



Celebrating 40 years
of Archives in Action



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VOL. 40 ISSUE 1

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS:

THE NEWSLETTER



KATHLEEN SMITH

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Associate University Archivist

"I want to take this time to remind everyone that there is lots and lots of information available to us about taking precautions, remediating damage to facilities and restoring collections."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everybody!

I hope you enjoyed a hurricane-free summer, one filled with stable air-conditioning and low humidity levels in your stacks. As I look back over the months I cannot believe how much "weather" we have had to deal with; high winds, downed trees, flooding and heat all battered our archives in the past six months. I want to take this time to remind everyone that there is lots and lots of information available to us about taking precautions, remediating damage to facilities and restoring collections. One you might want to check out is the Heritage Emergency National Task Force which is co-sponsored by FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution
<https://culturalrescue.si.edu/resources/heritage-emergency-national-task-force/>

On a less serious note, we are excited to hold our 40th meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists at Jonesborough in Washington County, the oldest county in Tennessee. I hope you have made plans to join us. We will be listening to interesting stories at the Storytelling Center and enjoying lively archival sessions. Bring the family and spend some time in the beautiful Smoky Mountains with 50-100 of your closest archival friends!

Kathy Smith, President, Society of Tennessee Archivists

Archivist Linda Barnickel of the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library attended the Columbia University Summer Oral History Institute: "Oral History and Aging: Transmitting Life Stories of Being and Becoming Across Cultures and Generations." Faculty included nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the oral history field, such as Alessandro Portelli; Doug Boyd; Linda Shopes; Mary Marshall Clark; Ron Grele; representatives of the Shoah Foundation; and others. Attendees, known as Fellows, included a diverse group from a wide variety of disciplines, professions, experience, international locations, and backgrounds. Selection was through a formal, competitive application process. Linda was one of 25, and the only archivist, selected from a pool of 111 applicants from all over the world.



Linda Barnickel
Nashville Public Library

PROFILE OF STA VICE-PRESIDENT BRIGITTE BILLEAUDEAUX

Interviewed by Andrea Fowler

Introduction

Brigitte Billeaudeau is the preservation and special collections librarian and archivist at the University of Memphis (UofM). Ms. Billeaudeau is one of two faculty members in the archives. She is primarily a traditional archivist with responsibilities for in taking, arranging, and creating finding aids for archival collections but also oversees additions to the university's growing digital collections. In addition, Ms. Billeaudeau has management responsibilities for the four staff members in her department as well as the student workers and graduate assistants who work during the school year. She also creates displays highlighting archival collections.

Ms. Billeaudeau has been in her current position for a little over a year but has worked in various other positions at the university prior to accepting her position in the university archives. Ms. Billeaudeau earned two degrees in anthropology before returning to school for her masters in library science.

Besides her position at UofM, Ms. Billeaudeau serves as the vice-president and president-elect of the Society of Tennessee Archivists and is the co-chair for the Tennessee Library Association's Archive and History Committee. She also maintains her memberships in the Society of American Archivists, the American Library Association, and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Organizational Changes Observed

In the time that Ms. Billeaudeau has worked at the UofM archives, she has been a part of implementing an increased focus on making archival collections accessible both through the creation of finding aids so that researchers can better access the collections and through an increased online presence. In addition, the archives faculty and staff have added to the number of exhibits that they create each year, which has helped build relationships with other campus departments. A current focus for the UofM archives is processing the backlog of archival materials so that they can be accessible to researchers.

Views on Effective Leadership

Ms. Billeaudeau believes that leadership is a personality trait and not necessarily one that everybody possesses. She contends that "leadership is being willing to work to meet the organizational or personal goals that you set forth." She also argues that leadership entails "paving the way for others to find potential in themselves and their immediate communities."

When asked about what strength(s) Ms. Billeaudeau believes that a good leader should possess, she says "empathetic listening." She explains that this means fully listening to someone and trying to understand their perspective. It also means trying to be neutral and unbiased. Ms. Billeaudeau believes that her greatest strength is flexibility and her greatest weakness is time management.



BRIGITTE BILLEAUDEAUX

**The University of
Memphis**

**Special Collections
Librarian/Archivist**
Assistant Professor

Responsibilities: Manage collection processing, digital files and metadata for the library's digital repository, curate and implement thematic exhibits, and provide general reference, instruction, and research assistance.

Research Interests: Urban studies, Cultural heritage preservation and dissemination, Digital libraries, Metadata, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

Continued on p. 4

PROFILE OF STA VICE-PRESIDENT BRIGITTE BILLEAUDEAUX

Interviewed by Andrea Fowler

Continued from p. 3

Effective Research-Based Trends

In the ten years that Ms. Billeaudeaux has worked in the archives field, she has noticed that the necessity for doing so and the way that archivists care for digital objects has evolved significantly. However, archivists are still trying to get a handle on how to do this in the best way possible to ensure the long-term retention of digital objects.

Paradigm Shifts

A paradigm shift that Ms. Billeaudeaux has observed that the UofM archives has started implementing for some collections is the archival model of “more product, less process.” It is a theory about processing and making available archival collections that focuses less on doing everything according to long-standing archival standards. Its primary benefit is that it makes archival materials more quickly available to researchers. Ms. Billeaudeaux argues that not every archival collection is a good candidate for this type of processing, but it is good for some collections and very beneficial for the end user.

Future Changes

For herself personally, Ms. Billeaudeaux would like to study to become a certified archivist and also work towards tenure. For the profession, she sees the digital aspect of the archives field as the biggest concern. She believes that libraries and archives still have a long way to go in the digital field but in general have paved the way and will be asked to serve as examples for other industries.

“Leadership is being willing to work to meet the organizational or personal goals that you set forth.”

STA OFFICER NOMINATIONS 2017-2018

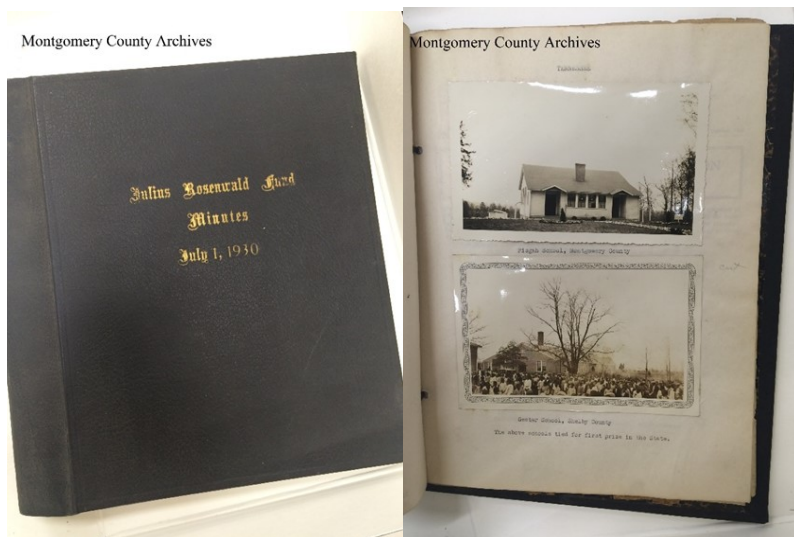
NOMINATIONS:

VP/President Elect: Matthew Gore, Cumberland Presbyterian Center (Memphis, TN)

Secretary: Aimee Saunders, Williamson County Archives (Franklin, TN)

Treasurer: Carol Roberts, TSLA (Nashville, TN)

Further nominations may be made during the Business Meeting at STA2017, International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN, November 1-3, 2017.



1930s Julius Rosenwald Fund minute book

SHOWCASING COLLECTIONS IN A SMALL SPACE

JENNA STOUT & SARAH FRY

**JENNA STOUT &
SARAH FRY**

Montgomery County Archives

mcgtn.org/archives

Collection Information:

The Montgomery County Archives is the repository for nearly all the pre-1950 governmental records of Montgomery County. With some exceptions, we have both the original and a microfilm copy of these records.

At the Montgomery County Archives, we stay busy processing a backlog of special collections donated over the years to our department. The staff recently doubled in size, giving the archives the necessary support to curate exhibits that highlight archival holdings. Working with limited space for exhibits forced us to think carefully about how to showcase our collections.

When pondering how to celebrate Tennessee Archives Month, we wanted to create an exhibit using the education-themed collections housed in our archives. Earlier this year, we processed a 1930s Julius Rosenwald Fund minute book in the Frank M. Hodgson Collection. This binder contains photographs from the 1935 School Improvement and Beautification Contest. Montgomery County's Pisgah School tied with Shelby County's Geeter School for a first-place prize of thirty-six dollars. This object seemed like an excellent starting point to explore the history and legacy of the Rosenwald school program in our area.

Established in the 1910s, the Rosenwald Fund helped erect over 5,300 schools for African American students in the South. Spearheaded by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, the program provided matching grants to communities to help build schools. In addition to fundraising, community members contributed materials and labor for local Rosenwald schools. More than twenty Rosenwald schools once stood in Montgomery County. In 1920, Samuel Leonard Smith, former superintendent of city schools in Clarksville, became the director of the Julius Rosenwald Fund Southern Office in Nashville. Smith helped publish Community School Plans, architectural templates used for Rosenwald buildings.

While conducting research on local Rosenwald schools, we discovered that the Montgomery County Government maintains a tangible link to the Rosenwald school program. The Warfield School was built in 1920 in South Guthrie. Following the Rosenwald format, the County Board of Education and community members worked together to contribute funds needed to secure the matching grant. A local African American carpenter named Benjamin Franklin Rives built the school using the specifications provided by the Rosenwald organization. It officially opened in 1922. Everyone in the community helped provide the tools needed for the success of the school. The Community Club held fundraisers to pay for bookshelves. Parents and teachers came together to provide textbooks and school supplies for students.

Continued on p. 6

SHOWCASING COLLECTIONS IN A SMALL SPACE

Continued from p. 5

The Warfield School operated until 1968 when the school was closed during desegregation. For more than forty years the Warfield School educated local children and provided a place for community members to build stronger relationships. The legacy of the Warfield School continues today. The renovated building is now used as the South Guthrie Community Center and owned by the Montgomery County Government.

The initial plan for Archives Month consisted of developing and installing an exhibit to be on display for our annual open house event. From the beginning, we knew that space was an issue that would inform the design and format of our exhibit. Since our Archives facility does not currently contain built-in display cases, we limited our exhibit to four main panels erected on easels. Space constraints meant we had to place the exhibit in our reference library area. This involved moving furniture around to allow for increased foot traffic in front of the exhibit panels. The physical limitations of our facility motivated us to create an exhibit in a format easily converted into a traveling piece. It is our hope that this exhibit travels around the county before



The Warfield School in 1922 (top) and present day (bottom)



Tennessee Archives Month Exhibit, Community Building: The Rosenwald School Program in Montgomery County

finding a home at the South Guthrie Community Center. To complement the exhibit, we also added several Rosenwald school histories to our library collection for patrons.

Our exhibit, *Community Building: The Rosenwald School Program in Montgomery County*, opened on October 2, 2017. The exhibit will be on display at the Montgomery County Archives through the month of October.



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 & 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: David Sowell, STA Archivist, Tennessee State Library and Archives

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

Society of Tennessee Archivists' own archivist 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 (Digital humanities in the archives) & Bonnie Finn (Maryville College (TN) – 200 years of buildings)

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

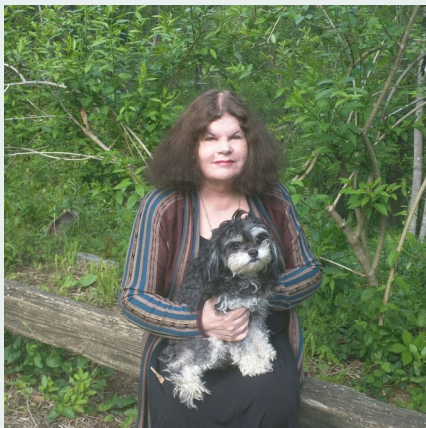
Do not forget to bring your raffle items for the annual awards banquet raffle!

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

This year's conference keynote speaker, **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.



Her novel, ***Prayers the Devil Answers***, published by Atria (Simon & Schuster) in 2016 as a nominee for the Library of Virginia book of the Year and the Southern Independent Booksellers (SEBA) Book Award. ***King's Mountain*** (2013, St. Martin's Press), the story of the 1780 Revolutionary War battle and the Overmountain Men, received a **DAR Award** from the Edward Buncombe Chapter (NC)., and in June 2015 the **Patricia Winn Award for Southern Fiction** from the Montgomery County Arts & Heritage Council of Clarksville, Tennessee. *King's Mountain* is taught in schools and featured at a number of historical museums.

Sharyn McCrumb's other best-selling novels include ***The Ballad of Frankie Silver***, the story of the first woman hanged for murder in the state of North Carolina. ***Ghost Riders***, an account of the Civil War in the mountains of western North Carolina, which won the **Wilma Dykeman Award** for Literature given by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the **Audie Award** for Best Recorded Book. The

Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, North Carolina, staged theatrical versions of *Ghost Riders* and *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* in 2014 and 2016.

Her novels, studied in universities throughout the world, have been translated into eleven languages, including French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Arabic, and Italian. She has lectured on her work at universities and museums throughout the US, as well as at Oxford University, the University of Bonn-Germany, and at the Smithsonian Institution. Ms. McCrumb taught a writers workshop in **Paris**, and has served as writer in residence at **King College** in Tennessee and at the **Chautauqua** Institute in western New York.

St. Dale, *The Canterbury Tales* in a NASCAR setting, in which ordinary people on a pilgrimage in honor of racing legend Dale Earnhardt find a miracle, won a 2006 *Library of Virginia* Award as well as the AWA *Book of the Year* Award.

A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, with an M.A. from Virginia Tech, she lives and writes in the Virginia Blue Ridge. Sharyn McCrumb's work is the subject of the book ***From A Race of Storytellers: The Ballad Novels of Sharyn McCrumb***. Ed: Kimberley M. Holloway. Mercer University Press, 2005. Sharyn McCrumb's books, frequently used in One Community/One Book programs; include: *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* by the town of Gallatin, TN and Volunteer State College; *She Walks These Hills* by the Portsmouth, OH library system; *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* in Boone County, KY; *St. Dale* in New Hanover County, NC; *The Devil Amongst the Lawyers* in Winchester, VA; and *Prayers the Devil Answers* in Sevier County, TN.

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NOT A MEMBER OF STA? THEN JOIN!

Membership is open to any individual or institution interested in the work of historical preservation. There are three categories of membership: *Regular*, *Associate* and *Institutional*.

Regular members are those who are employed in the field of archives, historical manuscripts, library special collections, or records management.

Associate members are those interested in allied disciplines, students and others who do not qualify for regular membership; they enjoy all the privileges and benefits of regular membership except voting at the Annual Meeting and holding office.

Institutions (ie. state, local and private archives, historical societies, libraries, businesses, government agencies and other organizations) are encouraged to maintain membership in order to receive STA publications and web updates.

Membership is on a calendar-year basis and dues are as follows:

- Regular - \$30.00 per year
- Associate - \$10.00 per year
- Institutional - \$30.00 per year

Please include institution name, phone number, and email address (if applicable). Make checks payable to **The Society of Tennessee Archivists** and mail to:

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