

# Tennessee Archivist

FALL ISSUE, 1998

DAVID SOWELL, EDITOR

## TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

is the newsletter of the  
Society of Tennessee  
Archivists.

Members of the Society of  
Tennessee Archivists and  
others are encouraged to  
submit articles and  
information on recent  
acquisitions, publications,  
exhibits, special programs,  
grant projects, personnel  
changes and employment  
opportunities of interest to  
the archival community for  
inclusion in this newsletter.

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## Tennessee Treasures Are News at Vanderbilt

New collections featuring Middle Tennessee folk songs, and the work of seven Tennessee self-taught artists are among those recently received in Special Collections at Vanderbilt University. The George Worley Boswell Papers include a collection of over two thousand folk songs gathered in Middle Tennessee, primarily during the years 1948 through 1952, by Boswell and his wife, Emily Hall, who became a partner in the effort. They transcribed the lyrics and notation of the songs during performances of natural singers on front porches, back gardens, wherever an unknown or variant tune was found. More than one hundred of the songs have been published by the University of Tennessee Press as *Folk Songs of Middle Tennessee: The George Boswell Collection*. Charles K. Wolfe of Middle Tennessee State University worked with Boswell on selection and annotation, and edited the 1997 work.

Although this is the only known exhaustive collection of Middle Tennessee folk songs, the period of collection is especially significant. World War II had the effect of moving the rural people of the state to population centers for war work, and of concentrating families waiting at home for those engaged in the conflict. The singers of 1948-1952 were still close to their roots and nostalgic for the culture represented in the music. One of Boswell's sources was Charles Hatcher, whose two sons attended a gallery talk on the collection given by Charles Wolfe in June 1997. The Hatcher "boys", now septuagenarians, gave the event a wonderful feeling of authenticity by singing two of the songs their father contributed to the collection.

The George Worley Boswell Papers, 1940-1995, represent the scholarly work and career of the musicologist and folklore specialist who spent much of his professional life at the Austin Peay State University and the University of Mississippi in the Department of English. The Papers include a rich and inviting correspondence in addition to writings on folklore, folk music and ballads, English Romanticism, William Faulkner, William Shakespeare, Walter Scott, and J.R.R. Tolkien. Documentation of professional affiliations includes records, journals, bulletins, newsletters, programs, proceedings, and the correspondence of various folklore and music societies. Subject files treat Native American lore and legend, superstitions, Mississippi history, folk tales, folk songs, folk customs, cures, plant names, and riddles. Boswell was a life-long leader of shaped-note singing; his collection in this area builds upon the George Pullen Jackson Papers, which feature white Southern spirituals.

George Boswell was educated at David Lipscomb College, Vanderbilt University (B.A., 1939; M.A., 1940,) where he studied under Donald Davidson, and George Peabody College (Ph.D., 1951). He was the author, with Charles Faulkner Bryan, of *Tennessee Folk Songs* (1950), and *Fundamentals of Folk Literature* (1962), with Russell Reaver. In 1949 he received the Jo Stafford Prize in American Folklore. He was President, at various times, of the Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi Folklore Societies; and Counselor and Regent of the American Folklore Society.

On the visual side, Special Collections accepted this year the archives of S.T.A.R., or Self-Taught Artists Resources, forty cubic feet of files relating to American Self-Taught Artists, seven of whom are Tennesseans. The collection was developed by Dan Prince, a 1973 graduate of Vanderbilt University, who has discovered, exhibited, and studied both the individual artists and the theory of self-taught art. Prince has written for journals in the art

field and, in 1995, published his *Passing in the Outsider Lane: art from the heart of twenty-one self-taught artists*.

Featured in the book is Tennessee artist, Homer Green, who sculpts and paints a menagerie of spotted birds and other animals that stand in his yard near Pilot Mountain in Middle Tennessee to greet passers-by. According to Prince, "With this fondness for animals and for a tall tale, it is a natural occurrence that Homer carves the meanest polecat, the wildest chicken, and the craziest dogs you ever did see. They are all spotted and polka dotted in the most vibrant house paint colors."

Roy Neill Acuff, son of the country music legend, paints in bright colors as well. Prince says, "Roy's characters have eyes that pull you into their empty souls." Tension in the portraits is created through the contrast of vivid color with blank expression. In "Giants of Tennessee: The Primitive Folk Sculpture of Enoch T. Wickham," Prince discusses the artist's fifty enormous concrete statues located near Palmyra, Tennessee. The heroic sculptures celebrate Andrew Jackson, Alvin York, Austin Peay, and others. One massive group shows Estes Kefauver, Patrick Henry, and John F. Kennedy standing on a platform atop the Liberty Bell.

The subject files on these one hundred artists contain biographical notes, analytical commentary on the work, photographs, exhibit documentation, and correspondence, all of which contribute greatly to a systematic understanding of the phenomenon of self-taught art. None of the actual works are in the S.T.A.R. Archives, but a rotating exhibit of Prince's art collection has been established at the University Club of Nashville. In the future, Special Collections hopes to add related collections to this fascinating beginning.

On the subject of Tennessee folk culture, recognition of the two new collections recalls the long-held WSM and Grand Ole Opry Papers, which came to Special Collections, in a pleasant irony, from the same source as the Fugitive/Agrarian Collection. Since the original sponsorship of the radio country music programs was based in publicity for the insurance interests of Tennessee (WSM stands for the National Life motto, "We Serve Millions,) and Jesse E. Wills, the Fugitive poet, was executive officer of National Life and Accident as well as Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees for the Joint University Libraries, Wills was in a position to deposit the earliest of Opry documentation at Vanderbilt.

Among programming schedules, musical notations, and publicity materials, are the only original photographs of fiddler Uncle Jimmy Thompson and harmonicaist DeFord Bailey. Early documentation retained by the Opry at the then-new Opryland was severely damaged in the March 1975 flood of the Cumberland River, which left hollow logs from the Flume Zoom ride dangling from the treetops. This unfortunate circumstance makes the contents of the WSM and Grand Ole Opry Papers all the more a treasure.

The Ryman Auditorium is characterized in a surprisingly intimate way in the Francis Robinson Collection. During his Vanderbilt years in the early 1930s, Robinson served as an usher at the Ryman Auditorium when it hosted the theatrical touring greats of the American stage. He went on to represent Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, Judith Anderson, Maurice Evans, and others, before turning to his forty-year stint as assistant manager with the Metropolitan Opera. In the meantime, Robinson kept up a faithful correspondence with fabled Ryman manager, Lula C. Naff. Their twenty-five years worth of theater and Nashville gossip are a lively transport back to the past of the local landmark, now permanently cast in ceramic. Robinson was Mrs. Naff's executor and placed her papers with The Nashville Room at the Metro-Nashville Public Library.

The demise of the Nashville *Banner* in 1998 brought the seventy-year career of sports journalist Fred Russell to a reluctant close. Russell built his subject files over roughly three-quarters of a century during which the nature of sport was irretrievably changed. He inherited the mantle of the legendary Grantland Rice, and the pair are commemorated in the Grantland Rice-Fred Russell Thoroughbred Racing Association Scholarship at Vanderbilt. Both will be featured in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, due to open at the Nashville Arena early in 1999. The newly acquired Fred Russell Papers measure approximately forty cubic feet. The Grantland Rice Papers have been among Special collections' holding since the late 1960s.

Writer-scholar-teacher Robert Drake donated his Papers to Vanderbilt early in 1997, and presented a gallery talk in Special Collections on the fortieth anniversary of his commencement, in May 1997. The short stories in his six published volumes are set in



**Fred Russell, Nashville *Banner*  
(left) accepting award, 1962**



Woodville, a fictional town modeled on his native Ripley in West Tennessee. The stories are steeped in the culture of the place and complemented by Drake's 1980 *The Home Place: A Memory and a Celebration*, reissued this year by Mercer University Press. A biography and "selected stories" are in the works.

During the past year, exhibits based on Special Collections materials placed the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in an international context, and recognized Black History month with a display of the variety of materials available for scholarship in African-American studies.

Marice Wolfe  
Heard Library  
Special Collections  
Vanderbilt University



**Writer-Scholar-Teacher Robert Drake, visiting  
Vanderbilt Special Collections in May, 1997**

## One Look Back.....



**Mountain family, near Spencer, Tenn., 1938  
Conservation Collection, TSLA**

## A Proposal to the Membership of the Society of Tennessee Archivists

Submitted by the Professional Standards Committee, SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS: Bobby Flanary, Ken Fieth, Sarah Harweil, Ned Irwin, Mancil Johnson, Doris Martinson, Chair.

### Draft: PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARCHIVISTS

#### I. PURPOSE

The SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS, in its determination to define and promote the qualities that make a practicing archivist a professional propose the establishment of the following goals and resolutions.

#### II. GOALS

The SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS supports individuals who are involved in archival work. The membership is open and inclusive to all with an interest in the archives and historical records field regardless of training, experience, or qualifications. Individual archivists are encouraged to improve themselves professionally through education, continuing training, and in the knowledge of accepted archival theory and practice.

Two goals of the SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS are to promote the highest standards that qualify a practicing archivist as a professional and to help potential employers determine criteria for hiring in the archival field.

#### III. RESOLUTIONS

The SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS resolutions are based on the published Society of American Archivists Code of Ethics and the Academy of Certified Archivists Official Role Delineation – Seven Major Domains. Be it resolved and supported that education, knowledge and acceptance of modern archival theory and practice and employment situation and responsibilities are three categories necessary for qualification as a professional archivist:

##### 1. EDUCATION

- Degree with emphasis (major or minor) in archival management.
- Individual obtaining a master's degree in archival studies, library/information science or related subject.
- Internship or practicum in an institutional archives.
- One to two years experience in archival work.
- Academy of Certified Archivists examination.
- Post-appointment and continuing archival education and training courses, seminars, and workshops.

##### 2. KNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ARCHIVAL THEORY AND PRACTICE

Course work and/or training, experience in the understanding of the Seven Archival Domains:

1. Selection of Documents
2. Arrangement and Description of Documents - Knowledge of *Respect des fonds* and Provenance
3. Reference Services and Access to Documents
4. Preservation and Protection of Documents
5. Outreach, Advocacy, and Promotion of Documentary Collections and Archival Repositories
6. Managing Archival Programs
7. Professional, Ethical, and Legal Responsibilities

Awareness of history, geography, and relevant laws of the area within scope of interest of archives.

*Continued on Page 5*



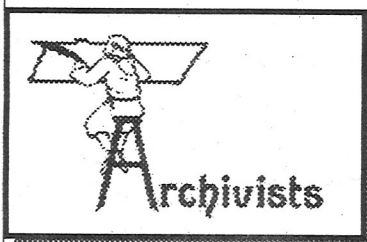
### 3. EMPLOYMENT SITUATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Individual:

- Works within an institutional setting and is involved in the Seven Domains of Archives.
- Practices the SAA Code of Ethics for Archivists, respecting the rights of patrons, donors, and the work of other archivists.
- Member and participant in professional organizations supporting the organizations' educational programs and outreach.
- Interacts appropriately with governmental and institutional officials toward an understanding of and respect for the separate and related roles of official and archivist.
- Works for the promotion and benefit of archival standards, employment, enhancement of information services, and community support.

**This proposal will be discussed in detail at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists, to be held November 4-6, 1998 at Historic Rugby.**

## President's Letter



Time sure flies when you're having fun. It's hard to believe that another year has started here at Tennessee Tech. My term as president of the Society of Tennessee Archivists is nearly up. Let me therefore begin by thanking some people who have made my tenure easier.

Doris Rivers-Martinson has been a supportive and hard-working vice-president. She has taken on the thankless task of developing professional criteria and has done an outstanding job. I have absolutely no doubt that she will make an excellent president next year. David Sowell has done and continues to do an exceptional job

in the difficult task of newsletter editor. Former presidents Ned Irwin, Ken Fieth and Norma Myers have always been generous with their time while being both kind and direct with their advice. Finally I would like to thank David McWhirter our perennial treasurer who helped me keep it all in perspective. A more agreeable and pleasant group of advisors no president was ever blessed with. When I first undertook this task I had three goals in mind; professional guidelines, archival education and a professional training program.

Doris Rivers-Martinson has chaired a committee which has been working all year on professional guidelines. Dr. Jim Neal at Middle Tennessee State University assures me that we have reason to be optimistic on the subject of Archival Education and I have great hopes that the upcoming Archives Summit will address among other things, the need for training of county archivists and records keepers.

My great hope for this profession is that we will become a self regulating body with a firm set of governing principals and an established set of guidelines. I've said this before, but it bears repeating, "The days when anyone who wants to call himself an archivist, can, without being challenged, are rapidly drawing to a close. Sooner or later, someone is going to impose standards on this profession. I'd rather it be us." The Annual Meeting at Historic Rugby is coming together. I apologize about being so slow in getting registration information out to you. I've had a few problems besides being both the local arrangements committee and the program committee. You should have the registration packet in your hands by the time you read this.

A nominating committee consisting of Clara Swann, Chattanooga/Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, Ann Marigza, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Edwin Frank, University of Memphis, has selected a slate of officers for the next year. They are: John Dougan, Memphis/Shelby County Archives for Vice President/President-Elect, Suzette Raney, Chattanooga/Hamilton County Bicentennial Library for Secretary and David McWhirter as Treasurer.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to John Thweatt, who is suffering from cancer. John is a member of the staff at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and a past president of the Society of Tennessee Archivists. And, our prayers go to the family of Mary Barnes, who recently succumbed to cancer. Mary was secretary of-STA, an archivist for the Metro-Nashville-Davidson Co. Archives, and a dear friend to us all.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president this year. It has been a privilege.

*Mancil Johnson  
President, STA*



## STA Member News

### ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA, EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

In order to facilitate moving all collections and equipment into its new home, the Archives of Appalachia will be closed beginning on Friday, November 20, 1998. It will reopen in the new ETSU University library facility on Monday, January 11, 1999. During the period of closure, no archival materials or services will be available. The archives staff apologizes for any inconvenience this period of closure may cause.

*Ned Irwin  
Archives of Appalachia  
East Tennessee State University*

### KNOX COUNTY ARCHIVES, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Sonya Moreland has joined the Knox County Archives as an Assistant Archivist. Sonya is a graduate of Knoxville College.

*Doris Martinson  
Knox County Archives*

### KNOX COUNTY RECORDS MANAGEMENT, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

The East Tennessee Chapter of ARMA (ASSOCIATION OF RECORDS MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS) has established a website on the Internet.

The URL is: <http://www.kornet.org/etnarma>

*John Woodard  
Knox County Records Management*

### TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, NASHVILLE, TENN.

Mrs. Anna Coile Durham, wife of Gallatin businessman and historian Walter T. Durham, has donated her family's extensive historical papers collection to the Tennessee Historical Society. The Robert Armstrong-Grace Armstrong Coile Collection will be archived at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and consists of over 9,500 individual documents covering the period 1790 to 1930. Mrs. Durham inherited the collection from her mother, Grace Armstrong Coile, who had inherited it from her father, Robert A. J. Armstrong of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The collection is a treasure trove of historical and genealogical information mostly about the Armstrong family's activities in East Tennessee. The Armstrong family homestead was located about 35 miles from Knoxville. The collection is divided into two parts, with one part related to the Armstrong and related families, and the second part consisting of numerous land surveys done by Robert Armstrong. The Armstrong family papers contain a wide variety of different types of materials, including a series of correspondence written during the Civil War. Within the surveys are a number of early maps of parts of East Tennessee, Cherokee land surveys and papers, and hundreds of individual names recorded on land surveys, a gold mine for genealogists.

After processing and conservation work were necessary, the collection will be microfilmed and made available for research at the State Library and Archives, the official repository for the historical society's collections.

*Jay Richiuso  
Tennessee State Library and Archives*

### UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-MARTIN, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections Department of U. T. Martin has developed a searchable inventory for the county's loose Chancery and Circuit Court records. The collections contain over 4,000 cases tried in Weakley County from 1828 to 1935 and can be searched by surname on the internet. The Chancery Court records can be searched at: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/acadpro/library/manus/ms004.htm>

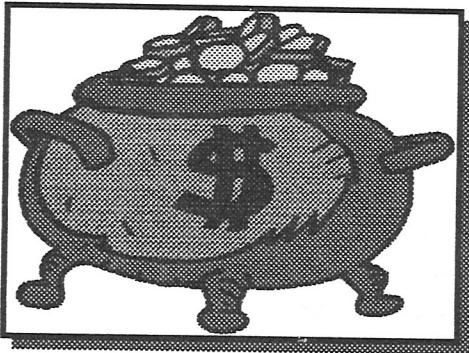
The Circuit Court records can be found at:

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/acadpro/library/manus/ms005.htm>

*Dieter Ullrich  
UT-Martin Special Collections*



## Treasurer's Report



BALANCE 8/18/1998	\$2,750.37
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,139.23
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	<u>1,388.87</u>
NET TOTAL	\$2,750.37

*Respectfully submitted,  
David I. McWhirter,  
Treasurer, STA*

### CALL FOR PAPERS National Oral History Association Meeting October 7-10, 1999 Anchorage, Alaska

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 1999 annual meeting, to be held October 7-10 in Anchorage, Alaska. The theme of the meeting is "Giving Voice: Oral Historian and the Shaping of Narrative." We welcome papers and presentations that explore the relationships of interviewers and narrators as well as papers that discuss the implications of editing decisions in subsequent writing and production. Discussions of film, video, and electronic uses of oral history are especially welcomed. We encourage discussion of the collaborative nature of oral history research and discussions of how the relationships between participants (and their prospective audiences) shape what is produced. Proposals on all aspects of the practice and interpretation of oral history are also welcomed.

We welcome roundtables, workshops, poster sessions, media and performance-oriented presentations, and off-site sessions.

Applicants must submit four copies of the following: for full session proposals, a one-page description of the issues and questions the session will address and abstracts of each presentation; the name of the convenor; suggested commentators; and one-page vitae, including institution affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers, and email addresses for each presenter. Individual proposals should include a title, abstract of the presentation, and a short vitae of the presenter. The program chairs request that you send applications by mail, not by fax.

For further information or to submit proposals, contact:

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**TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST**

**Society of Tennessee Archivists  
Annual Meeting  
at Historic Rugby  
Schedule of Activities  
November 4-6, 1998**

**Wednesday, November 4**

- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Registration (Community Center, Historic Rugby)
- 1:00 - 1:15 **Welcome**  
Mancil Johnson, President, Society of Tennessee Archivists  
Barbara Staggs, Executive Director, Historic Rugby
- 1:15 - 3:30 **Disaster Planning for Archives, Libraries & Special Collections**  
Georganne Burns, Regina Lee, Billy Tindall & Mancil Johnson  
Tennessee Technological University
- 3:30 - 3:45 Break
- 3:45 - 5:30 Tour, Historic Rugby and the Rugby Archives  
Dinner on your own (*if you plan on dining at the Harrow Road Cafe, you need to be seated by 6:30 PM as they close early*)
- 7:00 PM **Informal Discussion on "The Archivist as God"** - Rugby Community Center

**Thursday, November 5**

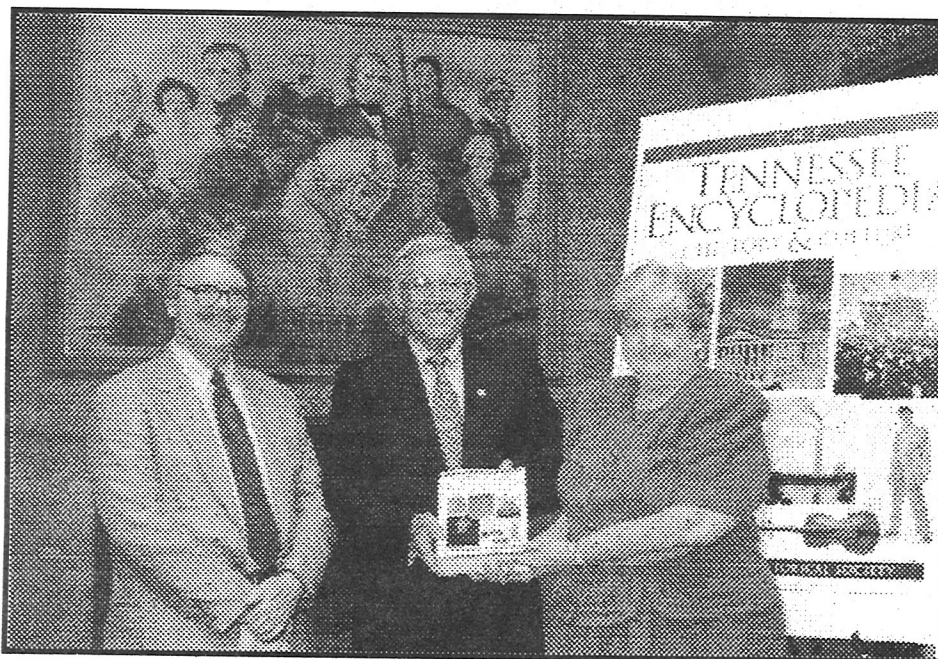
- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Coffee
- 8:30 - 9:45 AM **Carrying the Torch for Titanic: Archivists and the History of Memory**  
Sara Harwell, Vanderbilt University
- 9:45 - 10:00 AM Break
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM **Each Grave Has A Story: Researching the Battles of Franklin and Nashville**  
Tim Burgess, Historian
- 11:00 - 12:00 PM **Sgt. York: His Life, Legend and Legacy**  
John Perry, author
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM **Creating the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture**  
Dr. Carroll Van West, Middle Tennessee State University
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM **Appraising and Historical Problems**  
Marshall Falwell, Appraiser
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM Break
- 3:15 - 4:30 PM **Howard Ray Duncan, Big South Fork Long Hunter**
- 7:00 PM Banquet, Harrow Road Cafe, Historic Rugby  
*Following the banquet, the Lantana Drifters will provide bluegrass in the Rugby Community Center.*

**Friday, November 6**

- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Coffee
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM **The Yankees Took All We Had, Records of the Southern Claims Commission**  
Chuck Sherrill, Tennessee State Library & Archives
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM **The Archives Summit Report**  
Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist
- 10:30 - 10:45 AM Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 **Business Meeting, Committee Reports & Elections**

*\*Note: All Times are Eastern Standard Time*





Gov. Don Sundquist accepts a copy of the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* from Dr. Carroll Van West, Editor and Ms. Jane McFarland, Director, Chattanooga/Hamilton County Public Library

**GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST AND THE TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCE PUBLICATION OF  
THE *TENNESSEE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HISTORY AND CULTURE*;  
FREE COPIES PRESENTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES**

On August 5, 1998, Governor Don Sundquist and the Tennessee Historical Society announced the publication of the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Copies of the landmark book were given to representatives from public schools and libraries across the state in a special ceremony in the State Capitol in Nashville.

The presentation marks the gift by the Tennessee Historical Society of copies of *The Tennessee Encyclopedia* to each of the 1,800 K-12 public schools and libraries in Tennessee. Representatives and students from the Shelby County Public Library, Chester County Middle School, W.G. Rhea (Paris) Public Library, the Clarksville/Montgomery County Public Library, Fairview-Williamson County Branch Library, Cameron Middle School (Nashville), Chattanooga/Hamilton County Public Library, Clyde W. Roddy (Dayton) Public Library, and Knox County Schools participated in the presentation.

The 1,250 page *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* contains over 1,500 entries by more than 550 authors, presenting the essential knowledge of Tennessee's history, culture, government, geography, resources, and economy. An extensive index leads the user to thousands of persons, places, things, and events which have shaped the Volunteer State. The encyclopedia is now available in local bookstores.

Established in 1849 to preserve and promote the history of all Tennesseans, the Tennessee Historical Society has published the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and history books for over 100 years.

For information about *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, please write the Tennessee Historical Society, War Memorial Building, Nashville TN 37243-0084, or call (615) 741-8934.

*Ann Toplovich*  
Director, Tennessee Historical Society

## COURT STRIKES DOWN ADOPTION RECORDS LAW

The Tennessee Court of Appeals has ruled that the state's 1996 open records adoption law is unconstitutional. The decision in the case of *Promise Doe vs. Sundquist* says the law violates the Tennessee Constitution because it applies retroactively to open up adoption records that were thought of as confidential under the old law.

This means the case – brought by unidentified birth mothers, an adoptive couple and an adoption agency – heads back to Davidson County Circuit Court, which last year dismissed the lawsuit. The Circuit Court said the case had little merit.

The State Attorney General's office has said that it plans to seek a review of the appeals court decision in the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Larry Crain, attorney for the plaintiffs, said they have finally convinced a court that privacy interests exist in this case. The case was dismissed by a federal judge in 1996.

The law, an update of the 1951 state adoption law, was supposed to become the new policy for the state in 1996, but the court battle has brought on an injunction that kept the open records portion of it from fully taking effect.

The portion the plaintiffs are challenging allows adoptees older than the age of 21 to request to see their records, which are stored with the Department of Children's Services. Birth mothers are notified of the requests and are given the legal option of barring contact with the adult adoptee. If the adoptee violates the request, he or she may face criminal charges.

Opponents of the law do not think the "contact veto," as the privacy provision is called, is constitutional because it reveals the birth mother's identity without her consent.

Carrie Ferguson  
The Tennessean

## STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES NAMES MOSS ASSISTANT STATE ARCHIVIST

William W. Moss has been appointed Assistant State Archivist, effective November 1, 1998, according to State Librarian and Archivist Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves. Mr. Moss brings an impressive record of experience to the State Library and Archives, including service as Chief Archivist at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston and Director of Archives at the Smithsonian Institution.

Tennessee Secretary of State Riley C. Darnell sees the appointment as an important one. "We are serious about upgrading our statewide archival systems," said Darnell, "The addition of Mr. Moss is a step in that direction." The Secretary of State oversees the State Library and Archives.

"We are pleased that a candidate of Mr. Moss' reputation and experience has decided to join us at the Tennessee State Library and Archives," said Dr. Gleaves. "Our entire operation, and not just the Archives, will benefit from his expertise."

William W. Moss received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, in 1957, and a Master's of Arts in public law and government from Columbia University in 1965.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy, Moss was an intelligence research analyst at the National Security Agency for five years before becoming an oral historian, then senior archivist at the John F. Kennedy Library of the National Archives and Records Administration. During that same period, he also served on the council of the Oral History Association and was elected for a term as president.

From 1983 to 1993, Moss directed the Smithsonian Institution Archives in Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for the archives and collections of 16 national museums, 3 national research institutes, the National Zoo, and many other departments and offices. During his tenure at the Smithsonian, Moss received the Secretary's Gold Medal for Exceptional Service and was named Archivist *Emeritus* and Research Associate.

From 1993 to 1998 Moss taught English writing and literature at the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing, China. He also lectured on American archives management at People's University and the national Education Center of the Chinese State Archives Bureau in Beijing, Nankai University in Tianjin, and at archives and colleges throughout China. In the past two decades, Moss has made a specialty of the study of Chinese archives and contributed articles to American and Chinese journals on matters of interest to both Chinese and American Archivists.

At the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Moss will develop programs statewide for archives and records depositories, work on solutions for archiving and processing state and local electronic records, and oversee archival processing and acquisitions.

Dan Taylor  
Tennessee State Library and Archives

**GOVERNMENT 'OVERWHELMED,' ITS RECORDKEEPER SAYS**

The head of the National Archives, which holds 4 billion pages of historic papers created since the country's founding, told Congress Tuesday that his agency faces being overwhelmed by billions more the government keeps generating.

But "being overwhelmed is not a choice where the history of our nation is at stake," Archivist John W. Carlin said in seeking a 12 percent increase in his agency's budget and warning that it is running out of storage space.

To illustrate the problem, Carlin pointed to records created by computers a "seemingly impossible electronic records problem."

In the last 26 years, he said, 90,000 computer files came to the National Archives for storage from all areas of the government. Now, he said, two agencies alone the State Department and the Treasury Department are producing 1.78 million files a year. A file can range from a single sheet of paper to thousands.

Carlin issued a directive last year permitting agencies to deal with the problem and as a result was taken to court by groups representing historians and researchers. The directive permitted the destruction of computer files as long as they are transferred to paper.

If agencies are required to retain files in their computer systems, "many computer applications will grind to a halt, or crash entirely," the Archives said in court papers.

"We consider that doomsday hyperbole," said Page Putnam Miller, director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, one of the groups suing Carlin. It represents 51 organizations of historians.

Lawyers for the Archives are scheduled to appear in federal court Wednesday for a hearing on whether Carlin should be held in contempt of court for not complying with a judge's order to revise the directive.

The historians argued that electronic records reveal much more than a paper printout about who saw and revised a document before it reached final form. Moreover, they said, electronic records can be searched electronically in ways that cannot be done when they are on paper.

The electronic records problem aside, Carlin said in a statement submitted to a House Appropriations subcommittee, "We face huge deficiencies in our ability to do what the law requires us to do."

"We must deal with a critical government need for records management guidance, with exploding quantities of electronic records, with deteriorating film stock that places much of the audiovisual history of the 20th century at risk and with storage space moving toward full capacity."

A vast new facility built a few years ago in College Park, Md. will run out of space in 2006, Carlin told the lawmakers as he sought \$230 million in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, a 12 percent increase over this year.

Carlin said his agency needs the money "not only because records volumes and problems are mounting and not just because user groups are suing us to do what we want to do anyway, but because our country's democracy depends upon it. ... Public accountability requires accessible records. And so does public trust."

The Archives' records problem will grow because an executive order signed by President Clinton requires agencies to declassify by April, 2000 all secret documents over 25 years old unless a review shows that they remain sensitive.

By Oct. 1, Carlin said, the archives will face a 90,000-cubic-foot backlog of previously classified documents. A cubic foot holds about 2,000 pages. In addition, another 57,000 cubic feet of previously classified papers will arrive at the archives in the year starting Oct. 1, 1998.

24-MAR-98

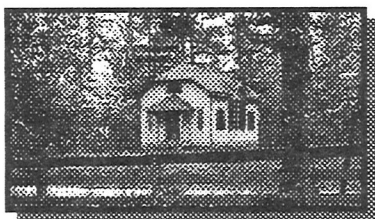
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## TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST



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## 1998 Annual Meeting at Historic Rugby in the Upper Cumberland Region of Tennessee November 4-6, 1998

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