



# rchivists

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Prosperity

## ARCHIVISTS Editorial

When you get this issue of the *Archivists*, I will have completed two years as newsletter editor. In that time, I have learned a great deal more than I ever expected about computers, people and my own profession.

I have learned that computers make excellent paper weights, that computers can be figured out, if only one is prepared to think in computer logic (not as big a contradiction in terms as I had first thought), that people can be incredibly generous with their time and talent, and wonderfully patient in return for a little interest in what they do, and that archivists are the salt of the earth. Over the past two years I have asked many people for assistance of one sort or another in preparing the newsletter and I can count the number of times I have been turned down on one hand.

In the beginning, I was void and without form. Or, in other words, I hadn't a clue about what I was supposed to be doing. I suppose some would say I still don't; I won't argue the point. Never having been particularly shy about exposing my ignorance, I began bothering the journalists and editors who work at Tennessee Tech. Their names would probably mean nothing to you, but if you like anything about this newsletter, the credit is due in a large part to them.

We started out calling ourselves "the Newsletter," but, due to a series of really funny miscommunications, we ended up being the *Archivists*. Since everybody I talked to seemed to like it, the *Archivists* is what we remained.

Originally we were an "occasional" newsletter. I felt we needed a more definite structure, so (in theory at least) we became a quarterly. I quickly discovered why we had been occasional. Putting out a newsletter is just plain hard work. What with my regular duties as archivist at Tennessee Tech and trying to maintain some semblance of a personal life, I decided that three times a year was the best I could do.

Actually publishing a newsletter three times a year has at least one major advantage that I had not anticipated. It allowed me to "spotlight" an archives in each of the grand divisions. Last year we featured university archives in this article. This year it was religious repositories. Next year, who knows?

Since the archival profession is scattered throughout the state, the newsletter serves as a unifying influence and (I hope) an educational tool. Features like "Conservation Corner" and "From the Bookshelf" are frequently the primary sources of information available to some of our more isolated members.

During the past two years, I have received a number of letters from the readers. Most have been very generous with their praise. While I do appreciate it, I must confess to some disappointment. In various editorials in the past two years I have brought up such issues as censorship, archival education and political activism. I have had little or no response. Rather than assume that my profession is either cowed or indifferent, I have chosen to hope that the readership is in agreement with the positions I have taken.



I began my tenure as editor by promising to speak out on issues that I felt to be of importance to us as a profession and as a society. I have. I still do not expect or hope to go unchallenged. This is your newsletter. I urge you to get involved with it. While I am most appreciative of the contributions and work freely donated by members to this and previous issues, I am also aware that they represent only a small fraction of the membership of this organization. We have many talents, much knowledge and more opinions than mine to be shared in the pages of this newsletter.



## Guest Editorial

Over the past century, Americans have become increasingly conscious of their professional identities. Religious affiliations, ethnic backgrounds, regional loyalties and other components of their self-esteem have become relatively less important.

Professions customarily express their goals in altruistic terms, but they routinely include a measure of enlightened self-interest. Any successful organization must be motivated in part by enlightened self-interest, which is not the same as greed.

A profession's enlightened self-interest includes defining the boundaries of its authority and who may operate within them. If the profession fails to do this, someone else eventually may do it for them. At that point, it ceases to be a profession in any meaningful sense.

Some have charged that ACA's (Academy of Certified Archivists) efforts are tardy and weak. This may be true, but given the obstacles to certification, could a more vigorous charter have been approved sooner? What difference does it make now anyway? Others claim that ACA's demands are too high. Compared with other professions, there is no credible evidence for this position.

What is a profession? In part, it is an organization that protects the interests of its members. Who cares? Anyone who is a member of the profession should care. Currently, ACA is the best mechanism available to define who is and who is not a professional archivist. Anyone who wants that definition to be clear should support the ACA.

Dwayne Cox  
University Archivist  
Auburn University

From the Academy of Certified Archivists Newsletter,  
Vol. 10, Sept. 1991



## From the President

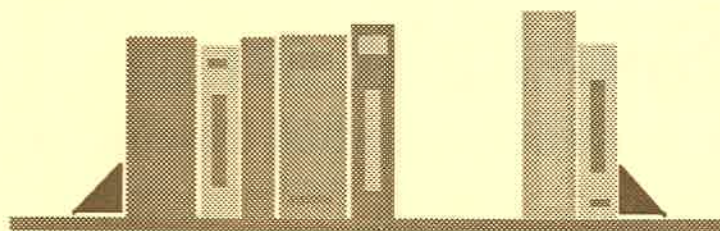
Hopefully, by the time this newsletter appears, everyone will have gotten and returned their registration forms for the fall meeting. If not, please use the form included here, but, either way, try to come both to the pre-conference, the Public Forum on Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education, and the meeting itself. The Forum, as I expect you know, is part of the statewide needs assessment survey funded by NHPRC, and who better than our readership is qualified to speak to this issue? The Local Arrangement Committee (Carol Roberts, Chair; Ed Gleaves, John Thweatt and Angie Parrott) promises to take good care of everyone, and we are making use once again of the excellent accommodations afforded by the Hermitage Hotel. In setting the program for the meeting itself, we have attempted to avoid both the subjects covered in the pre-conference and in the sessions which are planned for the Southern Archivists Conference on May 13 -15, 1992, which will also be in Nashville.

And that brings me to my second topic here, the news from SAC, all of which is good. The best is that we have new colleagues. Louisiana officially joined at the SAC breakfast in Philadelphia. Neither Carol Roberts nor I could attend, but former president Norma Myers did and voted our proxies. This means, of course, that not only will we have a larger audience and greater expertise to draw on for the conference, but also we can eventually meet in New Orleans.

The program for the Nashville meeting is coming along. We are still negotiating about the pre-conference workshops but, if everything goes well, we hope to offer a choice of several. The sessions for the body of the conference are as follows: Tuesday morning, the 14th, two concurrent sessions, (1) Documenting Southern Religion and (2) Friends and Volunteer Programs for Archives. The business meeting occurs at lunch, with two more concurrent sessions that afternoon, (1) Use of Archives in Historic Preservation and (2) a Newsletter Editors' Roundtable, featuring the editors from each state association. Friday, the 15th, begins with individual state meetings followed by a report from the American Association of State and Local History and a session on Music Archives. The individual presenters for these sessions are pretty well set, but we are making an attempt to include our colleagues from Louisiana where possible.

Bill Sumners, of course, is the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (assisted by Ellen Garrison, David McWhirter, Marice Wolfe, Mary Teloh, Ray Minardi and Carol Roberts) and the host of the meeting. Tentative plans call for a reception of some kind at Vanderbilt on Wednesday afternoon, a luncheon at the Sunday School Board building on Thursday and tours of Nashville repositories after the sessions that afternoon. It is possible that Anne Diffendahl, executive director of the SAA, may be able to join us, but we will not really know for some time yet. We all owe a vote of thanks to Ricky Best of Auburn University in Montgomery for gathering the program information and being responsible for getting it out.

James Lloyd, President



## From the Bookshelf

Report on Archival Activity in the United States since Publication of "Planning for the Archival Profession," 2 vols. by Victoria Irons Walch. \$20 from Ann Diffendahl, SAA, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605.

Mass Deacidification Systems: Planning and Decision Making. By Karen Turko, this publication describes five mass deacidification methods. To order: ARL, 1527 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. No price listed.

Choosing and Working With A Conservator, by Jan Paris. \$10, available through the Solinet Preservation Program, 400 Colony Square, Plaza Level, Atlanta, GA 30361-6301.

### Archivists

is a quarterly publication of the Tennessee Archivists. Members of the society and others are encouraged to submit brief articles, information on acquisitions, openings, publications, staff, exhibits, special programs and grant projects for inclusion in *Archivists*. The editor appreciates your suggestions and comments about the content and style of *Archivists*. Send materials to: Mancil Johnson, University Archives, Tennessee Technological University, P.O. Box 5066, Cookeville, TN 38505.

### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following people for their contributions, advice and hard work on this issue of the *Archivists*: Sara Harwell, Jim Lloyd, David McWhirter, Bill Sumners, Jane Williamson, Marice Wolfe and the incomparable April Hannah. Any mistakes you may find are purely my own.

# Spotlight on ...

## Historical Foundation Cumberland Presbyterian Church

**Address:** 1987 Union Avenue, Memphis TN 38104  
Telephone: (901) 276-8602

**Parking:** Free parking available.

**Access:** Open to the public (appointments preferred) Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 11:30; 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**Restrictions:** Very few items in the collection are restricted.

**Copy Facilities:** The HFCPC has its own copy machine. Charge for copying is 10¢ per page. No in-house fax service available, but, with advance phone call, can arrange to receive fax messages from another office.

**Major Subjects:** The Historical Library and Archives contains material relating the life and theology of the Cumberland Presbyterian and Second Cumberland Presbyterian Churches.

**Holdings:** The Historical Library and Archives holds over 1,100 linear feet of materials including books, periodicals, microfilm; printed minutes of church judicatories; manuscript minutes and other records of judicatories; records of denominational boards, institutions, committees and commissions; personal papers of church leaders and ministers; oral history tapes, video tapes, filmstrips, slides, photographs and some museum items.

**Accession Policy:** The Historical Foundation collects only those materials which relates to the life and witness of Cumberland Presbyterianism in order to preserve and promote the history of these two denominations.

**Director:** Jane K. Williamson, archivist and director of the Historical Library and Archives

The Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was charged at its incorporation in 1980 with the responsibility for collecting, preserving and promoting the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Its original six member Board of Trustees later expanded in number to eleven, with the addition of representatives from the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and became the official repository for records of these two small, separate, predominantly Southern, religious denominations.

Cumberland Presbyterianism grew out of the Great Revival of 1800 in Kentucky and Tennessee and spread with the migration patterns of the frontier. The three founding ministers, former members of the dissolved Cumberland Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, held their organizational meeting in Dickson County, Tennessee, on Feb. 4, 1810, in the log home of Rev. Samuel McAdow. (This site,

with a chapel and replica of the log home is adjacent to Montgomery Bell State Park.) In 1874 the black members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church chose to separate from the denomination, forming what is now known as the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The SCPC Church presently has a membership of around 6,000 in about 140 churches, in 16 presbyteries belonging to the 4 synods.

In 1906 a merger with the Presbyterian Church USA split the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with a sizable minority continuing its separate identity. The present day denomination traces its origins to this "loyal" remnant. The CP Church presently has about 800 churches with a total membership of 91,000, in 21 presbyteries and 5 synods. The denomination has one college, Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee, and one graduate theological school, Memphis Theological Seminary, in Memphis,

Tennessee.

The Historical Foundation, funded through the denominational budgets, serves the two denominations through all levels of the church structures. It annually sponsors a Heritage Week Celebration for local churches, supplying posters and promotional literature each June. In cooperation with the Presbyterian Church USA, the Foundation promotes a historical sites registry program. An awards program issues certificates for local church anniversary celebrations. A contest is held annually and a prize awarded to the best paper written on any topic concerning Cumberland Presbyterian history. The HFCPC also works with presbytery Heritage Committees advising and consulting with these groups concerning regional history work. The HFCPC annually sends representatives reports and promotes its programs to the meeting of the two General Assemblies.

Of course, the major program of the Historical Foundation is the management of the Historical Library and Archives, which contains the published and original records of the two denominations, their leaders and organizational entities, past and present. In 1985 the Historical Library and Archives moved to rented office and storage space in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church denominational headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee. This was the most recent in a succession of moves for the collection, which had its origin at Bethel College in the 1940's and later moved to the Memphis Theological Seminary Library.

Working within the limitations of staffing (one full time employee) and a small budget, the Historical Library and Archives serves as a central reference collection for the denominations and for the general public. In 1990 the HFCPC received over 200 reference requests. The majority of these requests are genealogical in nature, with local church history running a close second. Most of the reference inquiries are received by mail or phone, but the HFCPC also received 131 visitors, including researchers and tour groups, in 1990. The HFCPC does not charge for research and is open to the public, but prefers researchers do their own work and that they notify the archivist in advance of their visit.

Arrangement of the materials in the Historical Library and Archives reflects the organizational structure of the denomination and of prior authorities responsible for the collection. The library, including bound periodicals and minutes, contains over 7,300 volumes. The "Archives File" consists of 15 file cabinets arranged by church judicatory level, with an additional alphabetical sequence of biographical materials on church leaders (predominantly ministers). A separate section contains shelved and boxed collections of materials in order by accession number. These materials are approached through a subject card file and holdings ledgers.

Within the Historical Library and Archives are all manner of interesting materials concerning the denominations from 1810 to present day. There are the manuscript minutes of early congregations, presbyteries and synods, documenting the struggles of the frontier church and its

hardy ministers and members. Sunday School literature in all its varying forms goes back as early as the 1870's, as does the denominational periodical, *The Cumberland Presbyterian*. Some of the museum items held by the Historical Foundation are quite interesting. A "gavel of responsibility," presented to Rev. John S. Smith in 1954 at his election as moderator of the CP Church, is actually a huge maul easily capable of smashing to bits any podium if the moderator wished to exert the energy to lift it! The HFCPC also has on permanent display the quaint portable typewriter (vintage 1917) used by

Rev. Louisa Woosley, the first woman minister to be ordained in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1889). She definitely used this typewriter; the sermon outlines she typed on it are held in the Foundation as well!

Cumberland Presbyterians have always had a strong sense of heritage and an appreciation for their history. The two denominations are pleased that, through the Historical Foundation, their recorded history is preserved and available to the denominations and to others who want to learn about their history.



## MTSU Center produces Civil War music album for Time-Life

The Center for Popular Music at MTSU has produced an album of music of the Civil War era for Time-Life Music of Alexandria, Virginia. The Civil War Music Collector's Edition is a set of three compact discs or cassette tapes plus an illustrated, 24-page booklet of notes about the music. The set contains new recordings of more than 50 selections in a variety of musical styles. Paul Wells, director of the center, and Bruce Nemerov, center audio projects director, co-produced the album. Charles Wolfe, professor of English at MTSU, wrote the text of the booklet.

Formal release of the album will be marked at a ceremony on Oct. 17 at the MTSU Alumni Center. John D. Hall, president of Time-Life Music, will visit Murfreesboro to present the first copy of the album to MTSU President James Walker.

"We're happy to have collaborated with the Center," Hall said, "and we have high expectations for the project."

Established in 1985 for the purpose of promoting research and scholarship in American popular music, the Center possesses an extensive collection of music ranging from 18th-century sheet music to compact discs by contemporary artists. With the exception of some of the brass band pieces, all of the music on The Civil War Music Collector's Edition came from the Center's collection. As producers, Wells and Nemerov formulated the concept of the album, selected the music, chose the performers and supervised the recording. Nemerov also engineered many of the recordings, including on-location recordings in Alabama and Virginia. Other sessions were done at various studios around the country, including the studios of Minnesota Public Radio in St. Paul.

The album includes fiddle tunes, unaccompanied ballads, black spirituals, comic songs, hymns, fife and drum pieces, guitar and banjo solos and minstrel band numbers, in addition to parlor songs and brass band marches.

"One of our primary aims with this album," Wells said, "is to convey a sense of the musical variety of the times. When most people think of Civil War music they probably think of sentimental 'parlor' songs or brass band music. These two elements are certainly very important, but they don't tell the whole story of the music of the war era."

Performers on the album include nationally known musicians such as John Hartford, Norman and Nancy Blake, and Alan O'Bryant and Pat Enright of the Nashville Bluegrass Band. Also featured are the 1st Brigade Band of Milwaukee, the Hutchinson Family Singers of Minneapolis, the Morning Sun Singers of Birmingham, Alabama, fiddler James Bryan, banjoist Bob Carlin, the Princely Players of Nashville and Sandy Hook Fife and Drum of Washington D.C. Also contributing performances to the album were Jerry Perkins and Will and Polly Brecht of MTSU's music faculty.



# The Preservation and Maintenance of Electronic Records



By SARA HARWELL  
Vanderbilt University

Electronic records offer the potential of revolutionizing the archival world, including its mindset. There are many differences between records stored in machine-readable form and those produced by writing or print. The obvious difference is that the content of electronic records cannot be understood without using the computer as interpreter, or decoder. And they cannot be read by just any computer: the reading hardware must be compatible with the hardware with which the data was created or it will not recognize the data in any meaningful way.

Machine-readable records offer some advantages over traditional records. For instance, they offer the possibility of saving large amounts of space taken up by records produced in the recent and ongoing paper explosion. This explosion has rendered information access a sometimes insurmountable challenge, but electronic records store information in a compact form that is easily accessible and manipulated. Also, machine-readable records can be reproduced at less expense than copying paper or reproducing microfilm.

Magnetic tape is the main electronic storage medium for computer-generated data. It is not an archival medium. Under the best conditions, the life of magnetic tape is ten to twenty years. Until a more stable storage medium can evolve, machine-readable data must periodically be transferred to new tape.

Storage under the proper environmental conditions and regular maintenance precautions can increase tape longevity.

The optimum temperature and humidity for tape preservation is 62 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and 40% relative humidity. It is important to maintain constant temperature and humidity, as frequent fluctuations of either can accelerate tape deterioration. In addition, storage and work areas should be kept free of smoke, dust and magnetic fields. Tapes should be stored upright on metal racks in plastic canisters which support the reel at the center.

Periodic maintenance procedures will help the archivist to detect problems early and will prolong the life of the tape. It is a good idea to inspect tapes yearly. In examining the tape, look for protruding layers, broken reels or canisters, and creases or scratches. Every one or two years, tapes should be cleaned and re-wound under constant tension, regardless of whether deterioration is evident. At the same time, a small sample of the tapes should be machine-tested for read errors. If errors are not corrected by the cleaning and rewinding, it will be necessary to transfer the data to a new tape.

All machine-readable data should be transferred to new tape every ten to twenty years, more frequently if storage conditions have not been stable. Be sure to keep precise records of the tape manufacturer, purchase date, creation date, and dates when maintenance routines and tests were performed.

In her manual on machine-readable records, Margaret Hedstrom of the New York State Archives writes:

Long-term access cannot be assured if the data are stored in a format that is dependent on outmoded computing equipment. Therefore the threat of technological obsolescence is an ongoing concern for archives with machine-readable records in their holdings. As older storage formats and recording techniques are replaced with new technological innovations, the archives has an obligation to convert its holdings to a format that is compatible with current technological requirements.

Therein lies perhaps the greatest challenge to the archivist who is responsible for the preservation and availability of information contained in electronic format.

## Suggested Reading:

Hedstrom, Margaret L. Archives & Manuscripts: Machine-Readable Records. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1984. In spite of its age, still the best introduction to the subject.

Bearman, David, ed. Archival Management of Electronic Records. Archives and Informatics Technical Report No. 13. Pittsburgh, 1991. Should be read after the Hedstrom manual. Especially strong in fitting electronic records into the overall archival scheme. Includes penetrating discussion of electronic records appraisal in terms of information functions.



## Scholarship to Modern Archives Institute available

A scholarship to the National Archives' Modern Archives Institute, to be held Jan. 27 - Feb. 7, 1992, is available from the Society of American Archivists. The award, funded by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III, covers tuition, travel and housing expenses at the institute. To be eligible, an applicant must be an employee of an archival institution or agency with a fair percentage of its holdings in a period predating 1825; have been employed less than two years as an archivist or archives trainee; and actually be working with archives or manuscripts regardless of title.

Resumes accompanied by two letter of recommendation from persons having definite knowledge of the applicant's qualifications should be submitted to Barbara Trippel Simmons, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA, 01609-1634, by December 1, 1991.

Please call Barbara Trippel Simmons, Chairperson, Colonial Dames Scholarship Subcommittee, at (508) 867-5640 or (508) 755-5221 if you have questions.

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## Humor



# Collections From Heck

By MANCIL JOHNSON  
Tennessee Tech University

*It always seems to happen somehow, doesn't it? No matter how carefully you design the acquisitions policy, no matter how rigorous you are in enforcing the standards of an ancient and honorable profession, you always end up confronting "it." It, in this case, are all those oddities that your donors just couldn't bring themselves to discard. Naturally enough their heirs wouldn't touch the stuff with a ten foot pole, so it ended up in your nice, tidy, well-organized archives.*

In the archives at Tennessee Tech, I find myself having to work around, among other things, a machine gun, three coffee grinders of varying size and half a human skull. The machine gun was on loan to the university from the old War Department. Since the War Department no longer exists, we ended up with a small arsenal, including a German machine gun of World War I vintage. The coffee grinders and skull were remnants of the old university museum. In the 1930's a history professor decided that the university needed a museum. He therefore exempted students from taking his finals if they brought an artifact for the museum. Naturally enough, he was frequently the only one present on finals day.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Archives is the proud possessor of a bung maul according to Jane Williamson. The maul, used for tapping beer kegs, was given to a certain moderator as the gavel of responsibility at a meeting.

Jim Lloyd at the University of Tennessee Special Collections lists two deer heads and Senator Estes Kefauver's oil can collection among his oddest acquisitions. Of the deer heads, Jim would only say, "Every politician who went to see President Lyndon Johnson had to shoot

a deer." He had no explanation for why Estes Kefauver collected oil cans.

The Archives of Appalachia lays claim to numerous photographs of Australian Aborigines, as well as a Burmese Buddhist prayer sutra, according to Norma Myers.

Sara Harwell says that the Vanderbilt Special Collections house a number of commemorative Pepsi bottles, as well as pieces of John Wesley's bed sheets.

Bill Summers lays claim to a rock from Beijing, China, as well as a bottle of water from the time of Christ. While Bill had no explanation for the rock, the story behind the bottle of water was simple. The water fell as snow in Antarctica and a scientist excavated to the level that he estimated was the year of Christ's birth to get his sample.

Annette Ratkin at the Jewish Federation Archives lists ritual circumcision and slaughtering knives among the more exotic of her holdings.

Michelle Fagan at Memphis State University's Mississippi Valley Collection admits to having an elephant's tooth, a circus wagon wheel and clown costumes in the circus collection housed there. Additionally, she also has Ku Klux Klan robes and a baby rattle.

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society has a neck tie collection, a ten gallon lard can and a printing press from the Congo according to David McWhirter. David also says that a medical missionary in Zaire offered them an 8 pound tumor that he had removed from a convert. His offer was declined with thanks.

## More Oddities

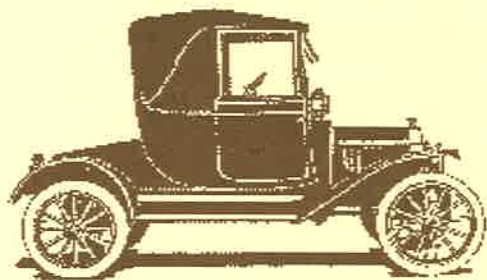
Tennesseans are not the only archivists who find themselves in possession of unusual items. The National Archives surveyed their holdings several years ago and found, among other things, the ashes of labor hero Joe Hill, a ventriloquist's dummy and the bones of a penguin.

The penguin bones turned out to belong with the papers of Paul Siple, a scientist who accompanied Admiral Byrd on his expeditions to Antarctica. The ashes of Joe Hill were seized by the U.S. Postal Service as evidence in cases relating to the Espionage Act of 1917. The ventriloquist's dummy, complete with cowboy hat, somehow ended up in the files of the National Labor Relations Board.

Other items discovered in this inventory included cross stitch samplers and Rose Mary Woods' typewriter. The samplers were accepted as supporting evidence in applications for widows' pensions by the Veterans Administration. Woods, you may remember, was President Nixon's secretary. Her typewriter was offered as evidence in U.S. District Court during the Watergate scandal.



## Conferences



### **"Why Are We Whispering? Promoting the Value of History"**

*Why are we whispering? Promoting the Value of History* is presented by the Coordinating Committee for History in Arizona. It is an opportunity for history practitioners in all fields to understand how they can promote or market their institutions and their careers. The conference, in Mesa, Arizona, on Jan. 25, 1992, includes presentations and mini-seminars by non-profit marketing specialists and historical agency staff. A highlight will be the release of a specially commissioned survey of marketing activities by non-profit institutions in Arizona.

Speakers will examine marketing as a tool that can be used by museum curators, archivists, librarians, preservationists, history teachers and administrators. By knowing how to identify their audiences, meet the needs of their constituencies, and reach those groups, historians can learn to use this tool. David Gourley, Arizona State University marketing professor, will describe the process of promoting history using marketing concepts tailored to non-profit organizations. Charles F. Bryan, director of the Virginia Historical Society, will describe the function of marketing for historical agencies and individuals in their careers.

*Why are we whispering? Promoting the Value of History* will be held at the Holiday Inn in Mesa. The \$40 registration fee includes lunch, breaks and seminar materials. To register or obtain more information contact: David H. Hooper, Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, 1700 West Washington, Suite 442, Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-4159.

## **Southern Archivists Conference**

The Southern Archivists Conference's 1992 meeting will be hosted by Tennessee Archivists in Nashville, Tennessee, May 13, 14 and 15. The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention will be hosting the location for the meeting. Hotel reservations will be made through Clubhouse Inn (formerly Park Plaza), located across from Union Station Hotel.

Topics to be discussed will include documenting Southern religion, volunteer programs for archives, unique uses for archives, newsletter editing, and various spotlights on local archives and historical groups. Workshops will cover arrangement of archival materials and records management. Several interesting tours and types of entertainment are being organized to bring together an educational, as well as enjoyable, program. We hope all members of Tennessee Archivists will be ready and willing to help host our neigh-

### **Public Forum On Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education**

As a part of the "Volunteer Challenge," the Tennessee State Historical Records Advisory Board will sponsor a series of public forums on historical records issues. The Forum on Historical Records and Archival Education will be held in Nashville at the Legislative Plaza on Nov. 13 - 14, 1991.

The "Volunteer Challenge" is a statewide needs assessment survey of Tennessee's valuable historical records. The project is funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), with cost-sharing by the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The Forum will include a preliminary report on the survey and provide an opportunity for public comment and participation. Discussion will center on questions raised by the project and will include the following topics:

*Historical Records Repositories*  
Resource Sharing  
Statewide Collection Development Policy  
Publication of Finding Aids

*Conservation*  
Technical Assistance  
Cooperative Conservation Efforts  
Disaster Preparedness

*Archival Education*  
Academic Programs  
Professional Organizations  
Workshops

*Outreach and Publicity*  
Value of Historic Records  
Establishing Contacts  
Developing Strategies

*Funding*  
Classification of Grants  
Grant Applications  
Comments from Successful Applicants

The Forum on Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education is open to the public. There is no fee for the forum, but advance registration is suggested. For registration information contact Angie Parrott at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, (615) 741-1075.

## **Tennessee Archivists Fall Meeting**

A schedule of events for this year's Fall Meeting, as well as a registration form, is on the next page. Since the Public Forum on Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education will serve as the meeting's pre-conference forum, registration for both can be accomplished simply by filling out this one form.

**Hotel Reservations Information**  
A block of rooms has been reserved at the  
**Hermitage Hotel**  
231 Sixth Ave. North and Union  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Telephone: 1-800-342-1816

Rooms cost \$45 a night for a single. Other Hotels in the downtown area include:  
**Holiday Inn Crown Plaza:**  
(615) 259-2000; **Days Inn Downtown:**  
(615) 242-4311; and **Doubletree Hotel:**  
(615) 747-4840.

## Schedule of Events

### Tennessee Archivists Fall Meeting

Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, Tennessee  
November 14 -15, 1991

**Thursday, November 14, 1991**

12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Registration

1:00 -1:10 p.m.

Opening

*James Lloyd, President*

1:10 - 1:20 p.m.

Welcome

*Edwin S. Gleaves*

*State Librarian and Archivist*

*Bryan Millsap*

*Secretary of State*

Summary of Public Forum Activities

*Angie Parrott*

*Project Archivist*

*Tennessee Historical Records Advisory*

*Board*

1:20 - 2:15 p.m.

Session 1 - NHPRC Project

*Richard N. Belding*

State Archivist and Records Administrator

Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives

2:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Session 2 - Panel Discussion:

Tennessee's NHPRC Grant Recipients

*Scarlett Graham*

Vanderbilt TV News Archives

*Sandra Moore*

NAPPS Archivist

*Barbara Stagg*

Historic Rugby, Inc.

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

*Sharon McPherson*

Ladies Hermitage Association

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Business Meeting

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn

6:30 p.m.

Dinner at the Hermitage Hotel

**Friday, November 15, 1991**

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Opening

*James Lloyd, President*

8:45 - 9:45 a.m.

Session 1 - Black Medical Education

*Mattie McHollin*

Associate Director of Archives and Special Collections

Meharry Medical School

9:45 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Session 2 - Spotlight on AASLH and THS

*Patricia Gordon-Michael*

American Association of State and Local History

*Ann Toplovich*

Tennessee Historical Society

11:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Closing

*James Lloyd, President*

11:30 a.m.

Adjourn

## Registration Form

### Pre-Conference Forum (no charge)

#### *Attendance Information Requested*

Please choose two groups you might attend::

☐ Historical Records Repositories

☐ Conservation

☐ Archival Education

☐ Outreach and Publicity

☐ Funding

### Tennessee Archivists Fall Meeting

☐ @ \$35.00 each (includes dinner) =  **Total Amount**

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Please send registration to:

Carol Roberts or John Thweatt  
Tennessee State Library and Archives  
403 Seventh Ave. North  
Nashville, TN 37243-0312



## National News



**RALEIGH, NC** – The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation recently that mandated printing major state documents on acid-free paper. North Carolina is the second state in the Union, after Connecticut, to pass such legislation.

**COLLEGE STATION, TX** – President George Bush has recently announced plans to locate his presidential library on the campus of Texas Tech University.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MA** – Papers of Kingman Brewster, Ambassador to Great Britain and president of Yale University, were found late last year in a dump. Duane Benning found the papers while looking for postage stamps and other items in the town dump. The papers date from 1930 to 1941, and include, among other items, correspondence from Charles Lindbergh. Brewster died in 1988 and his home was subsequently purchased by CBS newsman Mike Wallace.

**CLARKSDALE, MS** – The Delta Blues Museum recently unveiled a life-sized statue of the legendary blues great Muddy Waters. Waters was raised in Clarksdale and influenced many blues, soul, and rock and roll performers. The band ZZ Top has pledged one million dollars for a special Muddy Waters exhibit.

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT** – On Jan. 8, 1991, a steam trap blew in the vault of the Utah State Records Center, spewing dirty, rusty water over records and shelves. The incident occurred during business hours. The staff was on site immediately and began disaster recovery. The prompt action kept damage to a minimum. Sixty-five boxes were replaced due to water damage to the containers and the staff's clothing was ruined. The Utah State Records Center is in the basement of the state capitol.

## State News



**NASHVILLE** – The Tennessee Archivists Fall meeting will be held Nov. 13 – 15 at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. An open forum on Tennessee's manuscripts and historical records will be held in lieu of a pre-conference workshop.

**RUGBY** – Pearl Cantrell has returned as archivist for Historic Rugby, temporarily. Funds for the archivist's position ran out in the spring. A private donor has contributed money to fund the position for three months.

**NASHVILLE** – The Southern Archivists Conference announced plans to hold its second biennial meeting in Nashville, May 13 – 15, 1992. The conference will be hosted by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**DUES** – David McWhirter requests that those members who have not yet paid their dues for 1991 please do so as soon as possible.

**NASHVILLE** – Marice Wolfe of Vanderbilt Special Collections recently returned from Manaus, Amazonia, Brazil. Marice spent two weeks in August teaching staff at the Museu Amazonico the techniques of processing manuscript collections. Amazonia is Tennessee's sister state in the Partners in the Americas program. Previous projects have been in agriculture, mining and industry. This project was the first academic program undertaken by Partners in the Americas.

Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonia, is a city of two million. So far as Marice was able to determine, the Museu of Amazonico had the only manuscript collection in the state. The papers Marice assisted with were documents of the J. G. Araujo Company. The Araujo Co. was primarily an owner of rubber plantations until the crash of the rubber boom in the 1920's. During the height of the boom, local rubber barons sent their laundry to London to be washed, so immense was their wealth. The boom ended when the British developed a rubber plantation system in Malaysia and Ceylon, where the difficulties of rubber cultivation were less than in Amazonia.

**NASHVILLE** – When the Tennessee Archivists meet in November, elections will be held for next year's officers. The candidates are:  
Vice President/President Elect: Barbara Flannery, Shelby County Archives, Memphis;  
Secretary: Clara Swann, Bicentennial Library, Chattanooga;  
Treasurer: David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville.

## Miscellaneous



### CORRECTION

In the editorial in the last issue of The Archivist, I erroneously said the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped had been lost due to budget cuts. Ms. Frances Ezell asked me to assure you that the LBPH, while battered by cutbacks like the rest of us, was still very much alive. I apologize for my error.

In that same editorial I stated that TSL&A had lost 9 people. This too is an error. Nine were terminated and 6 vacant positions were abolished. This brings to 34 the number of positions phased out since 1986.

### ARCHIVIST JAILED

Janice O'Connell, a longtime archivist, was sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing from her employer, the Wisconsin Historical Society. O'Connell, who stole more than 100 items, will also have to repay the state and antique dealers more than \$50,000. Her accomplice and former boyfriend, Rodney DeFoe, was sentenced to three years in prison. The thefts from the Historical Society's vaults began in March 1989 and included jewelry, antique dolls and rare pottery. The ill-gotten proceeds paid off O'Connell's credit card debt and also paid for a car. DeFoe, 21, was living with O'Connell, 54, at the time of the thefts. Judge George Northrup, in sentencing O'Connell, stated that "this is a case where there truly are crimes against the state... and to a large degree, crimes against future generations of the state."

Wisconsin State Journal, June 4 & 5, 1991, via The Dusty Shelf, July – Sept. 1991.

### 'NUFF SAID

Peter Brindlecombe, a British specialist in atmospheric chemistry, told reporters in December that two major causes of the sulfides that erode museum photographs and paintings were wet woolens (people often go to galleries on rainy days) and bioeffluents. His solution? "If people have to go to galleries and museums, they should wear no clothes and control themselves."

Kansas City Pitch, March 1991, via The Dusty Shelf, July – Sept. 1991.

## *Invitation*

Tennessee Archivists invites membership from all persons interested in Tennessee's archives and historical resources. Membership is on a calendar-year basis. TA holds two meetings each year. The spring meeting includes the annual business meeting and is held in Middle Tennessee. The fall meetings are alternately held in East and West Tennessee. TA publishes a quarterly newsletter and invites contributions from members and non-members. Officers are elected at the spring meeting.

### **Tennessee Archivists Membership Form**

**Enclosed is my check for membership in the Tennessee Archivists as a:**

Full member (\$10 per year): \_\_\_\_\_

Association member (\$3 per year): \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional member (\$10 per year): \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this your home \_\_\_\_\_ or business \_\_\_\_\_ address?

**Please make checks payable to Tennessee Archivists and mail to:**

**David McWhirter**

**Disciples of Christ Historical Society**

**1101 19th Avenue South**

**Nashville, TN 37212**



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