

# TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

The Newsletter of the Society of Tennessee Archivists

## 2009 Annual Meeting to be Held at the Nashville Public Library

**NASHVILLE:** STA’s Executive Committee met at the State Library and Archives on April 22, to plan this year’s annual meeting. Society Vice-president Jim Havron presented a tentative agenda for the annual meeting, the theme of which is: “Archives 2.0: Reinventing Archives for the Virtual Generation.” Jim announced that newly elected Secretary of State Tre Hargett has agreed to be this year’s keynote speaker. Program topics or sessions suggested for the meeting include:

- Outreach 2.0: Getting the Most from Your Website (virtual exhibits, blogs, comments)
- Who Are/Will Be our Users and How Do We Reach Them?
- Copyright in a 2.0 World
- Ethics in the Virtual World
- Twitter, Blogging, and Social Networks
- You Get More Than You Pay for: Free and Cheap Applications for Archives (Audacity, Irfanview, Skype, Open Office)
- Digital Curatorship: Preserving Records in the 2.0 World

Past president Taffey Hall reported that the Academy of Certified Archivists has agreed to award 2 continuing education credits for the preconference workshop on Web 2.0. Treasurer Amber Barfield (TSLA) mentioned that she, Carol Roberts (TSLA), and Myers Brown (Tennessee State Museum) would be willing to conduct a preservation workshop on Wednesday, November 11, funded as part of an IMLS grant that TSLA’s Preservation Services department has received. This workshop would be open to STA members as another preconference workshop option.

Jim noted that there will not be a suggested conference hotel this year since all the hotels contacted wanted STA to reserve large blocks of rooms that may not get filled if there is a low meeting turnout due to the current economic situation. Attendees will be provided with a list of suggested hotel accommodations and will be on their own in obtaining the best room rate. A site for the annual meeting banquet has also not been finalized as of yet. Suggested meeting extracurricular activities may include tours of the Parthenon, the State Capitol, the State Museum, and a Nashville city cemetery tour. More details and registration materials for the meeting will appear in the next issue of *Tennessee Archivist*.



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## STA Officers 2009:

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## Secretary of State Tre Hargett re-appoints Jeanne Sugg State Librarian & Archivist

Secretary of State Tre Hargett announced on March 2, that he has re-appointed Jeanne Sugg as State Librarian and Archivist. The State Librarian and Archivist is the Chief Administrator for the Library and Archives Division of the Tennessee State Department. The division collects and preserves books and records of historical, documentary and reference value, as well as encourages and promotes library and archives development throughout the state. It also extends public library service to any Tennessee resident who cannot read standard print materials due to a visual, physical or reading disability.

"Ms. Sugg has many years of valuable experience within the State Library and Archives," announced Secretary Hargett. "She has demonstrated her commitment to the division and I am pleased she will continue to serve in this important capacity."

"I am honored to have been re-appointed by Secretary Hargett as the State Librarian and Archivist. I will continue to work passionately to ensure that the Library and Archives effectively and efficiently preserves the documents and records that are important to this state and will continue to promote the statewide development of libraries," stated Sugg.

The Library and Archives plays an important role in the Tennessee Department of State. The division includes the Planning and Development Section which administers the Tennessee Regional Library System, made up of twelve multi-county regional libraries. The Archives Development and the Preservation programs work with county and municipal archives to ensure proper care of public records. Additionally, the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which provides free library services for Tennesseans with disabilities, is housed within the State Library and Archives.

"I am certain that Ms. Sugg will continue to serve with distinction, handling the complexities of the position and ensuring records important to Tennessee and its citizens are preserved for both present and future generations," said Secretary Hargett. Jeanne Sugg was first appointed to the post in 2005 by then Secretary of State Riley Darnell. She joined the State Library and Archives Division in 1989 as the Director of Public Services.

## Vanderbilt Appoints First Dean of Libraries

Connie Vinita Dowell joins the Jean and Alexander Heard Library system at Vanderbilt University as its first Dean of Libraries in March 2009.

Dean Dowell comes to Vanderbilt from San Diego State University. As Dean of Library and Information Access for the past ten years she led highly successful fundraising campaigns and expanded library services during a period of great technological change. Prior to that she served as Vice President for Information Services and Librarian at Connecticut College.

She is a three-time recipient of the John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award from the American Library Association. In 2008, she received the SirsiDynix-ALA-APA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Promoting Salaries and Status for Library Workers.

Under Dowell's leadership, Vanderbilt will initiate a comprehensive study of the Heard Library system, with a view toward launching a major library enhancement effort.

Dean Dowell returns to her alma mater where she received her Master of Library Science from Vanderbilt's Peabody College in 1979. She says: "Being asked to return to Vanderbilt in this capacity is truly a dream come true. Vanderbilt's generosity to me as a student paved the way for my entire career."

# President's Message



Archives the world over are embracing the digital age, and what we can now do through digitization and technology is truly amazing. I've only been in this business ten years but I can't imagine what it was like to have worked in a library or archives before computers and technology became a way of life! For that reason I am excited about the upcoming STA Annual Meeting this November 11-13 at the Nashville Public Library. The theme for this year's meeting is *Archives 2.0: Reinventing Archives for the Virtual Generation*. Vice President/President-Elect Jim Havron is hard at work putting together a wonderful meeting for all of us. I encourage all STA members to get this on your calendar now and to join us in November. Look for more information as well as registration material in a few months.

The Executive Board of STA has decided to extend our outreach by extending Tennessee Archives Week into a full month of promoting and celebrating Tennessee archives and history. This October we will be observing the first Tennessee Archives Month. Look for information on this in the next few months. With a full month to work with, don't miss this opportunity to reach out and promote yourself and your repository!

It's that time of the year to renew your STA membership. I hope everyone renews, and if you work with or know someone in this field who is not a member, encourage them to join! Our dues are inexpensive and tax-deductible for many of us as well. Spread the joy!

I wish everyone a good summer, and if there's any way I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. Look for Annual Meeting and Tennessee Archives Month information later this summer.

*Steve*

Steve Cox  
STA President

## STA Committees for 2009

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Education Committee:   | Aimee James, Chair<br>Other Member- TBA                       |
| Nominating Committee:  | Mancil Johnson, Chair<br>Steve Cotham<br>Richard Saunders     |
| Membership Committee:  | Susan Knight Gore, Chair<br>Paige Hendrickson<br>Julia Cowart |
| Thweatt Award Contact: | Eric Head   |

## The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) Welcomes Its 1000<sup>th</sup> Member.

The Academy, founded in 1989, exists to ensure that standards of expertise in the practice of archival science are maintained and promoted. Membership is restricted to archivists who qualify to sit for the certification exam by virtue of their education (Masters Degree is a pre-requisite) and experience.

Members must re-certify every five years, either by examination or by accumulating credits through a combination of professional service and extracurricular activities of benefit to the profession. Member volunteerism on behalf of archival science is encouraged and rewarded under the credit system.

Members of the Academy are employed throughout North America and around the world in major archival institutions such as the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA), American Philosophical Society, McDonald's, City of Seattle, Coca Cola, etc.

Members of the Academy are in leadership roles throughout archival associations, such as the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and the International Council on Archives (ICA).

"This is a significant milestone in the history of the Academy. It reflects not only the commitment of newly certified archivists, but also the dedication of renewing senior members of the profession," said ACA President Dr. Martin Levitt. The ACA will celebrate its 1000<sup>th</sup> member and its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary during its August 13, 2009 party at the Austin, Texas, Hilton hotel. The ACA party is open to all Academy members and friends of the Academy.

## It's a Record, Right?

I've discovered that many folks have interesting stories about challenges they have encountered as part of acquiring and processing collections. I have several of my own, the most recent adventure being captured by the camera.

Part of the mission of the archives of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church is the collection of records of churches of the conference that are no longer in existence. Unfortunately, some of these churches closed in the years before the establishment of the current archives and many of the records departed to whereabouts unknown. The Commission on Archives and History for the Tennessee Conference is always on the lookout for "lost" records that may have found their way to other temporary homes. Finding them is sometimes just a small part of the battle.

Carroll Street U.M.C., in Nashville, closed some years ago, and many of its records are among the prodigals. I have had several research questions about Carroll Street, so awhile back I decided to ask the incumbent archivist, Von Unruh, about missing records. He told me there was very little that had been placed in the repository. He did tell me that he knew of one record, in the form of a marble plaque bearing names of members of the congregation, that was in private hands. Arrangements were made to transfer the plaque to the Tennessee Conference Archives in downtown Nashville. (See photos below.) The plaque was large enough that three grown men could not fully lift it off the ground. Thanks to the assistance of Sandy Swift, a courier who loves a challenge and a good cause, the job was accomplished. Several hundred pounds of church "record" are now firmly in place in the collection of the conference. The best means of processing and providing access have yet to be determined.

Jim Havron, Nashville Public Library and (current) Archivist for the Tennessee Conference, UMC.



Sandy Swift, Jim Havron and Von Unruh (in truck) unloading the newly acquired church record at the Tennessee Conference Archives in Nashville.



Memorial plaque from former Carroll Street United Methodist Church being steadied by Sandy Swift.

# More News and Notes

## STA Poster Contest A First!

We're making history here! For the first time, the Society of Tennessee Archivists is hosting a poster session at the annual meeting! Students, professional archivists, and information professionals are invited to create original posters based on this year's conference theme: "Archives 2.0: Reinventing Archives for the Virtual Generation." But we welcome submissions on any other relevant issues. Short on ideas? Here are a few to get you started:

- How has your institution used Web 2.0 to enhance outreach?
- Wiki- if you build it, will they come (to your website)?
- Too short on time and money for Web 2.0? Think again! 2.0 Options for institutions with few resources.

**Students:** We'll hold a student poster contest! The winner will receive a first place certificate and recognition on the STA website. (This is a priceless asset for your resume- when employers Google your name—they'll be impressed!)

This poster session offers you the chance to network with other professionals, exchange ideas, discuss strategies for implementing emerging technologies, publicize a website or facility, and of course, enhance your resume! Plus, all presenters will receive a certificate of thanks.

Posters should be at least 24" x 36." Posters will be displayed on tables. We won't provide stands or backing, so please make sure your poster can be securely leaned against a wall.

Space is limited, so send your poster proposal ASAP! We will give preference to posters based on this year's conference theme. Proposals should include your name, phone number, email address, poster title, a brief explanation of your topic, and your professional status (professional or a student?). Students, please include your area of study and the name of your college or university.

Send poster proposals to:  
Nancy Williams [nwilli21@gmail.com](mailto:nwilli21@gmail.com)  
Phone: 865-640-5019

## Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City to Host 3 Collections Care Workshops

### **Collections Management Workshop: June 1, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The workshop costs \$50 (includes materials, morning refreshments, and lunch) and will be led by Myers Brown, Curator of Extension Services, Tennessee State Museum. Seating is limited; first come, first served. Registration must be paid by May 18.

This workshop will deliver hands-on experience for staff and volunteers of local public museums, local history associations, and owners of private collections and museums. Attendees will also learn basic standards of good practice for managing collections including processing, cataloging, proper archival storage, and basic conservation techniques. Each participant will be provided a box of archival materials for use during the workshop and for take-home.

### **Family Collections and Scrapbooks Workshop: June 8, 2009, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The Workshop costs \$35 (includes materials) and will be led by Carol Roberts, Director of Preservation Services, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Amber Barfield, Documents Conservator, Tennessee State Library and Archives. Limited seating. First come, first serve. Registration must be paid by May 25.

This workshop will deliver hands-on experience for community residents and students. Attendees will also learn basic archival standards of good practice for preserving and caring for personal and family collections such as photographs, letters, diaries, journals, business papers, and scrapbooks. Topics will include proper archival storage, basic conservation techniques, and modern scrapbooking methods within archival standards for preservation.

### **Textile Care Workshop: June 22, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The Workshop costs \$35 (includes materials and refreshment) and will be led by Myers Brown, Curator of Extension Services, Tennessee State Museum. Limited seating. First come, first served. Registration must be paid by June 8.

This workshop will deliver hands-on experience for community residents and students who are interested in the preservation of personal textile collections, such as quilts, clothing, and table linens. Attendees will also learn basic museum standards of good practice for preserving and caring for personal textiles, including proper cleaning, archival storage, and basic conservation techniques.

To register for any of the workshops call 423-439-8084 or 800- 222-3878 or for more information call 423-439-4392.

# VP's Message



## Not-Just-a-Buzzword 2.0 (or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Web 2.0)

A few years ago the term Web 2.0 came into being. Shortly thereafter I saw a proliferation of similar terms: Library 2.0, Archives 2.0, Oral History 2.0, Records Management 2.0. The numerical part of these frames suggests an upgrade from a previous version, but in many of the articles I read and seminars I attended the term was just loosely applied to mean that whatever group was hosting the event was acknowledging (usually grudgingly) the existence and sometimes importance of digital technology. I have trouble with accepting that the struggle with dealing with archiving e-mail, however important an issue it may be, is Web 2.0 when that issue has been discussed since the advent of Web 1.0. The Web 1.0 issues, dealing with the increased use of the Internet and digital technology in records and communication, are still with us, but I hope we as archivists will also consider the importance of Web 2.0 to our profession. I am not a Web expert, though I have embraced many of the “2.0” applications and ideas, and there is not enough room in this article to discuss all the aspects of this phenomenon, but I would like to put out a few thoughts I have on the subject for your consideration.

Web 2.0 is essentially a change in mindset (I am trying to avoid the term “paradigm shift”) a new way of approaching things using the Internet as the platform for activity. It is interactive and social in nature and both shapes and is shaped by the users of the Internet. Users of the Internet are no longer satisfied with passive roles as receivers of whatever is placed on the Web by some entity, but instead participate in the process in ways they previously had not. Web 1.0 on-line newspapers published stories, now they are accompanied by blogs, comments, tagging, and digging. Virtually anyone can place their own video on Youtube or similar sites, self publish their own music, design their own surveys, and add their own research to collective Wikis. People tweet with Twitter and use an entirely new language in text messaging. Avatars (virtual representations of real life individuals) can now do research in Second Life (a virtual world existing in cyberspace) at a virtual library, as well as do business with virtual representations of “First Life” businesses.

If any of these concepts seem unfamiliar, and they are things with which an old fogey like me is already familiar, imagine how much more there is out there. Perhaps it is time we take a look at the phenomenon of Web 2.0 and discuss among ourselves and with others how it may affect archival theory and practice. Like it or not, we will soon find (if we have not already) that our users’ expectations are shaped by this world. We will have to deal with it.

I suggest three areas for your consideration. First, there are big challenges in issues of appraisal and preservation. The Web 2.0 world offers many choices and methods for communication and interaction. There is a challenge here for archivists. The methods of communication now include not only e-mail and electronic documents, but text messaging, video conferencing, and communication through computer-generated surrogates. Many documents found online were specifically designed for Web sites or generated by software on Web sites, and it might be argued that they would have to be viewed in such a format to retain the context of the record. The creator of content is no longer just the organization that hosts the records but might include a variety of different entities that the archivist knows nothing about. All of this will affect how we collect, arrange, describe, and preserve documents from the Internet or that are in some way related to the Internet.

Second, there are challenges in reference services. The Web 2.0 user expects ready access and quick answers. More than ever we will find it difficult to explain the way archives are used. There are almost unlimited sources of information, much of it of dubious quality, far more easily available to researchers than that in many of our collections. If we wish to be a relevant source for researchers, we will need to study them and find where we have the ability to meet their needs in their way, or what means we can use to persuade them to come over to our turf.

Third, there are many opportunities for archivists with Web 2.0, perhaps particularly for smaller operations with smaller budgets. Because Web 2.0 encourages active participation by all, there is a strong emphasis on open access software and community Web sites. One of my archives jobs is with a repository with virtually no budget. I have taken advantage of free, on-line seminars. We have used open-source software to edit audio and photographic images. We have plans to add training and informational videos to Youtube and samples of some of our material to other sites where they may be easily found by search engines. We do some blogging, are planning podcasts, and intend to conduct a survey of users and potential users to see how we can best meet their needs. I have already received reference requests from individuals who found out about our collections through a social network for people researching similar subjects. Perhaps I will place some images at a photo site and invite people to help identify people and places in the images. In my own research I followed directions from other researchers’ tags and was able to find three sets of records that were once part of a single collection but have since been divided. I have “virtually” restored some of the context that was lost. Web 2.0 provides tools that can be used by archivists practicing their craft in more or less traditional ways as well as helping us interact with users who are rapidly moving away from some of the traditional means of doing research.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ***VP's Message continued:***

I have been told that “serious” researchers will still come to archives because they have to. I think that is also a good topic for discussion. As a researcher myself I have often weighed the value of visiting an archives against other alternatives; and many more such alternatives exist today than not so long ago. There is also the question as to whether our obligation is only to the “serious” researcher or does it include the person wanting a quick answer or even to just browse collections?

Perhaps all this is rooted in what we see as our mission as archivists. Like Web 2.0, Archives 2.0 isn't just about technology and how we deal with it but is a mindset, an approach towards who we are and what we do as a profession. These are ideas that deserve discussion. I have my own ideas about some of these things, but would welcome the opinions of others.

*Jim*

Jim Havron  
STA Vice President

## **New or Coming Soon to the Tennessee Conference, UMC Archives and Library**

The Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church has several projects going to increase its reference services and collections. The Conference repository has severe staff restrictions, with a single paid position that is primarily administrative. For this reason the repository hours are inconsistent and primarily by appointment only. Most reference services have to be provided by phone, mail, or e-mail.

The new archivist, Jim Havron, and the current librarian (and former archivist) Von Unruh, have begun trying some different things to provide better access, encourage use, and get a better feel for the needs of users and potential users. They started by donating copies of the official journals of the Conference to the Special Collections Division of Nashville Public Library (NPL) which has regular hours and can allow access when the Conference archives cannot. Additional e-mail accounts have been set up to increase the number of people who can provide reference services. But the most interesting developments have been the use of some interactive Web technology. There is a new (unofficial), social network site for those interested in Tennessee Methodist history which has already steered new patrons to the archives. The archivist is blogging, and although the blog is new and has relatively few entries, two inquiries came from people who found the blog through a Google search and then contacted the archivist. Perhaps most exciting for Jim was when he sat down with his laptop and some records and conducted a face-to-face reference session with a lady in California using Skype, a Webcam, a microphone and the Internet. This may not be a common occurrence, but it opens up possibilities.

In addition to these experiments in access and promotion, the Conference has agreed to take the product of an oral history project being done by Clouds of Witnesses-Memory Ministry and Missions (COW-MMM.) The project will record oral histories of both clergy and their spouses. The Conference has had a mission to record the memoirs or biographies of clergy (usually in written form) for decades, but this project will specifically recognize the importance of the spouses of the clergy in the life of the church and as a part of its history. COW-MMM (any humor that one might see in the acronym we are told is deliberate) is a group of volunteers who use the skills of their professions to help others record and preserve history as acts of personal mission. The Conference repository hopes they will be able to help the conference better document its history.

If you wish to contact the Tennessee Conference archivist, you may reach him at [archivist@tnumc.org](mailto:archivist@tnumc.org). Send him an email if you are interested in the social network (it is a Ning site.) He blogs at <http://historynumc.wordpress.com>. The official website for the TN Conf Archives and Library is [http://www.tnumc.org/Archives %26 History Library/Depository/](http://www.tnumc.org/Archives%26HistoryLibrary/Depository/)



***Tennessee Archivist, Spring 2009***

## Ning Social Network for Tennessee Archivists

A new social network has been set up at Ning.com for Tennessee Archivists, those in related fields, or interested parties. Each member will have a page where they can post content and where they can (and hopefully will) participate in discussions, post questions to other archivists, blog, and generally share with others in the field. With a professional organization that geographically stretches across hundreds of miles, this is an opportunity to stay connected in a way we have not been able to do before. We can establish standing round tables, lone arrangers forums, student forums, etc. If interested, visit the site at <http://tennarc.ning.com> (no "www") and check it out. If you have not received an invitation, you will have to wait for approval. All STA members will be invited. We have a special group within the page for STA members only.

For Facebook users we have set up a page for STA, but we are still working out some details on it.

Jim Havron, Nashville Public Library

## WHY NOT JOIN STA?

The Society of Tennessee Archivists invites membership from all persons interested in Tennessee's archives and historical resources. Membership is on a calendar basis. STA currently holds one meeting each year which includes the annual business meeting, at which the society officers are elected by the membership. STA publishes its newsletter several times a year and invites contributions from members and non-members. STA is a member of the Southern Archivists Conference (SAC), the regional association for Southern archivists and is currently comprised of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. SAC meetings are held every other year with each state alternately hosting the meeting.

**Full Membership, \$20.00/year      Institutional Membership, \$20.00/year**  
**Associate Membership \$10/year**

Please make checks payable to: **SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS**, and include membership information (name, address, institutional information, phone number, fax number and email address) and **mail** to:

**Amber Barfield, Treasurer**  
**Society of Tennessee Archivists**  
**c/o Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
**403 Seventh Avenue North**  
**Nashville, TN 37243-0312**

## The Society of Tennessee Archivists Now Celebrates TENNESSEE ARCHIVES MONTH! October 2009

**It's not too early to start planning, so start planning now!**

**Copies of the STA Action guide can be requested from the STA newsletter editor at the address below or at:**

**[www.tennesseearchivists.org/ActionGuide.doc](http://www.tennesseearchivists.org/ActionGuide.doc)**

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