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Published by the Tennessee Archivists



"Home in the Smokies," Conservation Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives

ARCHIVISTS Editorial

I find myself at a loss concerning a subject for this issue's editorial. It's not that I am any less opinionated than I have ever been, nor is there any shortage of foolishness to fuel my ire. I suppose, if the truth be known, my languid attitude is fueled by an early, albeit overpowering, case of spring fever, compounded by having fried my brain attempting to get documentation ready for a tenure review. I'll spare you the details, but one of the reasons that this issue of *The Archivists* is later than usual has to do with the amount of time I've devoted to deciphering just what the Powers That Be wanted in my dossier.

But that's enough poor mouthing. We all have problems right now and, all things considered, I'm luckier than most.

Just a reminder: this is an election year. Pay attention. It's time for the great quadrennial flip-flop. If nothing else, living in a democracy affords us the unique opportunity to witness pompous, arrogant, self-serving politicians become men of the people every few years. If you've been paying attention to what our public servants have been doing, then you may be in for a shock when they start to recite their records of achievements. Whoever said fiction is a dying art had obviously not been hanging around political rallies.

Politics may or may not be as dirty as most Americans seem to think, but, flawed as it is, the system works most of the time. I urge you not to give into despair. Get involved. Take back your power as a citizen. Vote.

Bill Sumners and company are in the final throes of planning for the Southern Archivists Conference in May. If you were not able to attend the last meeting at Lake Guntersville, Alabama, then there is something special in store for you.

Archivists from four southern states will be meeting to share ideas, problems, viewpoints and stories. Here is a chance for what is essentially a small and scattered profession to meet with others who share the isolation, the problems and the love of musty paper and esoteric knowledge. For me, it was both exhilarating to know that my profession extended past the borders of the state and satisfying to find that others had bigger problems than I did. I heard new ideas for solving old problems and was able to share ideas that had worked for me.

The program committee has prepared a good series of sessions for this meeting, but they have also allowed plenty of time for socializing. If your budget will permit and you can find the time, I urge you to attend the Southern Archivists Conference. I am sure that you will find it a worthwhile experience.

From the President

February 1992

Winter has settled in, so things seem to move more slowly. This includes my approach toward most activities during these cold months. I like the idea of hibernation, and staying in by the fire on cold days has its advantages. This gives me some time to stop and think about plans for the upcoming year. However,



spring is around the corner and with spring comes several projects for Tennessee Archivists.

The SAC program is almost complete and is shaping up to be a well-rounded and interesting program. We are going to need everyone's support for the activities associated with hosting this meeting. We will be responsible for showing our neighboring states' archivists that Tennessee has a great deal to offer in the archival world and that we can have a good time while doing so.

Bill Sumners and the SAC local arrangements committee are moving along with the program details such as hotel, meals and tours. These details are working out very well, considering we are trying to keep expenses to a minimum in this time of reduced budgets for everyone. This will be a big factor in affecting the activities of the conference and the number of SAC members in attendance. This conference will definitely be something to add to your plans and budgets for May 13, 14 and 15, 1992.

Another project that will concern Tennessee Archivists this year will be participation with Tennessee Library Association in co-sponsoring alkaline paper-use legislation. Legislation is being prepared for this year's or next year's General Assembly Session concerning use of acid-free or alkaline reserve paper for permanent value records. Preparation of this resolution or legislation is following the approaches of states such as New York and Connecticut. These states have already passed bills encouraging use of alkaline paper and specifications of these for printing and copying papers.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the Tennessee Archivists Fall Meeting. It was a successful meeting in better understanding the wide variety of archives that are active in Tennessee and how these archives can participate in the advantages of NHPRC projects and funding. The NHPRC Needs Assessment project will continue to help guide us in order to determine how we can better serve the archival holdings of this state.

Now it is my hope that we can all be optimistic about our work, jobs and archival programs during this time of serious budget cuts. We must all remember that archives have a very important place in the record keeping of our education of the past and of our society. Sometimes, sitting by the fire and thinking about these things isn't such a fun thing after all. Oh well, as I say, spring is right around the corner with lots of things to do.

Carol Roberts, President

Archivists

is a triannual 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 Tech 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*: Carol Roberts, Angie Parrott, Ken Fieth, John Thweatt and Bill Sumners. As always, any mistakes are purely my own.

State News

NASHVILLE — The Southern Archivists Conference will meet at the Southern Baptist Convention Building from May 13–15, 1992. If you are a member of Tennessee Archivists (and you are or you wouldn't be getting this newsletter), then you are also a member of SAC. Please plan to join your fellow professionals from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana for an interesting and informative meeting. (See pages 10 and 11 for more information.)

RUGBY — Historic Rugby, Inc., recently hosted an intensive two-week workshop on 19th-century letterpress printing. Four members of the Historic Rugby staff attended. They will be presenting demonstrations of these printing techniques at the Rugby printing office on weekends and holidays during the coming year. The workshop was funded by the Tennessee Arts Commission, the East Tennessee Foundation, the Tennessee Press Association Foundation and the Scott, Morgan and Fentress County newspapers.

DUES — David McWhirter asks you to remember that he will accept membership dues for 1992 any time. If you have not paid, why not do so now? Send \$10 to: David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th Avenue South, Nashville TN 37212.

CHATTANOOGA — Ned Irwin of the Chattanooga Public Library was recently certified by the Academy of Certified Archivists. Ned was certified by test. Congratulations to Ned for taking such a major step.

NASHVILLE — Tennessee State Library and Archives has announced that the gubernatorial papers of Lamar Alexander have been completed and are now ready for researchers.

National News

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The National Archives announced recently that the 1920 census will be opened to the public as of March 2, 1992. The census will be available on microfilm at the National Archives in Washington, D. C., and at the twelve regional branch archives. Copies of the microfilm are available through the National Archives microfilm sales and rental program.

BIRMINGHAM, AL — A grant from the Robert R. Myer Foundation has given the Archives Department of the Birmingham Public Library the funding necessary to transfer over 225,000 photographic images to computer. An optical imaging system will scan, enter and store the images. Copies may then be printed out by the computer. This will reduce demand for the originals. (Access, Fall 1990, via The Dusty Shelf).

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The National Archives will host a four-day course on how to do research in primary sources. The

course is called "Going to the Source: An Introduction to Research in Archives" and will be offered from May 19-22, 1992. Enrollment is limited to 30 persons. The class will cost \$85. To register, or for more information, contact: Paula Nassen Poulos, Exhibits and Educational Programs Division, Office of Public Programs, National Archives, Washington, D. C. 20408; or call (202) 219-2316.

JACKSON, MS — The Mississippi Department of Archives and History recently received a grant for \$94,139 from the National Archives and Records Administration to conduct a MARC cataloging program. The program will result in a union catalog for all the archival materials held by the department's Archives and Library Division. The records will also be loaded into the Mississippi Union Catalog and into a national database.

Tennessee Archivists Fall Meeting a Success

The Tennessee Archivists met in Nashville on November 14 and 15, 1991. The meeting, hosted by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, was preceded by a forum on historical repositories and archival education. Such topics as historical records repositories, conservation, archival education, outreach and publicity, and funding were discussed during the two days that the forum met. This pre-conference forum was a part of the "Volunteer Challenge," which will be sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board during the year. "Volunteer Challenge" is a statewide needs assessment survey of Tennessee's historical records, sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The Tennessee Archivists fall meeting was held in the War Memorial Building in Nashville. Sessions on NHPRC projects included a report on project progress by Richard Belding, state archivist of Kentucky, and a panel discussion by grant recipients Scarlett Graham of Vanderbilt TV News Archives, Barbara Stagg of Historic Rugby and Sandra Moore of the NAPPs Archives. Sharon McPherson of the Hermitage then spoke on some aspects of the restoration of historic homes. A tour of the State Capitol was followed by a banquet at the Hermitage.

The Friday session included a session on black medical education in Tennessee by Mattie McHollin, associate director of Archives and Special Collections at Meharry Medical School. The final session featured Patricia Gordon-Michael, director of the American Association of State and Local History, and Ann Toplovich, director of the Tennessee Historical Society.

Spotlight on ...

Knox County Archives —

Two Hundred Years of Record Keeping, 1792–1992



Address: 500 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37918
Telephone: (615) 544-5741

Parking: Several commercial lots are in the area.

Access: Open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Restrictions: Court restrictions are placed on juvenile records.

Copy Facilities: Copy facilities are available for photographs and microfilm, as well as for paper.

Major Subjects: The Knox County Archives contains court records, licenses, bonds, applications, wills, deeds and probate records.

Holdings: The Knox County Archives contains over 7,000 linear feet of records.

Accession Policy: The Knox County Archives collects materials related to Knox County, Knox County government and East Tennessee.

Director: Doris R. Martinson, CA, Head, Knox County Archives

“Ordere*d* that the Clerk of this County, purchase the following books for use of the Court to wit, Iredell’s revisal of the Laws of North Carolina, Ruffhead’s Dictionary, Blackstones Commentaries, and SUCH BLANK BOOKS AS FOUND NECESSARY FOR THE RECORDS OF THIS COURT.”

*Knox County Court Minute Book O, p. 36
Saturday, January 26, 1793*

Thus began two hundred years of court recording in Knox County, Tennessee. Knox County’s first court began on July 16, 1792. Various notations in the court minutes through the years show that the many clerks of the courts were mandated to take care of the records. In 1886 the Circuit Court clerk was held and firmly bound by the county and state for \$10,000 to “safely keep the records of said Court and the books belonging to his office.” Concern for the records is noted in this

January 2, 1911 County Court resolution: *“Whereas, the old records and files of papers in the basement room under the County Register’s office should be cleaned up and filed away in such a manner that the same can be found when necessary. Therefore be it resolved that the County Judge be and is hereby directed to employ a competent man to do the work and if necessary to have more shelves put up in said room.”*

Until the mid 1970’s, this basement room in the old courthouse was the home of the county’s records. It had the illustrious title of “Knox County Old Records Department.” In the March 19, 1976 volume of the Knox County Old Records Commission, Lucille Deadrick, director of the Knoxville–Knox County Public Library, is quoted: “the connotation ‘old records’ should be removed; the records were the archives and should be referred to as such.” The “old records,”

now known as “the archives,” were literally moved by truck loads to the public library in 1976. These records remained there and in other county buildings until the downtown 1874 Custom House was renovated and made an historical center. In 1981 the Custom House was renamed the East Tennessee Historical Center.



It was not until 1986 that the county’s records in the East Tennessee Historical Center were appraised for permanent retention. From 1986 to 1990, several large truck loads of non-permanent records, identified through the state’s CTAS manuals and approved for disposal by county and state officials, were removed from the archives. Archival arranging and preservation of documents in acid-free folders and boxes also began in 1986. The Knox County Public Library

purchased heavy gauge steel shelving for the archives' stacks and search rooms. In 1987 identification of the earliest loose court papers and computer-indexing of these case file papers started. To date approximately 20,000 County Court (1792-1910); Superior Court, Hamilton District (1793-1809); First Circuit Court (1810-1910); and Criminal Court (1870-1900) case files have been read, cleaned, placed in acid-free folders, boxed and computer-indexed for public access. These valuable case files are stored in the archives' climate-controlled, closed stacks. All the marriage licenses from 1900-1989 have been removed from antiquated, damaged file cabinets, unfolded and placed in acid-free folders in series order. The archives has all the existing marriage licenses, bonds and applications from 1792 to 1989.

Knox County has never had a major disaster occur to its two hundred years of records. Except for a few missing volumes, all the courts' docket, minute and execution books are intact. They have been arranged in series order and the earliest volumes have been or are being microfilmed. By 1989 all the records housed in the East Tennessee Historical Center had been determined by the archives' staff to be of permanent value. Currently, the staff is concentrating on identifying and arranging the permanent records in the archives' other closed stack area in the downtown Lawson McGhee Public Library building. To date about three-fourths of these records have been archivally processed.

The mission of the Knox County Archives is to preserve the permanent records of the county and to make them available to the public. Since 1986 the archives' staff has been dedicated to these two purposes. In the nearly twenty-year history of the present Knox County Archives, 1991 was the highest year, statistically, for patron contacts. The archives served 4,861 patrons through personal contacts, correspondence and by telephone. Patrons requested a total of 12,537 records and referrals. For a search room staff of four, this equals 6.52 retrievals an hour. Since 1979, when statistics for the archives began, 55,975 patrons have been served by this archives. About half of the archives' patrons are genealogists, while the other half are

attorneys and court officials who request current records, especially General Sessions Court's DUI charges. Preservation of the records is done daily by a full-time micrographics technician in the archives' in-house micrographics lab. The archives' goal is to microfilm all pre-1900 records of significant value and continuous public use.

Stories of Indian transactions, slave sales, train accident suits, divorces, wills and estates of the rich and not-so-famous, marriages and criminal indictments are all contained in approximately 7,000 linear feet of records. These records are available to the public five days a week. The Knox County Archives is located on the second floor of the East Tennessee Historical Center at the corner of Clinch and Market. The archives' phone numbers are (615) 544-5739, 5740 and 5474. A guide to the records in the

archives is available upon request.

Compliance with the 1793 order to provide for "what is necessary for the records of the Court" should proceed for another two hundred years. The future of these valuable records will be assured if they continue to receive the same kind of maintenance they have received in recent years. Knox County officially begins its "Two Centuries" celebration June 11, 1992. To participate in this year-long event, the archives will be hosting genealogy and preservation workshops, a July display of "two hundred years of record keeping" and a reception for county government and court officials. Along with this celebration will be the fall opening of the East Tennessee Historical Museum on the first floor of the East Tennessee Historical Center. Knox County truly has much to celebrate in 1992! ❧

Southern Archivists Conference May 13-5, 1992

Nashville will serve as the host city for the biennial meeting of the Southern Archivists' Conference on May 13-15, 1992. The conference will meet in the Southern Baptist Convention Building in downtown Nashville. The program committee, consisting of two members of each state society, has developed the sessions for the meeting. The local arrangements committee, Nashville area archivists, has scheduled other events and activities for the conference. Highlights of the meeting will include:

— Two half-day workshops on basic archival practices. Ellen Garrison of the Center for Popular Music will direct a workshop on the arrangement of archival material and Tracey Berezansky of the Alabama Department of Archives and History will lead a workshop on records management.

— A Wednesday evening event for all conference attendees, hosted by the Special Collections Department at Vanderbilt University. The event will include an informal dinner and entertainment by two Nashville area storytellers, Tina Alston and Guerry Jameson.

— Program sessions on Southern

religious collections, volunteer/student support for archives, the use of archives in archaeology, and music archives will be among those included.

— Tours of the Vanderbilt Television News Archives, the Country Music Hall of Fame Library and Archives and the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives are scheduled. The tour of the County Music Hall of Fame Library and Archives is limited to 25 persons.

— An opportunity to visit some Nashville area restaurants guided by local archivists. Sign up sheets and menus will be available at the meeting.

— The ClubHouse Inn, a half block from the Southern Baptist Convention Building, will serve as the host hotel. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel. The special rate of \$52 per room is available for the conference and includes a free buffet breakfast and a manager's reception each afternoon from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Parking is available with the hotel and at the SBC Building.

For more information concerning registration, lodging and other local arrangements, contact: Bill Sumners, Local Arrangements Chairman, Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630; or call: (615) 244-0344. **Additional information and a registration form can be found on pages 10 and 11.**

Building a Conservation Lab on a Shoestring Budget



By MANCIL JOHNSON,
Tennessee Tech University

The problems of conserving important documents won't go away just because your budget was cut again. Economic hard times or no, the job of preserving primary sources goes on. There is a way to preserve those valuable documents and stay within your budget. All you need are a few basic skills, a few simple supplies and a bit of ingenuity.

The first assumption that must be made is that the item under consideration is worth saving. I am a disciple of the "garbage is garbage, no matter how long you keep it" school of conservation. If the document is not valuable in and of itself, then xerox it and forget the rest of this article. If all you want to preserve is the information contained in the document, then there is no reason why a copy (preferably on acid-free paper if the budget allows) won't do.

If you consider such an approach heresy, then you do have alternatives: (A) You can send the item to a conservator, assuming you can find one and assuming you can afford one. (While we do have several good conservators in Tennessee Archivists and their prices are quite reasonable, their services are not free. Remember we're talking shoestring budget here.) (B) You can store the item away and hope for better times. This solution is optimistic certainly, but not especially practical. Or (C) you can do it yourself.

If you opt for choice C, then you will need some supplies:

- An X-Acto knife for trimming, cutting and tight corners – about \$5
- A Microspatula for tight corners and delicate edges – about \$7

- Q-Tips for testing inks and blotting – about \$2 per 100
- pH testing pen for testing acid levels in paper – about \$3
- Camel-hair brush for surface cleaning of documents – about \$8
- Cleaning pads or Absorene for cleaning paper – pads about \$3 each – Absorene about \$9 for 11 oz.
- Document repair tape for mending paper – about \$18

Other items that are handy to have around a lab include a supply of soft cloths, a pair of needle-nosed pliers for removing rusty staples, scissors and paper towels.

Deacidification is an expensive part of the conservation process. The commercial deacidification product, Wei T'o, can cost upwards of \$21 per can. The manufacturer states that one can of Wei T'o will treat about 100 letter-sized sheets. The best I ever got was about seventy-five pages per can.

There has been a recipe for a home-made deacidification mixture floating around for several years. This mixture consists of Milk of Magnesia and club soda. I have never heard just what the exact proportions were. Since I have no experience with this concoction, I can not recommend it. If you decide to experiment, let me remind you to use something you don't mind messing up. Be sure to let me know what results you come up with.

A humidity chamber for uncurling maps, diplomas and other oversized items that have been stored by being rolled up is both simple and inexpensive to construct. You will need a large trash bag, a shallow pan and some screen wire. Simply place several inches of water in the shallow pan, being careful not to let it slop over the edges. Place the screen over the pan. Place the pan of water, with the screen attached, in the garbage bag. The bag may be placed in a large trash can.

The documents are placed in the bag. The bag is then closed. Check every day or two to be sure that no mold is growing on the documents. Some like to put a little bleach in the water as a precaution against mildew or mold. When the documents are limp and uncurled, they may be placed between paper towels, not newspapers, and weighted with books or boxes. When they dry, they will be flat.

Encapsulation is a fairly simple process that insures protection of a document. It has the added advantage of reversibility. It is, however, probably the most expensive process that can be undertaken in a small conservation lab.

Mylar "Type D", encapsulation grade polyester film, is not cheap. A roll of this material can cost as much as \$115 in the 4 mil thickness that is best for encapsulation. In addition, sealing tape, squeegees and rollers can also run into money. Probably the most cost-efficient way to get started in encapsulation is to buy a kit from one of the suppliers listed at the end of this article. The kit will contain the tools that you will need to begin encapsulating. Most kits cost around \$60 and contain enough supplies to encapsulate about ten times.

For under \$150, you can have a conservation lab that will be adequate for most routine repairs. Admittedly, the supplies listed here will permit only a band-aid approach to conservation. Unfortunately, that is all most of us can afford.

Supply catalogs may be obtained from:
Light Impressions
439 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607-3717

University Products
517 Main Street
P.O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041-0101

The Hollinger Corporation
P.O. Box 8360
Fredricksburg, VA 22404

Humanities Projects in Libraries and Archives

The National Endowment for the Humanities is accepting applications for planning grants and implementation grants for 1992-1993.

Planning grants are awarded to support the collaborative efforts of scholars and librarians in developing programs based on a particular theme or topic in the humanities. The deadline for projects beginning after October 1, 1992, is May 1. Recipients will be notified by August 1, 1992.

Implementation grants are awarded to support the presentation of fully developed public programs in the humanities. Such grants are usually funded for three to five years and the range is from \$15,000 to \$50,000. The average award is \$90,000. Deadlines for projects beginning after April 1, 1993, is September 11, 1992. Notification will occur around March 1993.

For further information, write: Humanities Projects in Libraries and Archives, Division of General Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Room 420, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, D. C. 20506; or call: (202) 786-0271.

African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography and Union List

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has received funding to begin a four-year project entitled *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography and Union List*. The bibliography will be based on the large collections at the society, University of Wisconsin System libraries and specialized collections throughout the nation. This project is expected to result in a two-volume work detailing 3,600 to 4,000 extant publications.

The bibliography will be edited by James P. Danky, newspaper and periodicals librarian at the society, and compiled by Maureen E. Hady who has been hired as African-American newspapers and periodicals bibliographer. Their goal is to make the bibliography as comprehensive as possible, including newspapers and periodicals covering the spectrum from

general to specialized and from popular to scholarly. It will be similar in format to Native American Periodicals and Newspapers, 1828-1982. Any contributions you can make regarding titles published in your area or held at your institution would be greatly appreciated. For more information about the project, contact either Danky or Hady at the following address: African-American Newspapers and Periodicals, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706-1482; or call: (608) 264-6532.

Academy of Certified Archivists Examination Information

To sit for the examination, a candidate must have one or more of the following:

- A Master's Degree with a minimum of nine semester hours of graduate study in archives administration and a minimum of one year of qualifying professional archival experience.

- Any Master's Degree with two years of qualifying professional archival experience.

- A Bachelor's Degree and three years of qualifying professional archival experience.

The 1992 examination will be given in conjunction with the 1992 Society of American Archivists meeting in Montreal, Canada and in Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Arlington, Texas; and Salt Lake City, Utah. The examination will be given on Monday, Sept. 14, 1992, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at all examination sites.

To apply to take the 1992 examination, you must mail a completed application to the ACA Secretariat, postmarked no later than June 12, 1992. Applications postmarked after that date will not be processed. The examination application must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 application fee. This fee is applied toward the \$275 certification fee. Successful candidates must pay the remaining \$225 within 30 days of notification of examination results.

The ACA Candidate Handbook and an application form are available from the ACA Secretariat, c/o Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605. ☒

Public Forum on Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education

By ANGIE PARROTT, Project Archivist

On November 13 and 14, 1992, a Public Forum on Historical Records Repositories and Archival Education was held at the Legislative Plaza in Nashville. Sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) and hosted by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSL&A), the forum was held in conjunction with the "Volunteer Challenge," Tennessee's needs assessment survey of Historical records. The purpose of the forum was to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project and to make recommendations for improving the state of historical records repositories and archival education in Tennessee. The forum also served as the pre-conference activity for the fall meeting of the Tennessee Archivists.

Forum participants reflected the diversity of historical records activity in Tennessee. A total of 49 archivists, librarians, records managers, historians, local government officials and volunteers from across the state attended the forum. Among the many institutions represented were the TSL&A, Vanderbilt University, East Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee, Tennessee Technological University, Lambuth University, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Knox County Archives and the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library.

The forum began with a preliminary report on the "Volunteer Challenge" by Project Archivist Angie Parrott and a brief introductory session by Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, project director and state librarian and archivist. Participants were then asked to divide into discussion groups on the following topics: (1) historical records repositories, (2) archival education, (3) conservation, (4) outreach and publicity, and (5) funding. Each of these sessions was offered twice during the course of the forum.

Continued on page 9



Acquisition Trips From Heck



By Mancil Johnson

Shortly after coming to Tennessee Tech, I was contacted by a local businessman. He had bought an old house from the estate of a prominent attorney. During the early stages of renovation he had discovered a huge cache of documents. Did I want them?

Naturally, I said yes.

So, I went to see what we were being offered. I met the donor at his office and he drove me directly to the place where the papers were stored. To his credit, he had recognized the importance of these papers and had not discarded them. To his discredit, he had stored them in an abandoned woodshed on the back side of his property. The collection was a rich one. During the first look-over, it didn't appear to be in too bad of a condition, so I agreed to take the collection, with the usual stipulations. As is not too unusual with donors, once he had found a home for his hoard of papers, he wanted to be rid of them at once.

I had only one student worker scheduled to come in that afternoon. She was a petite, bubbly blonde, who was always eager to help with whatever project was currently underway. Since the donor was adamant about getting rid of these papers right away, I called the student and warned her to come to work prepared to get dirty.

That afternoon saw us pull up in front of the elaborately restored house in a pickup truck.

I knew I was in trouble when the 14 large, friendly dogs all tried to get into the truck at once. I started to take a step towards the house and tripped over a large calico cat curled up on my shoe. That's when I saw what looked like a veritable sea of pussycats, all stalking toward the truck, tails erect in friendly greeting.

Pushing dogs aside with both hands and stepping high to avoid the cats, I finally managed to wade to the front door. The donor answered my knock and agreed to take us to the papers.

With effortless ease, he parted the ocean of animal life and got into the truck. Still pushing dogs off of me with both hands and stepping high, I followed. My student had disappeared under an avalanche of cats.

Somehow I got out of the driveway without running over anything. We were then treated to a wild ride past the peacocks, guinea hens, turkeys, goats and llamas, through an abandoned orchard and across a recently plowed field. As we began to size up the best way to go about moving the papers, the donor realized that we were about to begin work and might need some help. He left.

The large cardboard boxes were stored in the attic of the woodshed. They were in various stages of disintegration. We began lifting the rotting boxes out through a hole in the ceiling. Sawdust, disintegrating paper, wood beetles, silverfish and less pleasant things began to rain down on us. A box split and papers spilled everywhere. The pungent odor of long-neglected litter boxes assailed our senses.

In the hours it took us to load the 26 cubic feet of documents into the truck, we had graphic evidence that every mouse, cat, dog, bird and goat on the place had visited the woodshed at least once and had found a good use for the papers they found there.

My student no longer bubbled. She sat in grim silence on the way back to the archives, trying to comb the filth out of her hair. Her only comment came as we unloaded our find. She said "I'm just glad

he doesn't keep elephants." She quit two days later.



Several years later, I was conducting an inventory of the Sgt. Alvin York home for the Tennessee State Department of Conservation. While in the house, I noticed a number of large green garbage bags stuffed under the sideboards and china cabinets in the dining room. When I got around to opening these bags, I found that each was stuffed with purses. I had not seen so many purses since the Fianceé from Hell had dragged me through half the malls in Nashville. Miss Gracy, Sgt. York's widow, had apparently had a thing about purses. She also had another passion, because each of the purses was stuffed with letters.

I never discovered if all this correspondence was filed chronologically by purse or not.

This wealth of material included love letters, business correspondence, letters from family, friends, admirers, supporters and complete strangers. Unopened letters from Jesse Lasky and Warner Brothers regarding the possibility of making a movie of Sgt. York's life lay cheek to cheek with letters from state officials regarding York Institute, the school Sgt. York had founded in nearby Jamestown. Letters from Charles Lindbergh and Robert Kennedy were stuffed in along with letters from citizens offering support for York's various financial crises or just wanting an autograph.

It was a rich find and we were fortunate that we were able to get family permission to copy the more significant items. The fact that I had been allowed access to the site at all was something of a

minor miracle. The York family had even less reason to trust outsiders than most of their fellow mountain people. In years past, people who were supposed to be trustworthy had managed to misplace a large group of family items placed on loan with them. These items had included some of the belongings of the much-loved matriarch of the family, Miss Gracy.

Several years later, I was involved in the inventory of another historic site in the Upper Cumberland Region. A local entrepreneur, for reasons that are still unclear, decided to sow distrust and suspicion about the project and those involved with it.

When my name was mentioned, this individual allowed that I "might be all right," but I "needed watching."

Since only about 40 miles of winding mountain road lay between the two sites, some concerned citizens went to visit the York family to see if I did indeed "need watching."

When they posed this question to Miss Gracy's son, he replied, "Why naw. You know, I believe I'd trust him with mommy's underwear."

Considering the source, that just may be the highest compliment I've ever been paid as an archivist.

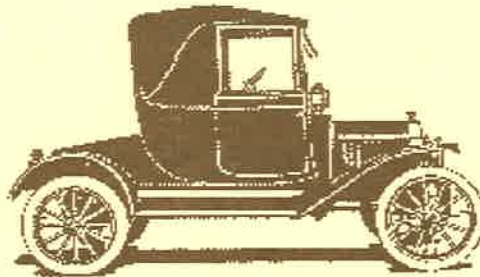
NOTE: Any reader of *The Archivists* who wishes to share his or her own particular horror story about some job-related incident may write: Mancil Johnson, Editor, *The Archivists*, Tennessee Tech University, Box 5066, Cookeville TN 38505.

From the Bookshelf

Managing Archives and Archival Institutions by J. G. Bradsher (paperback). \$19.95 from University of Chicago Press. To order, write: University of Chicago Press, Order Department, 11030 S. Langley Avenue, Chicago IL 60628; or call 1-800-621-2736.

The Guide to Kentucky Oral History Collections by Cary C. Wilkins. Identifies and locates thousands of oral history interviews maintained by Kentucky repositories. Costs \$10. To order, write: Kim Lady Smith, Kentucky Oral History Commission, P. O. Box 537, Frankfort KY 40602; or call (502) 564-7644.

Conferences



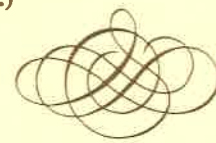
CHICAGO — The Midwest Archivists Conference (MAC) will celebrate its Twentieth Anniversary at the annual spring meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The conference will take place at the Bismark Hotel from May 19-21, 1992. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara Craig, a Canadian archivist and archival educator. Her talk is titled "Outward Visions, Inward Glance: Archival History and Professional Identity." For further information, contact: Todd J. Daniels-Howell, Public Information Officer, Midwest Archivists Conference, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, MN 55101; or call (612) 296-6980.

MONTREAL — The XIIth International Congress on Archives will meet at the Palis des Congres de Montreal/Montreal Convention Centre, from September 6-11, 1992. Archivists from over 100 countries are expected to attend. The Association of Canadian Archivists, the Association des Archivistes de Quebec and the Society of American Archivists will each have a booth. An international trade show on records management and archives will be held in conjunction with the meeting. The 1996 International Congress will be held in Beijing, China.

For further information, contact: XIIth International Congress on Archives, c/o Coplanor Congres, Inc., 511 Place d'Arms, Room 600, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y2W7; or call: (514) 848-1133; or FAX: (514) 288-6469.

NASHVILLE — The Southern Archivists Conference will meet for the 1992 biennial session from May 13-15 at the Southern Baptist Convention Building. Planned events include sessions on Southern religious collections, the use of archives in archaeology and music archives. Tours are planned for interested participants. For

further information, contact: Bill Sumners, Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630; or call: (615) 244-0344. (Please see related information on pages 10 and 11.)



PUBLIC FORUM continued from page 7

After the discussion sessions ended, all forum participants gathered for a presentation of group reports and recommendations. While the specific recommendations varied, all of the groups focused on increasing cooperation between historical records repositories, strengthening leadership in Tennessee's historical records community and improving the image of archivists and the archival profession. The recommendations include:

- Publication of a statewide directory of historical records repositories in Tennessee
- Development of a statewide network of historical records repositories
- Establishment of a clearinghouse for conservation information and assistance
- Development of a statewide disaster preparedness plan, with a disaster response/recovery team
- Expansion of archival training programs in Tennessee's colleges and universities
- Attendance of archivists and volunteers at workshops and seminars
- Demonstration of the value and uses of historical records to the public and administrators
- Development of effective public relations programs for historical records repositories
- Exploration of alternative sources of funding such as grants and support groups
- Support of funding for the TSL&A through effective advocacy and legislative lobbying

These and many other recommendations that were made have been compiled in a written report on the forum and will be incorporated in the final report on the needs assessment survey. Plans are currently being made for a Public Forum on Local Government Records to be held in Nashville in April. For more information, contact Angie Parrott at (615) 741-1075.

Southern Archivists Conference

Registration Form

May 13 – 15, 1992 • Southern Baptist Convention Building • 901 Commerce Street • Nashville, Tennessee

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

INSTITUTION _____

STATE SOCIETY AFFILIATION

AL () LA () MS () TN () OTHER _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$40 _____

WORKSHOP FEE \$15
ARRANGEMENT _____

RECORDS MANAGEMENT _____

EXTRA VANDY EVENT TICKET \$9 _____

EXTRA LUNCHEON TICKET \$12 _____

TOURS (NO COST)
COUNTRY MUSIC HALL
OF FAME (LIMITED TO 25) _____

VANDERBILT TV NEWS ARCHIVES _____

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

*Registration fee includes access to all meetings, sessions, tours, the Wednesday evening events at Vanderbilt, and the Thursday luncheon.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS" AND MAIL
REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

DAVID MCWHIRTER
SAC MEETING 1992
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1101 NINETEENTH AVE. SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37212
TELEPHONE (615) 327-1444

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, MAY 1, 1992

Southern Archivists Conference

Southern Baptist Convention Building • 901 Commerce Street • Nashville, TN

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 13, 1992

- 12:00 – 1:00 PM Workshop and Meeting Registration
2nd Floor
- 1:00 – 5:00 Pre-conference Workshops
Southern Baptist Convention Building
- Arrangement of Archival Material*
Ellen Garrison, Center for Popular Music
Room 250 (limited to 20 participants)
- Records Management*
Tracey Berezansky,
Alabama Department of Archives & History
Room 350
- 6:00 Event for all conference attendees
Hosted by the Special Collections Department,
Vanderbilt University, Heard Library,
Vanderbilt University Campus
- Event includes informal dinner and entertainment by Nashville
area storytellers.

Thursday, May 14, 1992

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration and Refreshments
2nd Floor, SBC Building
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Announcements
Auditorium, 2nd Floor
- 9:15 – 11:15 Concurrent Sessions
- Documenting Southern Religion*
Elizabeth Wells, Samford University
Gerri Reiff, Millsaps
Evelyn Fancher, Vanderbilt University
Room 300
- Friends, Volunteers and Interns:
Developing Support For Archives*
Pat Brown,
Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives
Rickey Best, Auburn University
Sara Harwell, Vanderbilt University
Room 350
- 11:30 – 1:00 Luncheon at Clubhouse Inn
Southern Archivists Conference
Announcements and Introductions

1:15 – 3:15

Concurrent Sessions

Use of Archives in Historical Archaeology
Jerry Oldshue, University of Alabama
Mark McDonald,
Mobile Historic Development Commission
Steve Rogers, Tennessee Historical Commission
Room 350

State Society Newsletter Editors
Tracey Berezansky,
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Sandra Boyd, University of Southern Mississippi
Mancil Johnson, Tennessee Tech University
Room 300

3:15

Tours

Vanderbilt Television News Archives

*Country Music Hall of Fame
Library and Archives*
(limited to first 25 persons indicating interest on
registration form)

Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives

6:00

Eating Out in Nashville
Hosted by Nashville Area Archivists
Sign-up lists and menus available at meeting

Friday, May 15, 1992

- 8:00 – 9:00 State Societies' Business Meetings
- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| Alabama | Room 250 |
| Louisiana | Room 315 |
| Mississippi | Room 300 |
| Tennessee | Room 350 |
- 9:00 – 9:30 Break with Refreshments
3rd Floor
- 9:30 – 10:15 American Association for State
and Local History Presentation
Patricia Michael
Auditorium, 2nd Floor
- 10:15 – 12:00 Music Archives Session
Paul Wells, Center for Popular Music
Ronnie Pugh,
Country Music Hall of Fame Archives
Auditorium, 2nd Floor
- 12:00 Final Words and Wrap-Up

Society of American Archivists 1992 Awards Nomination

Name of Award _____

Person/Organization to receive Award _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Country _____ Telephone () _____

Person making the nomination _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Please answer the following questions about the nominee. Attach additional pages if necessary.

How does the nominee meet the criteria of the award?

What are the outstanding characteristics of the nominee?

List supporting documents (three copies of all supporting documents, including nominated publications, must accompany this form).

RETURN FIVE COPIES OF THIS FORM BY MAY 1, 1992. Send nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, C.F.W. Coker Prize, Theodore Calvin Pease Award, and Oliver Wendell Holmes Award, to Charles H. Lesser, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 11,669, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, (803) 734-8594. Send nominations for the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award, J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award, Sister M. Claude Lane Award, and Waldo Gifford Leland Prize to Lydia Lucas, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, (612) 296-6980.

Society of American Archivists

1992 Awards Competition

The Society of American Archivists announces its 1992 awards competition to recognize achievements of the 1991 calendar year. Winners will be selected by subcommittees of the SAA Awards Committee, which is co-chaired by Charles H. Lesser and Lydia Lucas. Awards will be presented during the 1992 annual meeting in Montreal, September 13-17, 1992.

Descriptions of the awards are below and an awards nomination form is on the next page. The SAA awards policy is described in the *American Archivist* 39:415-417; copies are available from the co-chairs.

Requests for additional information and forms should be addressed to either Charles H. Lesser, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 11,669, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, (803) 734-8594, fax (803) 734-8820; or Lydia Lucas, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, (612) 296-6980, fax (612) 296-9961. The deadline for awards nominations is May 1, 1992. Nominations will not be considered unless all materials, including books and other supporting documentation, are received by that date.

Distinguished Service Award

Created in 1964, this award, a plaque, recognizes a North American archival institution, organization, or education program that has given outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution to the archival profession. Each nominee must be supported by three SAA members, each representing a different institution. A person may not nominate his/her own institution. This award was established through the generosity of three SAA Fellows: León de Valinger, Jr., Mary Givens Bryan, and Dolores Renze.

J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award

Established in 1989, this award honors an individual, institution, or organization not directly involved in archival work that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archival activities or programs. Contributions should have a direct or indirect national impact. Nominations, which must include three letters

of support, will remain eligible for two years, and additional supporting documentation may be submitted the second year. This award honors historian J. Franklin Jameson, who labored for over 25 years to establish the United States National Archives.

C.F.W. Coker Prize for Finding Aids

Established in 1983, this award recognizes finding aids, finding aid systems, projects that involve innovative development in archival description, or descriptive tools that enable archivists to produce more effective finding aids. To merit serious consideration, the nominee must, in some significant way, set national standards, represent a model for archival description, or otherwise have substantial impact on descriptive practices. This award honors SAA Fellow C.F.W. Coker.

Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

Established in 1973 and subsequently modified by Council, this award recognizes an individual, organization, institution, or group of individuals, organizations, and institutions who have increased public awareness of manuscripts and archives through compilation, transcription, public presentation, exhibition, or publication. The award honors two SAA Fellows and former presidents, Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan.

Waldo Gifford Leland Prize

Created in 1959, this prize encourages and rewards writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice. Monographs, finding aids, and documentary publications published in North America are eligible. Periodicals are *not* eligible. The award honors Waldo Gifford Leland, one of America's archival pioneers and SAA's second president.

Theodore Calvin Pease Award

Created in 1987, this award recognizes superior writing achievements by students enrolled in archival administration classes or engaged in formal archival internship programs. Eligible manuscripts must be unpublished, 15-20 pages in length, and conform to stylistic guidelines of the

American Archivist. Papers examining major trends and issues in archival administration are preferred. The award honors Theodore Calvin Pease, first editor of the *American Archivist*.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Award

Established in 1979, this award enables overseas archivists already in the United States or Canada for training, to travel to or attend the SAA annual meeting. The award honors SAA Fellow and former president Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Sister M. Claude Lane Award

Created in 1974, this award recognizes individual archivists who have made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. The award honors Sister M. Claude Lane and is co-sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Use the nomination form on the next page for these awards. The deadline is May 1, 1992.

Fellows' Posner Prize

Established in 1982, this award recognizes an outstanding essay dealing with some facet of archival administration, history, theory, and/or methodology that was published during the preceding year in the *American Archivist*. There are no nominations for this award. The winner is selected by a subcommittee composed of three SAA Fellows. The award honors SAA Fellow and former president Ernst Posner.

Colonial Dames Scholarship Award

Established in 1974, this award enables two archivists each year to attend the Modern Archives Institute of the National Archives and Records Administration. The Award is given in conjunction with the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III, Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Barbara Trippel Simmons, P.O. Box 525, Brookfield, Massachusetts 01506. The application deadline for the Summer 1992 institute is April 1, 1992. The application deadline for the Winter 1993 institute is November 1, 1992.

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

Mancil Johnson, Editor
Tennessee Archivists Newsletter
University Archives
Tennessee Technological University
Box 5066
Cookeville, TN 38505



David I. McWhirter
Disciples of Christ Historical Soc
1101 19th Ave., S.
Nashville, TN 37212-2196