

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 1987

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mike Thomason, president of the Society of Alabama Archivists, has asked to speak to our group at the fall meeting about the newly formed Southern Archivists Conference (SAC). He has indicated that SAC would like Tennessee to become a member of the conference, and Kentucky as well, if they are interested. We will be pleased to have Mr. Thomason address the group this September.

The Southern Archivists Conference proposal is printed as it was accepted in April 1987 by the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA) and the Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) at a meeting in Columbiana, Alabama. The Society of Georgia Archivists chose not to affiliate with SAC, at least for the present. They will consider the idea again at their fall meeting.

Tennessee Archivists members need to read the proposal and take time to consider the ramifications of such a move for our orginization should the Tennessee Archivsts decide to officially become a member of SAC.

The potential benefits of such a cooperative venture are great—increased resources, an expanded pool of talent and ideas to draw upon, etc. There are at least two drawbacks which might affect Tennessee Archivists. The first is travel. If we affiliate with SAC would you be able to attend an out—of—state meeting as regularly as you attend the in—state Tennessee Archivists meetings? If the majority of our membership feels they would be unable to attend SAC meetings, both SAC and Tennessee Archivists should question the value of our participation.

A second area of concern is our two-meeting--continued on page 2-

TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY ARCHIVISTS TO MEET AT PARIS LANDING

The Tennessee Archivists and the Kentucky Council on Archives will hold a joint meeting at the Paris Landing State Park on September 17–18, 1987. Early reservations are required to hold rooms in the park lodge. Members should receive program and registration information in July. The deadline for lodging reservation is August 10.

MINUTES - TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS SPRING MEETING

Tennessee Archivists Business Meeting convened at 4:55 p.m. on April 9, 1987 with Jean Waggener presiding. In the absence of Dr. S.K. Airee, Dr. Marvin Downing took minutes.

When the reading of the minutes was called for, Downing moved that the organization dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

David McWhirter gave an informal Treasurer's report. In response to questions earlier in the year about the level of spending he indicated that the Tennessee Archivists had subsidized the good workshops at Vanderbilt and ETSU. As usual, David was prepared to receive dues. He is planning for a membership list to be sent to TA members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TA Brochure. Sara Harwell reported

-continued on page 6-

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year system. It appears that both Alabama and Mississippi each hold one meeting a year and have shared a second meeting a year for the past several years. The formation by those two state of SAC posed no real changes in their meeting structures. Would Tennessee Archivists continued with our regular two meetings a year and have the SAC meeting as a third meeting every other year? If not, a structural change for our organization might be involved. Even though the SAC proposal does not so state, general agreement at the meeting seemed to favor SAC meetings in the spring. Tennessee Archivists' Articles of Organization (VII-1) state: "There shall be an annual meeting held in the spring at a Middle Tennessee location, at which meeting officers will be elected and other necessary business transacted."

Since our spring meeting is mandated to be in Middle Tennessee, and this is usually our best-attended meeting for geographic reasons, one possibility would be to amend our Articles of Organization and change our business/Middle Tennessee meeting to the Fall. The question of our other yearly meeting, currently held in the fall, must also be considered. This meeting alternated between East and West Tennessee and serves an outreach function, drawing new members as we visit different parts of the state. The fall meeting is a Tennessee Archivists tradition, rather than a formally constituted session.

If we join with SAC and commit as much as possible to attending and supporting its everyother-year meetings (and there was discussion about changing to a yearly format in the future), we might find our organization meeting in each end of the state once every four years. Would this serve our group as well as the current practice does?

Please consider these questions of policy, travel, and any other concerns you might have. SAC is a new group and is likely to welcome proposed changes.

There was a lively discussion between archivists from Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia in April and I am sure that Mike Thomason will expect the same from Tennessee and Kentucky.

Plans are under way for our fall meeting on September 17-18 at Paris Landing State Park. If will be a special occasion, combining our tenth anniversary with a joint meeting with the Kentucky Council on Archives. Because of the popularity of our meeting site, we will have to get our reservations in earlier than usual. Please start making your plans to attend the meeting now. Local Arrangement co-chairs Jean Waggener and Sara Harwell and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Souly

Sally Ripatti President, Tennessee Archivists

Ease Into Autumn

ATTEND TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

FALL MEETING

September 17-18, 1987

PARIS LANDING STATE PARK



Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi Archivists Meet

Some 70 archivists from at least five southeastern states met on April 26-28 in Columbiana, Alabama. The meeting included sessions on cooperative collecting policies, cooperative conservation concerns and state reports on the NEH-funded newspaper projects. Donn Neal, Executive Director of the Society of American Archivists spoke on the relationship of SAA to regional archival organizations. Newsletter editors from the three states responded to his remarks and shared their perspectives on how relations can be improved between regional groups and SAA.

The focus of the meeting centered on the discussion of forming a regional organization. Much time was spent in discussing the advantages and disadvantages of such an organization. In separate state meetings the societies from Alabama and Mississippi voted to form the Southern Archives Conference. The Georgia society members decided to let the membership at the fall meeting vote on participation in the conference. The conference will be holding its first meeting in the spring of 1988 in Oxford, Mississippi.

SAA Initiate Certification Program

The Society of American Archivist Council, by a 8 to 2 margin, voted to initiate a program of certification for the archival profession. In reaching its decision, Council committed itself to appoint at its June meeting an Interium Board to implement plans for certification by petition and examination, as well as to design and then to implement a plan for recertification. As a first step, the Interium Board will submit a detailed plan and budget by December 1, 1987, for Council approval.



IN NEW

The Society of American Archivists will hold its annual meeting in New York,
September 2-6. The Grand Hyatt Hotel will serve as the headquarters hotel. The 1987
Program Committee selected 98 representatives from almost 200 proposals. Session topics cover a wide spectrum - business archives, conservation, religious archives, management, automation - something for everyone. Six pre-conference workshops will be offered in conjunction with the meeting. They are:

Archival Fundamentals (9/1); Archives: An Introduction (8/31-9/2); Basic Archival Conservation (8/31-9/2); Documentation Strategy Seminar (8/31); Oral History in the Archives (9/1-2); Understanding the MARC Format for Archival and Manuscript Control (8/31-9/1).

Tours are scheduled for Wednesday September 2. Sections and roundtables will meet on Thursday, September 3. President William Joyce will deliver his address on Thursday, followed by a reception at the New York Public Library's Astor Hall. Sessions are scheduled for all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The meeting is scheduled to end on Sunday afternoon with a luncheon and closing remarks from incoming SAA President Sue Holbert.

PROPOSAL TO FORM A REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATION

- The organization will be known as the Southern Archivists Conference, (SAC).
- 2. All members of participating state archivists organizations will be members of SAC.
- 3. The purpose of SAC is to foster closer cooperation among archivists in the region and advance the interests of our profession.
- 4. SAC will meet every other year beginning in 1988 at a convenient location. The meeting site will rotate among the states represented by the member organizations. Plans for the meeting will be the responsibility of the host state.
- 5. SAC will be governed by a committee composed of the presidents and vice-presidents of the member organizations with the president of the host state's society chairing the coordinating committee for the year preceding the meeting in his/her state. The coordinating committee will meet as necessary, but no less than once a year.
- 6. The committee will assess any financial obligations for SAC activities among the constituent societies, normally following the principle of equal shares.
- 7. The committee will decide upon the appropriate mechanism for making any changes in the purpose, organization and membership requirements for SAC.
- 8. A state society may join SAC by a majority vote of its members attending the joint SMA/SALA/SGA meeting in Columbiana, Alabama, or subsequently by a majority vote of its members at a regular meeting. Applications from states entering by the latter means must receive the approval of SAC coordinating committee.

The societies from Alabama and Mississippi voted to be part of the Southern Archivists Conference. The Society of Georgia Archivists will poll their membership at the fall meeting in Atlanta on joining SAC. Tennessee Archivists have been invited to be a participating member of SAC. This item will be a discussion item at the fall meeting business session.

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS APPOINTMENTS

Sally Ripatti, President of the Tennessee Archivists, announces the following appointments.

Membership Committee:

Doris Martinson, Chair Knox County Archives

Marie Tedesco (East Tenn.) Archives of Appalachia East Tenn. State Univ.

Mary Teloh (Middle Tenn.) Special Coll., Med. Ct. Library Vanderbilt University

Marvin Downing (West Tenn.) Univ. Tenn. Martin Archives

Newsletter Editor: Bill Sumners, E.C. Dargan Research Library, Sunday School Board, SBC.

Education Officer: Dr. Ellen Garrison, Center for Popular Music.

Representative on the SAA Committee on Regional Archival Activity:
John Thweatt, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION FILM LIBRARY

The Conservation Film Library lends audio-visual materials free to Tennesseans. Programs are available on 16 mm or half-inch VHS video cassettes. The collection includes titles suitable for all age groups on subjects including archaeology, ecology, forestry, folklife, geology, history, planning, recreation, and most any general or specific environmental concern. The library is also the distributor of the audio-

visual collections of the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities.

A film catalog is available by writing:

Tennessee Dept. of Conservation Film Library 701 Broadway Nashville, TN 37219-5237

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BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY
NAMES FELLOWS FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan announces the award of seven fellowships to support research on problems relating to modern documentation. The fifth year of the Research Fellowship Program for Study of Modern Archives is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New York, and the Division of Research Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities. The recipients of this year's fellowships are David de Lorenzo, Gallaudet University; Lawrence Dowler, Houghton Library, Harvard University; Paul McCarthy, Alaska and Polar Regions Department, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; James O'Toole, History Department, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Dennis Rowley, Lee Library, Brigham Young University; Lee Stout, Pattee Library, Pennsylvania State University; and Richard Szary, Office of Information Resource, Smithsonian Institution. Also named as Affiliate Fellows are Barbara Filipac, John Hay Library, Brown University, and Frederick Stielow, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland.

The range of proposed studies includes an analysis of the MARC AMC format in providing user access in an on-line environment; the definition of questions and development of methods for assessing research needs of users; identification of elements of post-employment management education for archivists; a theoretical

BENTLEY FELLOWSHIPS -continued-

exploration of the idea of permanence; and analysis of the principle of provenance; a study of communication structures in higher education; and development of a plan for a prototype historical information system for the Smithsonian's proposed integrated bibliographic system.

Information about the 1987 program (including research prospectuses) and application forms for the 1988 program can be obtained from the Assistant Director, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113.

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MINUTES

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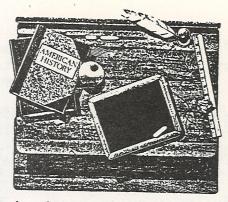
that she and Marice Wolfe are working on a publicity brochure for TA. She said that a single fold with pictures would cost \$72 for 500 copies and assumed that 1000 would cost twice that amount. Some

members thought the figure for 1000 would be considerably less than \$154 because a large part of the initial cost is for setting up. A discussion followed on the number to be printed. Since the brochure will be distributed at workshops, meetings of other states' organizations, and the SAA, and mailed out also, Ellen Garrison moved that the number to be printed, the form and distribution be left to the discretion of Sara and Marice. David McWhirter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. Margaret Shea indicated the committee's membership consisted of Jim Tingen for East Tennessee, Margaret Shea, Middle Tennessee and Jane Williamson, West Tennessee. She supported the idea of a brochure for promoting membership.

TA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD. Marice Wolfe spoke about her work concerning the award during spring, 1987. She requested that nominations be sent to the award chairman, John Thweatt by August 1st. Marice pointed out that a person may nominate his/her own institution.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Chairman Jim Neal reported the following nominations: Vice-President/President Elect - Sara Harwell; Secretary - Norma Thomas; and Treasurer - David McWhirter. Joining Neal on the committee were Marvin Downing and Steve Cotham. Loris Foster moved election of the slate, and Ellen Garrison seconded. Motion carried. Sally Rippati, incoming president, gave a brief response about TA prospects for the coming year. Sally then presented a



CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

The SAA Continuing Education program

is pleased to announce the first two in its series of new workshops being developed with the help of a matching grant by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Mellon Foundation.

"Archival Fundamentals: Appraisal" is a one-day workshop being developed by Maygene F. Daniels of the National Gallery of Art. This workshop will be taught first on 1 September, at the SAA annual meeting in New York and again as part of the Midwest Archives Conference, 15-17 October, in Columbia Missouri.

"Starting an Electronic Records Program," a one-day workshop developed and taught by Margaret Hedstrom of the New York State Archives, will be first offered on 22 July, at the NAGARA annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This workshop will be offered again in conjuction with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, 15-17 October, in Charleston, West Virginia.

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- MINUTES - (continued from page 6)

photographic gift in appreciation for the many contributions of outgoing President Jean Waggener.

EDUCATION LIASION TO SAA. Ellen Garrison reported on a conference in Savannah on the subject of archival education. Ellen discussed the issue of certification with members. She also suggested a one day continuing education workshop.

NEW BUSINESS. Jean Waggener made some comments concerning a recent meeting that she had with the new Tennessee State Library and Archives Director. She distributed a list of archival priorities and asked for comments from the members. Jean was concerned about the State Advisory Board to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission which she has chaired since 1982. Jean reported on her attendance at the Tennessee Heritage Alliance meeting at Monteagle on April 8.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. The fall meeting will be a joint meeting with the Kentucky Council on Archives. A reception will be held on Thursday, September 17, and regular sessions will be Friday, September 18. Other state and regional meetings were announced with dates and places.

Bill Summers moved for adjournment and several seconds were heard and the meeting was adjourned.

From the Editor:

In April, Sally Ripatti and I attended a joint meeting of the archival societies from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the idea of a regional archival organization. After much discussion, the societies from Alabama and Mississippi voted to form the Southern Archives Conference (SAC). The Georgia members will vote on the proposal in November. Our organization has been invited to join the Conference. In order to become a part of SAC, we may need to adjust our meeting schedule and perhaps make some changes in our constitution. I hope that our membership will vote to participate in this regional organization. The benefits we can gain from SAC far outweigh some logistical problems. Please come to Paris Landing State Park prepared to discuss this proposal.

Two other matters need the attention of our organization. Many states around us are deeply involved in the U.S. Newspapers Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project involves bibliographic control, locating copies and preserving historically valuable newspapers. Tennessee is not involved in the project. Funds for this progaram are still available from NEH.

Ours is one of two states that have not developed a needs assessment statement for its archival program. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission has funded needs assessment projects and would probably fund the project for Tennessee.

In both of these areas we need the State Library and Archives to take a leadership role. The TSL&A needs to initiate the effort to develop grant proposals for these two projects. Of course, librarians and archivists from across the state need to be involved in the proposal and project implementation but depend on the State Library and Archives for leadership in

this area.

The Society needs to take some direct action (resolutions, committee) to alert the TSL&A of these concerns. I welcome your response and ideas about these two matters.

Bill Sumners, Editor



TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS MEMBERSHIP LIST May, 1987

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Wood, Jack Darrel 121 Walnut St. Jackson, TN 38301

Zimmerman, Mary Tennessee State Library & Archives 403 7th Ave., N. Nashville, TN 37219

Members please check the list for errors in name spelling and address. If your name has been omitted or if any information is incorrect, please notify the Secretary of the Tennessee Archivists, Norma Thomas.

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

Tennessee Archivists invites memberships from all persons interested in Tennessee's archives and historical resources. The society publishes an occassional newsletter and holds two meetings annually and elects officers at the spring meeting. This year's officers are:

President - Sally Ripatti, McClung Collection, Knox County Library

Vice-President/President Elect - Sara Harwell, Vanderbilt Univ.

Secretary - Norma Thomas, Archives of Appalachia, ETSU

Treasurer - David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society

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