

# TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

SUMMER 1986  
BILL SUMNERS, EDITOR

## FALL MEETING IN JOHNSON CITY

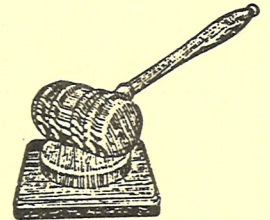
"The World of Archives" will be the theme of the fall meeting of the Tennessee Archivists to be held November 7 and 8 in Johnson City. The meeting, sponsored jointly by the Archives of Appalachia, Jonesborough-Washington County History Museum and the East Tennessee State University department of history, will offer sessions on both the world within archives and the worlds in which archivists work.

Participants will examine their own world in sessions Friday which focus on computer-based systems for intellectual management of archivists. The first session will feature presentations on OMMS, a MARC-based fully automated system tied to the OCLC network, and ACSAS, which utilizes a microcomputer and commercial software to provide subject access to a multi-media collection. Remarks by speakers in the second session, who come from variety of educational backgrounds and have had different types of archival training, will be a springboard for a discussion of archival education led by John Thweatt of the State Library and Archives.

A third session Friday will focus on the worlds within and outside archives as Bill Sumners of the Southern Baptist Convention, Virginia Lyle of the Metro Archives in Nashville, and Ozella Scruggs of the Greene County records project describe their strategies for building both donor and researcher constituencies.

"A Collector Looks at Archives" will be the topic of dinner speaker Dr. Tom Burton, a professor of English at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Burton and his students began collecting folklore field recordings in the 1950's and this oral history archive became the nucleus of the

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## OFFICERS

The Tennessee Archivists elected the following officers at the May meeting in Nashville.

President: Jean B. Waggener, Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Vice-President/President Elect: Sally K. Ripatti, McClung Collection, Knox County Public Library  
Secretary: S.K. Airee, University of Tennessee at Martin, Museum/Archives  
Treasurer: David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

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## U.S. ARCHIVIST NOMINATED

On May 7, President Ronald Reagan forwarded the nomination of John Agresto for Archivist of the United States to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. The Committee has oversight responsibility for holding a confirmation hearing on the nomination. The committee scheduled a hearing for August 13th.

A number of professional organizations, including the Society of American Archivists, have announced opposition to the nomination. The SAA Council in a resolution expressed its opposition to the nomination, stating "that the nomination appears inconsistent with the legislation (which established an independent National Archives) and the intent of the Conference Report (on the legislation)."

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## FALL MEETING (from p. 1)

Archives of Appalachia when it opened in 1978. Since then Dr. Burton has worked with the Archives to build collections of local ballads, jack tales and oral history, and his talk will examine the benefits of this partnership to him as both a scholar and a collector. Following the dinner, the department of history will host a wine and cheese party at historic Rocky Mount, original capitol of the Southwest Territory.

On Saturday morning, November 8, participants will meet in the Visitor's Center in nearby Jonesborough for coffee and donuts followed by programs on two allied professions. First, three leading local museum directors will examine the commonalities and conflicts between curators and archivists. Next Dr. William E. Kennedy will present a slide show on historic preservation, public and private, in Tennessee's oldest town as a prelude to walking tours of Jonesborough.

All meetings Friday will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Johnson City, where a block of rooms has been reserved at special rates for meeting participants. For additional information on registration and accommodations, contact the Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614 or call (615) 929-4338

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### BASIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

A workshop, "Introduction to Preservation of Library and Archival Materials" will be held November 6-7 at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee. The instructor for the workshop, which will include demonstrations and slide presentations as well as lectures will be Lisa Fox, coordinator of the preservation program of the Southeastern Library Network (Solinet).

Sessions on "Things that go bump in the night" Causes of deterioration", "Incorporating preservation into accessioning and processing" and "Incorporating preservation into research and exhibits" will begin at

1:00 p.m. on November 6. The workshop continues at 9:00 a.m. the following day with sessions on "Where do I go from here? Supplies and services" and "What do I do when I get Home? Planning a preservation program". The fee for both days is \$25 and includes course materials, two coffee breaks and a reception Thursday evening.

The Solinet preservation program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, has sponsored a variety of workshops and seminars throughout the southeast since it began in 1985. According to Ms. Fox this workshop is one in a series "designed to acquaint librarians and archivists with the causes of deterioration and to outline practical, inexpensive steps to slow that deterioration." The Tennessee Archivists and the Archives of Appalachia are cosponsors of this workshop.

Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. For additional information, contact the Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.



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### STATE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST POSITION

The Select Committee of the Tennessee Library and Archives Management Board, on the selection of the State Librarian and Archivist, is soliciting suggestions from all Tennesseans concerning desirable qualities for the State Librarian and Archivist. The committee welcomes nominees for the position, both from within the state elsewhere. Please direct all suggestions and nominations to:

Ms. Dee Roberts  
Director of Personnel  
Secretary of State's Office  
Tennessee Librarian and Archives  
403 Seventh Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37219

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THE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church



The Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a denominational agency responsible for the preservation of records and promotion of knowledge of the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Its primary responsibility is the administration of the Historical Library and Archives, but the Foundation also sponsors and manages several other educational and promotional programs.

The Historical Library and Archives was begun under the sponsorship of the Historical Committee of the General Assembly, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1935 and was first housed in a vault at the denominational college, Bethel College, in McKenzie, Tennessee. When the Cumberland Theological Seminary separated from the Bethel College campus, moving to Memphis and changing its name to Memphis Theological Seminary in 1964, the "Historical Vault" collection moved, too. In 1965 the collection adopted the name, "Historical Library and Archives" and one year later became a part of the Seminary Library.

Following the incorporation in 1980 and with increased funding, the Foundation Board of Trustees was able to hire its first full time employee. Jane Williamson was hired as Archivist and began work in September, 1982. Until this time, student assistants and library staff had maintained the collection under the supervision of the Historical Committee and later the Historical Foundation. Having a full time staff allowed the Foundation to open up a separate office and to provide adequate care and development for the collection. An MTS library addition completed in 1982 provided the space for rented area for the fourth floor. This remained "home" for the Foundation from 1982 to 1985. In 1985, office space became available in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Center. This arrangement afforded not only the advantage of a first floor location with greater accessibility and identification, but also placed the Foundation in the same complex with the national headquarters of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church housing the offices of the General Assembly and program boards, the printing press, and the resource distribution center.

Funding for the Foundation and the Historical Library and Archives is supplied largely through Our United Outreach, the combining of financial support from the congregations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which are made toward the total budgets for the boards, agencies, and institutions of the denomination.

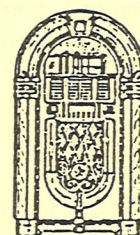
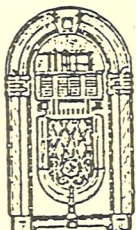
The Historical Library and Archives collection of approximately 7,300 volumes and 15 file cabinets, contains various historical materials from both the Cumberland Presbyterian and Second Cumberland Presbyterian Churches. Collected over the years through the efforts of numerous historians, it presently contains the printed minutes of synod and presbyterians, records and publications of denominational boards, agencies and institutions, and the session records of many Cumberland Presbyterian congregations. Personal papers, the bulk of which are sermon manuscripts, of several prominent CP are ministers and included in the collection. In addition, the Historical Library and Archives contains curriculum materials, monographs, periodicals, clippings, pictures, photographs, sound tapes and a small museum.

Within the limitations of its small staff, the Foundation attempts to respond to all reference inquiries. Half of the research inquiries involves biographical or genealogical subjects and approximately one third seek information about a particular Cumberland Presbyterian congregation. Priority is given to inquiries from CPC and SPC denominational personnel and congregations.



For more information on the Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church write to 1978 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104 or call (901) 276-8602. Jane Williamson serves as archivist for the Historical Library and Archives.

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### THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC

The Center for Popular Music is a new archive and research center at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Devoted to American popular music in the broadest sense, both historically and stylistically, the Center will be gathering records, tapes, videos, photographs, sheet music, and other materials relating to popular music. An extensive reference library of books and periodicals will also be part of the Center's holdings. The Center will serve as a resource not only for faculty and student research, but for visiting scholars as well.

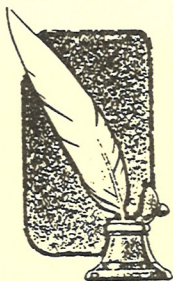
In addition to building a research collection, the Center's plans call for an extensive program. Included are publishing a journal, producing radio programs, developing educational materials for use in public schools, doing oral history interviews with musicians and music industry figures. The Center will also host academic conferences and sponsor guest lectures.

The Center for Popular Music is one of the Centers of Excellence which are being created on public university campuses in Tennessee under a program sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the Center and its activities, it is not attached to any one department at MTSU, but works closely with faculty drawn from the Music, English, Mass Communications, History, and Speech & Theater departments. MTSU has an active and distinguished record of involvement with popular music. Faculty members, including such respected music writers and researchers as Charles Wolfe and Don Cusic, have been involved in record production, have written entries for the American Grove's Dictionary, have served as consultants for Time-Life Records, and have played active roles in the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The campus sponsors the largest and most well-respected Recording Industry Management Program in the nation.

Director of the Center is Paul E. Wells. Wells has a combined background in music research and the record business. From 1975 to 1978, he directed JEMF Records, a series of historical and documentary phonograph records and monographs published by the John Edwards Memorial Foundation at UCLA. He then served as director of production, promotion, and operations for CMH Records, an independent bluegrass and country label in Los Angeles whose artists included Merle Travis, Grandpa Jones, Lester Flatt, the Osborne Brothers, Jim & Jesse, and Johnny Gimble. He holds an A.B. in Music from Clark University and an M.A. in Folklore from UCLA.

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## ARCHIVAL CERTIFICATION

The August, 1986 SAA Newsletter contained a modified version of the certification plan that was originally published in the July, 1985 issue of the newsletter. It incorporated changes in wording as well as some more substantive changes. These changes have been made in response to the comments and recommendations received from the many archivists who participated in discussions about certification at regional meetings during the past year as well as those who wrote letters to the original certification subcommittee, the Committee on education and Professional Development, and the SAA officers and Council.

The key points in the revised certification plan are:

### Purpose of certification

--Certification is designed for the practicing professional. Qualifications include both education and experience. Certification will not effect entry into the profession.

### Initial Certification

- Certification by petition to be available for only the first two years.
- Certification by examination to be the standard and continuing means of demonstrating professional competence.
- Interim Board to determine the scope and content of the examination.

### Recertification

- Five-year term dropped from the revised plan. Interim Board to consider extending length to certification period.
- Recertification achievable through either (a) taking the current version of the examination or (b) submitting evidence of continued archival experience and activities
- Point system dropped. Interim Board to develop recertification plan based on on-the-job experience, continuing education, contributions to the archival profession, and activities in allied arts.

### Administration

- Academy of Certified Archives (ACA) to be constituted after 100 archivists have been certified, rather than the 200 proposed in the 1985 plan.
- Members of the Interim Board to be appointed by Council but need not be Fellows of the Society as originally proposed.
- Members of the permanent governing board to be elected by the members of the Academy.

### Certification at Tennessee Archivists meeting

Participants in a session on the certification of archivists at the Spring Meeting of the Tennessee Archivists expressed an overwhelming approval for certification. A straw poll showed no opposition to the concept of certification. Participants in both discussion and the poll viewed certification primarily as a vehicle for setting standards for an improving the image of the profession. There was less feeling that certification would be a factor in employment decisions, since most employers were believed to be either unimpressed by and/or unwilling to pay higher salaries for certified personnel. Only half of those polled were interested enough in certification to pay the proposed fees.

The session participants expressed much concern in the discussion and written documents (6 of 19) about the need for standardized education program/credential to compliment individual certification. This issue was of particular concern to younger, entry-level participants.

Grandfathering proved to entirely uncontroversial. Time did not permit a detailed discussion of the recertification plan, but some concern was expressed in the written comments about the proposal's emphasis on publications, presentation of papers, etc. and the effect such requirements might have on employer support for certification and the



(certification continued)

ability of some competent archivists to meet the requirement.

The greatest reservation about the proposal were not its usefulness, content, implementation or effect but its cost. Most questions were directed not to the initial expense but to the cost of recertification and the annual maintenance fee of \$25 per year, or a possible life time cost for entry level archivists or several thousand dollars. Many in the group also expressed a need for standards stringent enough to validate the credential.

--Ellen Carrison, Discussion leader/reporter  
East Tennessee State University

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### TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS AWARD DEADLINE EXTENDED

At the 1985 Spring meeting of Tennessee Archivists, the membership approved a recommendation to establish, beginning with the Fall 1986 meeting, an annual award to the agency determined to have made the greatest contribution to the archival profession during the year. The awards committee is to be composed of the three immediate past presidents of the organization and chaired by the one longest out of office.

The Awards Committee for 1986, Delanie Ross of the Mississippi Valley Collection at Memphis State University, John Thweatt of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Marice Wolfe of Vanderbilt University Archives, chairman, developed the following criteria and procedures which were approved at the Spring 1986 meeting.

The institution or organization being nominated for a Distinguished Service Award should have achieved distinction in one or more of the following ways:

- Demonstrably contributing to the development of archival theory and/or new archival practices.
- Serving its constituency and/or professional associations in an outstanding fashion.
- Showing extraordinary ingenuity and resourcefulness in improving efficiency by operation or improving methods of work.
- Going well beyond the normal performance requirements expected of an archival agency and so being an incentive to others.
- Publishing exemplary and meritorious finding aids, collection guides, statements of available service, and the like.
- Developing over a period of years an archival program of such depth and scope as to warrant especial recognition.

The awards competition is to be announced by the presiding officer each year at the Spring Meeting of Tennessee Archivists. Members of Tennessee Archivists are welcome to nominate their own agencies or others for the award to be presented at the succeeding Fall Meeting. Nominations must be received by the chairman of the committee before August first of the current year. The committee is empowered not to make an award if in its judgment there is no suitable recipient. The award will recognize significant accomplishment and will be commemorated by the presentation of the award to the selected agency and announcement in appropriate archival publications.

In view of the latitude afforded by the November dates of the Fall Meeting and the fact that 1986 is the first year in which the Distinguished Service Award is to be presented,



the awards committee, with the approval of the Tennessee Archivists Executive Committee, has extended the deadline for nominations to 1 October 1986. Please send your recommendations including a description of accomplishment and supporting documentation, if appropriate, to Marice Wolfe, Vanderbilt University Archives, Nashville, Tennessee 37240.

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### "Looking Back at Tennessee Project"

The Tennessee State Library and Archives, as a part of Homecoming '86, is copying historical photographs that tell how Tennesseans lived. Thousands of photographs owned by individuals from one end of the state to the other have been copied by the project team from the State Library and Archives. Phase I of the project ended on June 30, 1986, after visits to 34 counties across the state during which approximately 7,000 photographs were copied. Phase II of the project is scheduled to begin in September with visits scheduled in other locations across the state.



### Genealogical conferences

The State Library and Archives has sponsored a series of genealogical conferences. The first workshop was held in July at Knoxville, the second in August at Memphis and the third conference is scheduled for November 14-15 in Nashville. The Nashville workshop is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society. For more information contact: Mr. James Hoobler, Tennessee Historical Society, War Memorial Building, Nashville, TN 37219.

### Coffee County Collection trashed

A valuable collection of historical material from Coffee County, including hundreds of photographs and other items dating back to 1818, has been buried under tons of trash in Montgomery County, where they were being compiled in Homecoming '86 volume on Coffee County history. A custodian for the Clarksville company that was hired to do the work mistakenly thought the box of ready-to-print pages was garbaged and shipped it off to the landfill. Six days later the material was discovered missing. The text and some 500 black and white photographs along with some 32 pages of color pictures were to have provided a pictorial history of Manchester and Coffee County and represented more than 5,000 hours in production work. Some of the pictures for the book dated back to 1818 and had been loaned by area residents for the publication. According to Dr. Judy West, the author, an estimated 80 percent of the document had been copied either by Manchester or state archives officials prior to their transfer to the printing company. However the remaining 20 percent were the "choicest items."

### Tennessee: The Unfinished Century

A dozen Tennesseans, 100 years old and older, contributed to the East Tennessee Historical Society's documentary entitled "Tennessee: The Unfinished Century." The program shows how the state has changed as seen through the eyes of the centenarians. Photographs and rare films from the National Archives and private collections supplement the recollections of these individuals. Funds from the Tennessee Humanities Council and Tennessee Homecoming '86 supported the film's development. For details, write Mark V. Wetherington, East Tennessee Historical Society, 500 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

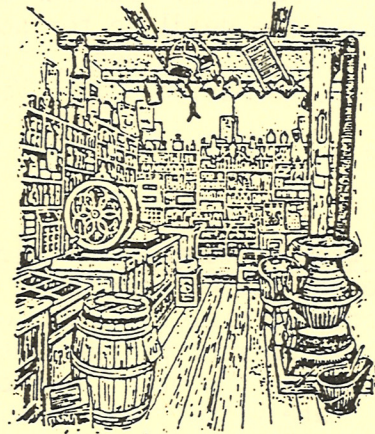
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## TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

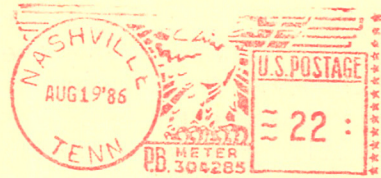
The newsletter is an occasional publication of the Tennessee Archivists. Members of the society and other interested persons are encouraged to submit brief articles, information on acquisitions, openings, publications, staff, exhibits, special programs, and grant projects for inclusion in the newsletter. The editor appreciates your suggestions and comments about the content and the style of the newsletter. Send material to:

Bill Summers  
Sunday School Board, SBC,  
E.C. Dargan Research Library, MSN 142  
127 9th Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37234



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