

Tennessee Archivist

Volume 36
Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Society of Tennessee Archivists



Photo of Sam's Jazz Club courtesy TAMIS



Photo of Ned Irwin courtesy Washington County Archives
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnfwcta/wctnarchivesphotogallery.htm>



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Spring 2013



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ISSN: 1528-6436
www.tennesseearchivists.org

Editors' Message

Greetings, *Tennessee Archivist* readers!

Welcome to the Spring edition of our association newsletter. Despite the somewhat quieter time of year for our association, we are still pleased to bring you an issue full of interesting information for (and from) our community.

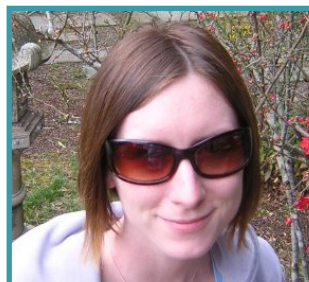
Our Member's Spotlight feature turns one year old with this issue! We are very happy to highlight Ned Irwin, County Archivist and Records Manager, Washington County, Tennessee on this one-year anniversary. Ned is a long-time member of STA, first joining in 1987! Read on to find out about his influences and his most memorable archival experiences. We also have information about a new radio show featuring archival materials from the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound which is a lot of fun.

Alas, it is time again to say some good-byes as well. Jill Knoke-Staggs has been our student columnist for the last year and we bid her a fond farewell as she graduates from UTK's School of Information Sciences and ventures out into the wide world of archives. We must also express our gratitude to Chapel Cowden, STA's newsletter co-editor for the past 2 years. Chapel has accepted a position as the Health & Sciences Librarian for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and will be moving on after the Spring newsletter. Though she is veering away from the archives path, she assures us that she'll still find ways to poke her nose into primary sources!

Our last student columnist, Amanda Carter, has been hard at work since she graduated a year ago. She has spent the past year working for the HistoryMakers through a competitive fellowship and she shares her experiences with the STA membership in this newsletter.

The STA Annual Meeting is shaping up nicely and our Vice-President, Ralph Sowell, tells you all about it in his column. We round out the newsletter with a bevy of professional development opportunities for archivists. Professional development is important to our field and we strongly encourage you to get out there and get involved!

Warmly,
Chapel D. Cowden and Jennifer Randles



President's Message

Eric S. Head

Greetings, I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well!

Over the past number of years, many of the President and Vice-President messages have centered on the changing nature of Archives in the 21st Century, specifically focusing on how the changing nature of technology is affecting our profession as well as utilizing the new technologies to promote and market our institutions.



I spoke in my last column about my concerns with the preservation of records that are “born digital”, meaning they are records we are tasked to preserve but that have only ever existed in a digital format. How are traditional, paper-oriented archivists learning to cope with these digital only records? To that end, we have secured the services of Christopher “Cal” Lee of UNC-Chapel Hill to speak at the Annual Conference this fall on Preserving Digital Records. Cal is a noted “expert” on preserving digital media and has worked with the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) run by the Library of Congress to educate on preserving these records. Cal’s workshop will be a special session held Friday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We believe the topic is of such importance to the members that we did not want it to conflict with any of the other regular session offerings so it is being offered separately on the Friday of Conference week. We are extremely happy that he will be able to speak on this topic and want to encourage everyone to not only find the time to attend, but to spread the word to others in the field. This will be a unique opportunity to hear from someone whose primary focus is saving our digital media.

As always, if you have any comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc.: my door, phone or e-mail box is open and I invite you to contact me.

Eric S. Head
ehhead@knoxlib.org
(865) 215-8800

Vice-President's Message

Ralph Sowell

No April Fool's!

The STA2013 annual conference in the “Queen City of the Cumberland” is coming together!

I'm delighted to announce that we will host a workshop on “born digital records” conducted by nationally renowned expert in the field, Dr. Christopher (“Cal”) Lee, Associate Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Preservation of digital records is a pressing issue within all levels of archival practice, and STA is fortunate to have such an acclaimed expert in the field to conduct such a workshop. I urge all colleagues who have an interest in born digital records to plan to attend this workshop on Friday, October 18.



Also, remember that the annual conference will be Oct. 16-18 at the Riverview Inn in Clarksville, Tennessee. The theme this year is “Listen Up! Discovering, Sharing, and Preserving Our Stories.” We will keep you posted on developments throughout the year. If you'd like to participate or need further information, please contact me by email: drsowell@gmail.com; or by phone (TSLA): 615.253.3471.

Let's Go Peay!

Ralph Sowell

Vice President, Society of Tennessee Archivists

Student Affairs

Jill Knoke-Staggs

Salutations Archivists!

We are creeping into spring with barely a whisper of warmth. I am quite looking forward to being rid of this chill, but am, otherwise, wary of the spring as it brings me that much closer to graduation and my impending job search. My hope is that my coursework in technology and digital libraries will give me a specialized skill set in digitizing collections. I would be curious to hear what types of digitization projects you have going at your institution. How have your skill sets been shifting with the advent of digital archives?



Jill and University of Arkansas archivist
Amy Allen.

The University of Tennessee has welcomed Dr. Carolyn Hank as the new faculty archivist within the SIS department. Dr. Hank has been helping me plan the next SAA meeting, which should also be the one in which we elect new officers for fall. Dr. Hank has many plans and ideas for archives studies at UTK. It will be an exciting time for the field at the university! I only wish I could extend my studies to be a part of it.

I do have to graduate, but I do not have to end my pursuit of education. I have chosen, as my capstone for graduation, the ePortfolio option rather than the comps exams or thesis. This option appeals to the future archivist in me as it is a way to collect and preserve my most noteworthy works in the SIS program. I then take those works and offer analysis and synthesis of the information presented as it pertains to my future in this field. This piece will continue to grow with me as I progress through my career. I will add works and reformat as appropriate so that it is a dynamic website highlighting my personal achievements. Though this is something that I am doing to fulfill my graduate requirements, I would encourage any professional to consider creating a similar product. It is a great means to showcase important works and have them readily available should the need arise.

Jill Knoke-Staggs

UTK-SAA President, MLIS Candidate

jill.knokestaggs@gmail.com

Member Spotlight

Ned Irwin, Washington County Archives

Introducing: Ned Irwin

Institution: Washington County, Tennessee Department of Records Management and Archives

Position: County Archivist and Records Manager

Years as an STA member? First joined in 1987.

You can contact Ned at:

Ned Irwin

County Archivist and Records Manager

Washington County, Tennessee

P. O. Box 219

103 West Main Street

Jonesborough, TN 37659

Phone: 423-753-0393

Email: nirwin@washingtoncountyttn.org



What has been your most memorable experience in an archive (as an employee or a user)?

It is hard to identify one above so many memorable experiences in the archive. One that stands out because it reveals the serendipity factor in an archive was the time I was searching through some old Washington County court records and came across a four-page, handwritten deposition taken down by Andrew Jackson when he was a judge in a case that had its origins in the State of Franklin, a case known as Ingram's Heirs vs. Cocke. Here was something of significant historical and legal value in Tennessee history that had been lost, which I had neither expected to find nor even been looking for, and there this suddenly recovered piece of history lay in my hands.

Who has been most influential in your career?

Two people: Clara Swann, who gave me my first professional job as an archivist in Chattanooga, and the late John Thweatt, who was the first person to welcome me into Tennessee Archivists (as STA was then known) and who became a mentor and good friend before his untimely passing.

What drew you to the archives field?

I think it was my lifelong love of history. Being an archivist has allowed me to make a living doing something I enjoy—working with the documents from which history is written and associating with the historians who write it. It has even permitted me to research and write a little myself.

Scholarships & Awards

MARY C. BARNES ARCHIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being taken for this scholarship.

The Mary C. Barnes Scholarship Fund was established in 1998 by the Metropolitan Archives of Nashville and Davidson County and the Friends of the Metro Archives for the purpose of providing monetary assistance to new archivists in Tennessee.

The scholarship provides monetary assistance to attend the biannual meetings of the Society of Tennessee Archivists.

Applicants for the scholarship fund should be: (1) employed at least one year in a archives or a related field with archival duties in a Tennessee city or county archives, library or historical society and (2) spend at least 50% of the work day in an archival domain as defined by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Those wishing to apply for the scholarship should submit a letter of introduction, a current resume, and proof of employment which fulfills the above requirements (such as a job description) to:

Ken Fieth

Director of the Metropolitan Archives of Nashville & Davidson County

3801 Green Hills Village Dr.

Nashville, TN 37215

Mark Your Calendars!

Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting

August 11-17, 2013 in New Orleans, LA

Society of Tennessee Archivists Annual Meeting

“Listen Up! Discovering, Sharing,
and Preserving Our Stories”

October 16-18, 2013 in Clarksville, TN



Join our facebook group by
clicking above to join the
conversation!

Professional Development

DigCCurr Professional Institute: Curation Practices for the Digital Object Lifecycle

May 12-17, 2013 & January 6-7, 2014

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Institute consists of one five-day session in May 2013 and a two-day follow-up session in January 2014. Each day of the summer session will include lectures, discussion and hands-on “lab” components. A course pack and a private, online discussion space will be provided to supplement learning and application of the material. An opening reception dinner on Sunday, Continental breakfast, break time snacks and coffee, and a dinner on Tuesday will also be included.

This institute is designed to foster skills, knowledge and community-building among professionals responsible for the curation of digital materials.

Visit <http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute2013.html> for more information.

SAA: Appraisal of Electronic Records #1377

Tuesday June 25, 2013

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Kennesaw, GA

Co-Sponsor: Society of Georgia Archivists

Increasingly, archival records are created in electronic formats. As a result, archives of all types need to be responsible for the preservation of electronic records. After a review of the fundamental principles of archival appraisal and appraisal policies, you'll be introduced to the unique issues that need to be addressed when appraising electronic records. Case studies will highlight the practical aspects of appraisal when dealing with electronic records.

Upon completion of this course you'll be able to:

- Develop an appraisal policy for your archives.
- Include electronic records on records retention and disposal schedules.
- Address technical issues (such as metadata, software dependence, etc.) that arise when appraising electronic records.
- Appraise electronic records for your archives.

For more information, fees, and to register, visit <http://saa.archivists.org/events/appraisal-of-electronic-records-1377/407/>.

In The News

East Tennessee Quiver is shaking up the airwaves

If you are in Knoxville, you may have heard something new *and* old on the airwaves.

Bradley Reeves, co-founder of the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image & Sound (TAMIS), is spicing up Thursday nights with his show *East Tennessee Quiver* on Knoxville radio station WDVX. The show started in January 2013, and focuses on “a unique blend of vintage jazz, swing, jump blues, and country jazz recordings” from East Tennessee and beyond. So along with stars like Peggy Lee, Dizzy Gillespie, and Dean Martin, listeners are exposed to regional artists such as Frank Roberts, the Dixieland Swingers, and Charlie Boyd through archival materials from TAMIS collections.

There is something else connecting this diverse musical list besides the age of the selections. Reeves is dedicated to showing the breadth of influence of African-American music on *all* musical genres from the 1920s through the 1960s. And boy, there is a lot to discover!

Music is not the only thing you'll hear during the show. Featured guests are invited on to share their experiences and personal favorites with the audience. Recent shows have featured local historian Robert Booker, jazz saxophone great Lance Owens, and sound guru David “Seva” Ball.



Images courtesy of TAMIS

Quiver is unique to WDVX, which is known for its focus on bluegrass, roots, country, and Americana genres. However, listeners seem to appreciate the variety: the station gets lots of requests and feedback during airtime from people enjoying the show. During a recent 2-week fundraising drive for the station, *Quiver* consistently broke its goals by bringing in over \$200 in pledges each night it aired.

Ready to hear some great music? Set your dial to WDVX at 10 p.m. Eastern on Thursday nights. Out-of-town listeners are not out of luck: you can listen online at WDVX.com, and even ask for favorites through the online request form.

Jennifer Randles

Adventures of an Archival Fellow

Amanda J. Carter

What a year this has been! Before graduating from UTK last May, I was preparing to move across the country and say a teary goodbye to good ol' Tennessee when I was awarded one of the six 2012 – 2013 Increasing African American Diversity in Archives: The HistoryMakers Fellowship, Mentoring, Training and Placement Institute fellowships. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that I would be placed at Franklin Library, Fisk University, in Nashville after a three-month intensive immersion program in Chicago! I was quite relieved as well as honored not only by the fellowship but also by the opportunity to remain in an area I have grown to love. I hope that trend continues after this fellowship, but in the mean time I wanted to share my experience with the fellowship and the fascinating collection I have been processing here at Franklin Library.

From June through August, the fellows traveled to The HistoryMakers in Chicago for training. We attended weekly lectures and discussions in African American history with Dr. Christopher Reed and archival theory and practice with Dr. Cecile Salvatore. Dr. Katherine Wisser gave a two-day workshop on EAD and EAC-CPF standards and Mr. Leon Dash gave another two-day workshop for oral history training. The fellows used this knowledge to evaluate, summarize, and create EAD and EAC-CPF finding aids for the video oral history interviews held at The HistoryMakers. We also processed and created EAD and EAC-CPF finding aids for physical records of the “An Evening With...” series that were produced in-house.

The fellows also toured the University of Chicago archives, the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College, the Midwest branch of the National Archives, the Vivian Harsh Collection at the Carter G. Woodson branch of the Chicago Public Library, and Chicago State University's Archives and Special Collections and attended the 2012 SAA Annual Conference in San Diego. Learning about the different types of special collections and archives gave us all a chance to better understand both the variances and the innovations within the field, such as Chicago State University's automated storage and retrieval system, Rover.

In mid-August, I arrived back in Nashville to begin processing a collection of one of the first architectural and engineering firms in Tennessee and the oldest minority-owned in the United States. McKissack & McKissack Architects and Engineers, Inc. started in Nashville in 1905 by Moses McKissack III who was later joined by his brother, Calvin. From designing the Universal Life Insurance Company's headquarters in Memphis to the 99th Pursuit Squadron Airbase in Tuskegee, Alabama, the McKissack brothers' business grew throughout the region east of the Mississippi during the twentieth century. While their offices are no longer located in Nashville, McKissack & McKissack is still in business and run by the Moses McKissack III's granddaughters.

The McKissack collection, consisting of over 60 boxes and numerous sets of blueprints, was

“Adventures...” continued

donated by the family of William DeBerry McKissack (Moses III's son). Almost all of the materials within the collection pertain to the early- to mid- twentieth century under the leadership of Moses III and Calvin. While the large majority of the materials consist of labor and supply receipts for the building projects, there have been some fascinating and unique finds. One such object is a leather wallet stamped “Poro College.” Poro College was an African American beauty school begun in the early twentieth century by Annie Malone, a mentor of Madame C.J. Walker. Aside from the amazing old photographs, this collection also holds World War II era Christmas cards, a 1949 publication by the National Negro Business League titled, “The Dawn of a New Day for the Negro,” a ticket booklet from the Pythian Hotel Bathhouse in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and a plethora of blueprints that document much of southern African Americans’ rich history including the National Baptist Sanitarium Bathhouse in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and the Morris Memorial Building in Nashville.

Processing of the collection is scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2013. If you would like to know more information about the progress of my fellowship or my challenges and interesting finds in processing the collection, check out the blog I have been keeping all year:

<http://thehistorymakersfellows2011.blogspot.com/>.

Amanda J. Carter

Franklin Library, Fisk University

IMLS HistoryMakers Fellow 2012-2013

Please Renew!

Membership in the Society of Tennessee Archivists enables all of us who are dedicated to the preservation, administration, access, and use of archival materials to keep up-to-date with important developments and make a valuable contribution to the archival profession in the State of Tennessee.

For more information, including membership levels, visit <http://www.tennesseearchivists.org/membership.html>.

To renew, please include institution name, phone number, and e-mail address (if applicable). Make checks payable to “Society of Tennessee Archivists” and mail to STA’s mailing address:

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Tennessee Archivist is published by the
Society of Tennessee Archivists.

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and submissions to:

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