 1960. The searchable microfilmed images with minimal metadata increase the amount of informational records available to patrons and represent a shift in thinking about digital collections. Allison will explain the history of the collection and how patrons can use this digital resource in their research, and Jennifer will discuss the workflow and technical aspects involved that made it possible to get this collection online with minimal fuss.

Library: **Digital Humanities Projects**

Megan Atkinson, Tennessee Tech University

Digital humanities in the archives: web-based historical tour of the main quad

Tennessee Tech University Archives and Special Collections received a micro-grant from the University provost for the 2016-2017 semester. The purpose of the grant was to create a project bridging the gap between the humanities and STEM. Faculty's goals were to leverage academic interests through collaboration on creative tasks while also learning from one another. The project included interns from Social Sciences and STEM majors and a goal of creating an exhibit utilizing primary resources and technology. The goals for the students included a familiarization with archives and creating a unique way to display historic materials outside of a standard history paper. The resulting project includes a web-based history tour of the campus. The map uses html and CSS coding, and the display includes digitized primary sources and 360-degree images. The project is available as a download for anyone on GitHub in an effort to make it available to other institutions at no cost. The project was a rewarding experience and communicated to the campus the ability of various departments to utilize archives in unique ways outside of just the history program. This project opened numerous doors for archives to collaborate with others in STEM in the University setting.

Bonnie Finn, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Maryville College (TN) – 200 years of buildings

This Omeka digital library consists of Maryville College historical buildings, both past and present. It includes photos from the Maryville College archives digital content, along with recent photos of existing buildings. The library content is based on a spreadsheet of buildings from the Maryville College archives. The Omeka exhibit will be updated and added to as needed in preparation for the college's 200th anniversary.

Lunch on your own 12:00-1:30pm

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Parlor: Hillary Borders et al., Middle Tennessee State University

Student roundtable: How to make the most out of an internship from a graduate student's perspective

This is a round table discussion about internships led by graduate students from across the state. We will explore the ins and outs of what we [students] are looking for in an internship, the pros and cons of paid v. unpaid, how we find and choose an internship, and how to make the most of any professional experience during graduate school.

Library: Dr. Gerald Chaudron, University of Memphis

MPLP is not a four-letter word for preservation

Since Greene and Meissner published their article on “More Product, Less Process” (MPLP) 12 years ago, the concept has had considerable impact on the archival community’s approach to processing. By limiting description to the series or collection levels and minimizing the interaction between the archivist and the collection, MPLP has made it possible to address backlogs and make large and complex collections available to researchers. But is MPLP appropriate for every collection and is minimal processing also endangering the very records archivists are tasked with preserving? MPLP has been criticized for not providing sufficient descriptive information to researchers to enable them to use collections effectively. Just as importantly, if archivists are confining their processing to the highest level they may not discover whether the collection contains materials that require intervention to help preserve them. This presentation will discuss whether MPLP is indeed incompatible with preservation or if some of the alarmist writing is overstated. What has emerged more recently is a more nuanced approach to the use of MPLP from a preservation standpoint. By understanding the types of materials and media in a collection, and what is required to preserve them, decisions on whether to employ MPLP in total or for only part of a collection can be made. I will talk about the evolution of my use of MPLP and show examples of collections where MPLP was used , or not used, and how preservation was factored into the decision-making process.

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Parlor: Zach Johnson, Vanderbilt University

The perpetual job hunt: Lessons from an early career archivist

This session will focus on the job hunt as a recent graduate, drawing from the experiences of a 2014 Information Sciences graduate from UTK. Zach has been an archivist at three universities in two years, working on different projects at each stop, serving on search committees, and commuting hours each weekend to see his wife. This session will talk about the challenges of landing the first job, sacrifices one must make in one’s personal life, and a relentless focus on getting the job you really want.

Library: Sarah Calise, Albert Gore Research Center

Archives inaction: Decades of not doing enough

In 1970, Howard Zinn gave a powerful speech at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in which he called on the profession to be activists in their approach to archives principles. He challenged the possibility of neutrality in the archive, and encouraged archivists to think more critically about how they contribute to oppressive power structures. Over the past few decades, some archivists and organizations took Zinn’s words to heart, and developed documentation strategies that preserved the history of people who were not white, straight, cisgender men. Archives have used oral history projects, in particular, to fill collection gaps covering the history of civil rights activism and LGBTQ communities. More recently, organizations like WITNESS train human rights activists on how to preserve

and protect their stories. Collaborative archivist efforts like DocNow challenge the ethics of collecting born- digital materials from activists. These examples are the exceptions, however.

White archivists, such as myself, are not doing enough—we are not doing enough serious reflection of ourselves, our collections, or our organizations. In many ways, we continue to uphold white supremacist, patriarchal, and oppressive practices in the ways we acquire, describe, and provide access to archival materials, in who we hire, and how we conduct one-and-done digitization and community projects. Through a discussion of my own experiences in Middle Tennessee archives and libraries, I want to examine the minor and major initiatives white archivists can implement in order to begin the transformation of the archive into an inclusive and liberated space.

Awards banquet, General membership meeting, Raffle & Dinner with Keynote speaker Sharyn McCrumb

International Storytelling Center: 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Do not forget to bring your raffle items for the annual awards banquet raffle!



Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning Southern writer, best known for her Appalachian “Ballad” novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, including the *New York Times* Best Sellers: *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, *She Walks These Hills* and *The Rosewood Casket*. In September 2017, Simon & Schuster published her latest novel, *The Unquiet Grave*, a well-researched history of West Virginia’s Greenbrier Ghost.

Friday, November 3, 2017

Concluding remarks 9:15am-9:30am

Session on the new Washington County Archives at the International Storytelling Center and tour of Washington County Archives with Ned Irwin 9:30am -11:30am