

TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

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TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

is the newsletter of the
**Society of Tennessee
Archivists**

Members of the Society of Tennessee Archivists and others are encouraged to submit articles and information on recent acquisitions, publications, exhibits, special programs, grant projects, personnel changes and employment opportunities of interest to the archival community for inclusion in this newsletter.

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ROBERTSON COUNTY ARCHIVES RELOCATES INTO NEW BUILDING

by Yolanda Reid, Robertson County Archivist

The Robertson County Archives began when a major restoration project on the interior of the Robertson County Courthouse in 1891, provided interested citizens with the opportunity to approach officials regarding the poor storage of the older county records stored there. County records were moved out of the wet courthouse basement and into the slightly damp basement of the annex building, which was the former Springfield Post Office built in 1915. The annex was larger—about 3,500 square feet—and an improvement. Thus the Robertson County Archives was created and housed on the lower level of the Courthouse Annex Building.

Between 1982 and 1987 no county funding was provided except for utilities and a telephone extension out of the County Executive's office. Many wonderful volunteers from the Retired Teachers, the D.A.R., and the D.A.C. worked diligently to unfold, clean, and arrange records dating from 1796 through the 1970s. Simple office supplies, including paper and pencils, were foraged from different county offices or contributed by volunteers. In an effort to gain funding, civic clubs, community organizations, and city governments were visited, presented with an informative program, and encouraged to donate. The words "possible grant" brought about feverish efforts to obtain money!

The Older Workers' Job Program and Green Thumb Clerks began helping the volunteers in 1983. This program and volunteers kept the Robertson County Archives open and accessible to the public. The county commission began funding a part-time staff and a minimum budget for supplies in 1990. Each year the staff diligently kept track of the number of patron visits, correspondence received, and volunteer hours contributed, in an effort to impress the county commissioners. Yearly reports reflecting these statistics were sent to the commissioners with the request to "Please, please support the archives as you would any other county office." Support and encouragement from various county offices soon followed. When county officials realized that the county's records were being well managed, the archives was allowed to provide records management for several county offices' current records.

New support surfaced when one county commissioner helped his mother obtain her Social Security benefits using the archives' records. Another official had a land boundary dispute settled using the archives' records, while several other officials were using the archives' records to find official county roads. Suddenly, the archives was seen in a different light. It was no longer just a place to search for family history, but a critical facility for storing valuable and necessary records of county government, which was exactly what we had been preaching.

In October 1997 the county constructed a new detention facility, which left the jail, built in 1967, empty. An enthusiastic county executive and a hard-working building and grounds committee turned the idea of converting the va-

(Continued on page 2)

cated jail into a new archives facility into reality. As discussions continued it became apparent that funding would be provided for the massive renovation of the old jail necessary to meet the needs of the county archives.

Although the thought of a new building was wonderful, the condition of the old jail building was frightening. Peeling paint, a leaky roof, and a nauseating odor were part of this building. Could the bars be removed? Could the plumbing fixtures be removed without damaging the structure? When the final decision was made to go ahead and renovate the building, the months following were anxious, but fortunately the architect and building committee accepted knowledgeable and experienced input to accommodate the specific needs of the archives. Soon broken doors were removed and a miracle cleaning was initiated.

Ultimately, the county spent \$300,000 on the project which included a completely new humidity-controlled heating and cooling system, loads of roller shelving, and a properly ventilated room for deacidification. It is a wonderful feeling to realize that once the last of the mildew is cleaned from the old location it won't have to be done again!

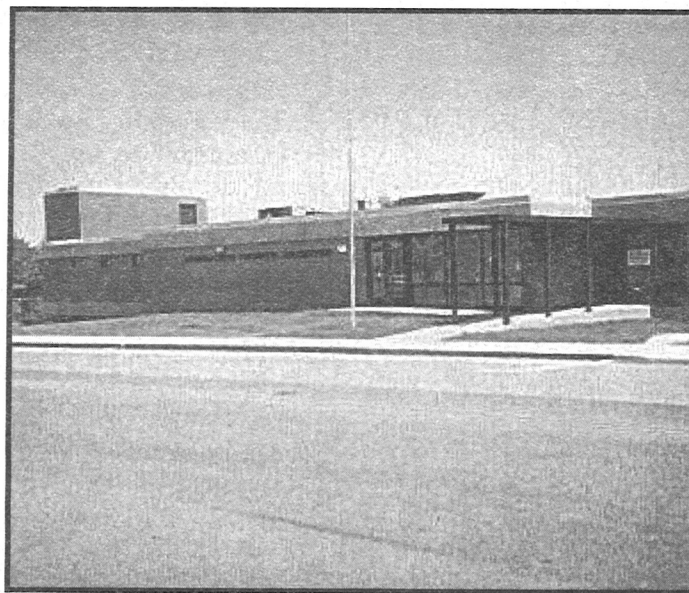
Although it seems now to have been a painfully slow process, in the last fifteen years the archives has advanced from a little staff with marginal funding, to a bright, newly renovated facility. We now proudly have 12,000 square feet, a \$62,000 county-funded budget (not counting the building utilities), two full-time and one part-time county paid staff members, and two Green Thumb workers. Perseverance works!

The move into the new facility, located at 504 South Willow Street, in Springfield, began on Friday, April 14, and the new archives opened to the public on Tuesday, April 18. The records most used by patrons were moved first that weekend. Once again, it was volunteers who provided the extra trucks, trail-

ers, and muscle power to make the move successful. They worked nights and weekends assembling shelving and moving books and boxes, and they served as team leaders for juvenile and adult offenders assigned to community service helping with the move.

On a Sunday afternoon in July, 2000, the archives hosted a special open house to celebrate the new facility. While volunteers provided refreshments, visitors were given tours of the new renovation. Over one hundred and fifty guests visited our new home. The months of hard work making the archives a wonderful place to visit were rewarded as visitors and county officials commented with pride.

For those of you who volunteer in archives in your own area of the great State of Tennessee, you are appreciated! To the archivists and their staffs, keep smiling while you continue to struggle; success does happen.



The new Robertson County Archives Building
504 South Willow St., Springfield Tenn.

President's Letter



I want to begin by encouraging everyone to attend the Society's fall meeting in Johnson City on November 8-10, 2000. Norma Myers and Ned Irwin from East Tennessee State University have made the arrangements for our first class accommodations and Jay Richiuso has put together a wide range of excellent programs. The diversity of the programs should appeal to everyone attending. My personal favorite (some bias acknowledged) is the database design workshop.

As part of our educational focus, we are attempting something new this year. We are offering our first scholarship (of many, hopefully) to our annual meeting. This scholarship will pay for registration and lodging expenses. I understand how difficult it is for local archivists to have to pay for attending Society's conferences. For the last eight years I had to pay all expenses except registration out of my own pocket. I'm not complaining though, because I know the knowledge gained was well worth the money I spent.

I hope to see you all in Johnson City.

John Dougan, President



An Archival View

by William W. Moss, Assistant State Archivist

"They shall turn their jails into archives" may not rank with "swords into plowshares", but it is in that good company. Elsewhere in this issue we celebrate the new Robertson County Archives, a converted penal facility now dedicated to the permanent preservation of the evidential integrity of the records of the government and citizens of that county. It is an example that others may emulate with profit to their communities.

Nothing is closer to the health of democracy than the survival of essential records, the evidence of accountable government and the rights and identities of citizens. Nothing is more important to confidence in government—confidence that citizens need to enjoy the fruits of democracy.

In an age of computers, within whose obscure workings records may become lost and distorted with-

out citizen knowledge, the observable record, the real and material immutable document that we can see without the aid of machines has yet greater value than it did in the age of our fathers and mothers. All praise to the archivists who keep them, and greater praise to the hundreds of volunteers across the state of Tennessee who give their time and effort—a kind of voluntary taxation—to the task of keeping them safe.

To all county commissions, executives, and other officials:

- | *Investment in good records management and archives...*
- | *Is not merely taking care of the past,*
- | *It is assuring confidence in the present,*
- | *And investing in the future.*

Tennessee Archives Institute Inaugurated

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), in conjunction with the University of Tennessee's Center for Government Training (CGT), is offering the first of a series of annual training programs on archives and records management, called the TENNESSEE ARCHIVES INSTITUTE.

The Institute is designed to be a 2.5 day introduction to some of the essential elements of archives management for local government records keepers.

This inaugural program will focus on the processing, organizing, and indexing of unbound records. In addition to hands-on training conducted by professional archivists and conservators, the Institute offers an opportunity for records keepers and archival staff

from around the state to meet and exchange information.

Participants who complete the program will receive joint certification from TSLA and CGT for having taken an approved course of archival training.

The Institute will be held in the auditorium of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Ave. North, Nashville, Tennessee.

For additional program or registration information, please contact Dr. Wayne C. Moore at (615) 253-3469, or email: wmoore3@mail.state.tn.us

The registration deadline is October 9, 2000.

TNHIST, a Tennessee history list serve, has been established on the Internet. This initiative is being sponsored by several local historians for the purpose of exchanging information relative to the annals of the state of Tennessee. It is a free service where members are welcome to discuss topics that would be of interest to others in the field.

This service is very basic—when a post is made to the list, everyone subscribed to the list receives this posting via email. Dispatches to the TNHIST list are unedited, but moderated. Common email "etiquette" must be maintained in order to remain on this list serve. Therefore, if you have a question about some aspect of Tennessee history, you can reach a multitude of scholars by sending a single message. Re-

plies to any question will be posted to the list for the benefit of all. It is our hope that this list as a running dialogue among all scholars of Tennessee history.



TNHIST provides a means for exchanging information on research topics, book reviews and other pertinent facts on Tennessee history that may be useful. Currently, there are approximately fifty members on the list. This list is not a genealogical service, and it is limited strictly to the scholarly pursuit of the history of Tennessee. To learn more about this service please refer to the following URL:

www.telalink.net/~georgemc/Debbie/tnhist

HISTORY OF THE MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE ARCHIVES

BY MATTIE MCHOLLIN, DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

With the signing of the charter in 1986 under the administration of its seventh president, Dr. David Satcher, the College Archives became the official repository for Meharry Medical College and the George W. Hubbard Hospital.

The Archives is the permanent repository and reference center for records pertinent to the history of Meharry Medical College and the George W. Hubbard Hospital. The Special Collections consist of the contributions of African Americans in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, health care, black hospitals and early black medical schools and a small collection on the history of blacks in the United States.



Meharry Medical College Library, Nashville, Tenn.

The Archives contain published and unpublished histories of the institution from its inception in 1876, including papers of the past seven presidents. The collections also include the papers of former deans and department chairs; departmental records; early school catalogs; personal collections, including the Ullman Collection, Leslie Falk, MD Collection, Matthew Walker, MD Collection; Metropolitan Nashville

General Hospital and Hubbard Hospital Merger; the R. F. Boyd Medical Auxiliary Collection; departmental histories; special program documents such as the *I Have a Future* Program, The Mound Bayou Project (Mississippi) and the Meharry

Maternal Nurse Midwifery Program; master theses; doctoral dissertations; Meharry yearbooks; college publications; published monographs and articles by Meharrians.

Other holdings include biographical collections of Meharrians and outstanding African American health professionals, museum objects, oral histories of early Meharry graduates and pictures of early faculty, early classes, early building on the South Nashville Campus (1876-1931) and the North Nashville Campus.

The Archives is located on the Meharry Medical College campus on the third floor of the library which is in the Kresge Learning Resources Center. It is open to the public, Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Access to some materials is restricted.

New Appointment at the State Records Center

By Bill Bisig, Asst. Division Director

The Department of General Services, Records Management Division is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Beverly Norment to the position of Records Manager. Beverly will be in charge of the records center, and micrographic operations. Her responsibilities will include the storage, retrieval and disposal of agency records, as well as managing our micrographic and future imaging operations.

Beverly has worked in the Records Management Division for the past 2 ½ years as a Records Analyst 3. Her outstanding work with agencies in the area of retention schedule development as well as working as a facilitator responsible for training classes has helped make the Records Management Division what it is today. Prior to working for the Records Management Di-

vision, Ms. Norment worked for the Department of Human Services, as an Eligibility Counselor for three (3) years. Her responsibilities included determining the amount of federal aid program participants would qualify for. Ms. Norment has extensive managerial experience in the private sector and is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

We would like to congratulate Ms. Norment on her appointment as a Records Manager. Beverly is a vital addition to our management team. Her expertise will help the Records Management Division continue to provide state agencies with quality services.



Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University Murfreesboro, Tenn.

by Dr. Lisa Pruitt, Director

It has been a busy year at the Albert Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University. Several of the newly acquired collections at the Gore Research Center include:

- The Beasley Collection of *The Band of Blue* documents (30 lin.ft.);
- Middle Tennessee Folk Festival records (20 lin.ft.);
- The Pickard Collection of various political memorabilia (3 lin.ft.);
- Various donations of Civilian Conservation Corps (Tenn.) materials;
- Tennessee College for Women memorabilia of Florence McFerrin (.5 lin.ft.);
- Tennessee College for Women Alumnae Association Records (.5 lin.ft.);
- The Kiger donation of scrapbooks of the Smyrna Air Base in WWII and of Hume Fogg High School, Nashville, Tenn. from the 1920s.

In addition, the Woman's Club of Murfreesboro has voted to place their historical records, dating to the early 20th century, in the Gore Center.

The following historical collections have been processed to some degree during this fiscal year:

- Photograph Collection. (ca. 7,000 items) Each was scanned and information about each item was entered into a searchable database linked to the images. The individual items were then re-housed in archival enclosures and clearly labeled boxes.
- Jim Cooper Papers. (400 lin.ft.) Initial survey and preliminary organization scheme completed.
- Margaret Lindsley Warden Equestrian Collection. (30 lin.ft. of archival materials, 2,500 monographs and serial publications). Archival materials organized, inventoried, and re-housed in archival folders and boxes. Publications database corrected and updated.
- James King Papers. (1 lin.ft.) Organized, re-folded, item-level database created. Ongoing effort to encapsulate the individual documents (which date from the early 1800s) in mylar film so that they will withstand frequent handling.
- John Bragg Papers. (60 lin.ft.). Processing completed.
- Buford Ellington Papers. (28 lin.ft.) Organized; re-housing and guide in progress.
- Albert Gore Papers. Approximately 3,000 files were re-housed using archival folders. Ongoing.

On a related preservation matter, Graduate Assistant Siony Flowers completed a Disaster Preparedness Manual for the Gore Center.

On the Internet, the web site of the Gore Research Center has been redesigned, including the addition of two new online exhibits. Four additional collection guides have been posted on the web site. The Center has initiated a

web-based newsletter to be posted on the web at: janus.mtsu.edu

MIDDLE TENN. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Middle Tennessee Oral History Project seeks to capture the memories of ordinary people from many walks of life in Middle Tennessee. University students, along with Project staff and faculty, will be recording interviews with members of the community over the next few years. This Project will focus on several topics:

- Middle Tennessee State University,
- African-American community leadership in Murfreesboro,
- State and local politics,
- Business and economic development in Rutherford County,
- Farm life and agriculture in Rutherford and surrounding counties,
- The town of Smyrna, Tennessee,
- Veterans (men and women) who came from this region or settled here following their military Service (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf War),
- Veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Tennessee,
- The history of medicine, public health, and hospitals in Rutherford County.

EXHIBITS

The Founders' Day exhibit, *Reflections in Time* is sponsored by the Development Office at MTSU. Ms. Susan Gear is the guest curator.

The exhibit *Changing Faces: Civil Rights at MTSU, 1965-2000* is being held in conjunction with the Phi Alpha Theta (history honor society) regional conference held at MTSU in February, 2001. This is also posted as an online exhibit on the Gore Center website. *Changing Faces* is co-sponsored by the History Department, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Disabled Student Services, and Women's History Month. Erin Toomey and Siony Flowers are the co-curators.

COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Director of the Gore Center also oversees the Rutherford County Archives. In this fiscal year, the two graduate assistants who manage the Archives on a day-to-day basis served approximately 350 patrons, excluding tour groups and classes from MTSU and local high schools. The graduate assistants have also continued the process of preserving and indexing loose records from the Chancery Court. Earl Pleasant, a part-time assistant, has nearly completed processing the records of former County Executives.

MARY C. BARNES ARCHIVES SCHOLARSHIP TO BE AWARDED

The Society of Tennessee Archivists is pleased to announce that The Mary C. Barnes Archives Scholarship will be awarded to a worthy individual to attend this year's annual meeting in Johnson City, Tennessee, November 8-10, 2000.

The Mary C. Barnes Scholarship was created in memory of Mary Catherine Barnes (1965-1998), an archivist who worked for the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Metropolitan Archives of Nashville & Davidson County. Her concern to further her archival education and training was the inspiration for the scholarship.

The scholarship includes free registration to the workshops, the meeting, the Thursday evening banquet, and accommodations for two nights. Transportation costs, meals, and other sundry expenses will not be covered nor can they be reimbursed. For additional information concerning the meeting, the meeting program, and forthcoming meeting updates, please visit the Society's web site at:

www.geocities.com/tennarchivists

ELIGIBILITY:

Those eligible are: undergraduate and graduate students in history, preservation, or archives programs who are working or volunteering in a school, historical, or local archives; individuals working or

volunteering in a county or other archival repository with a budget less than \$8,000 (not including salaries); be working full or part time for at least 15 hours during a seven day period; and possess a fundamental knowledge of archival skills and theories.

Applicants must be residents of Tennessee, be employed in Tennessee, or attend a school in Tennessee. Students or positions in museum studies, library disciplines, and related fields are not eligible.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

Applicants should send a letter of application no later than October 16. The letter should be no more than one page in length and should include the applicant's mailing address, daytime phone, reasons for wanting to attend the annual meeting, and a brief description of interest and experience in archives. In addition, applicants should include the name and phone number of at least one reference who can attest to the applicant's interest in the archives field. Applicant letters should be sent to:

Kenneth Fieth, Chair, Scholarship Cmte.
FRIENDS OF METRO ARCHIVES
1113 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37210
Phone: (615) 862-5880

MEMBER NEWS

The **Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library** is pleased to announce two additions to its staff—Robert Drake as Head of the Business, Science and Technology Department, and Bill Caulkins as Librarian in the Reference Department.

Mr. Caulkins received his MLIS degree from the University of Alabama, where he also earned a Masters of Arts degree. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Rhodes College in Memphis.

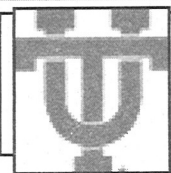
Mr. Drake received this MLIS degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He also received his B.A. degree at Rhodes College. Previously, Drake served

as the Government Documents librarian in the Business, Science and Technology Department, and reference librarian at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library.

Meharry Medical College has hired a replacement for their retiring director of archives and special collections. Mr. Quinton Jones was hired on June 5, 2000 as the new College Archivist.

Mr. Jones was previously employed by the public libraries of Nashville and Davidson County. He holds an undergraduate degree in history from Tennessee State University and he received his MLIS (Special Libraries degree) from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Carol Kuhnert has joined the staff of the **Tennessee Technological University Archives** on a one-year archives appointment. She will be working on the papers of President Emeritus Angelo Volpe. Ms. Kuhnert was previously employed in the president's office at TTU.



SOUTHEASTERN NATIVE AMERICAN DOCUMENTS (1763-1842) PROJECT

University of Tennessee Library Special Collections

by Dr. James B. Lloyd, Director

In September, 1999 the University of Tennessee Library Special Collections was notified that it had received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the project titled *Southeastern Native American Documents, 1763-1842*. This was a joint proposal with the University of Georgia Library in which Georgia was the lead institution and the University of Tennessee was a subcontract. Special Collections had to have a museum partner to qualify, in this case the McClung Museum on campus, and just for good measure we included manuscripts from the Tennessee State Library & Archives.

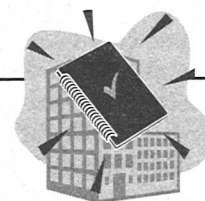
We spent the month of October setting up the office and hiring staff, Debra Roney and Lesli Zimmerman, then traveling to Georgia to learn how to digitize, mark up, and mount manuscripts and images dealing with the "Five Civilized Tribes of the Southeast." Debra and Lesli learned the TEI LITE DTD, hired a student to help, and began work scanning, watermarking, compressing, transcribing, marking up, and archiving. They then went to OCLC to learn CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog), the other means of access we are using in the project, and to Washington to learn XML (Extended Markup Language) in an effort to position the Library to better compete for further funding. Staff from both libraries are coordinating the markup, but Debra and Lesli are doing the CORC records for both libraries under the

supervision of John Reimer, Georgia's CORC Cataloger.

The records for this project will become part of GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online), Georgia's statewide online system, where they will be free to all. The primary audience is K-12 teachers, who can search the full text database, view the images, and download what they like to make their lesson plans. We are, in other words, attempting to introduce the use of primary sources into the K-12 classroom through technology.

In January of 2000 the grant team reconvened and decided to request grant funding for a second year. This time we included new partners—the Cherokee Museum in Cherokee, North Carolina and the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. At present, we are waiting to hear from IMLS. Preliminary indications have been favorable, and it does appear that we will exceed the goals set forth in the first grant by the end of the grant period—which were to mark up 500 items from our collection, the Museum, and the State Library and Archives; and to do CORC records on all 1,000 items (500 from Georgia). At this writing we have over 600 of our marked up records ready to go, and have done c. 500 CORC records (we did not start actual CORC production until late February; it will be our primary emphasis from now on).

Position Announcement Sevier County Records & Archives Manager



Sevier County Government is seeking applicants for the newly created position of Records and Archives Manager. The purpose of this position is to provide technical expertise and supervisory control to establish, operate and maintain an effective joint Records Management and Archives program for Sevier County Government.

Qualification requirements: A Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Library Science, Office Systems or related field; with five years of information management/archives experience or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience

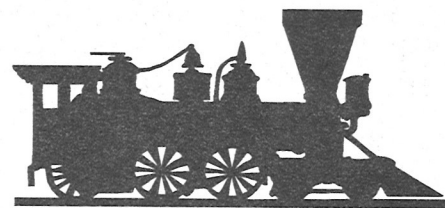
which provides the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for this position. Must have valid driver's license and be able to lift 50+ pounds on a regular basis.

To apply and to receive a copy of the full job description, please mail cover letter and recent resume to:

SEVIER COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
ATTN: LINDA CLARK
125 COURT AVENUE, SUITE 201-E
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library National Model Railroad Association Chattanooga Tenn.

By Gordon T. Belt



The A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library is the research library and archive for the National Model Railroad Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the history and preservation of railroading and scale model railroading. Named for Albert C. Kalmbach, publisher of *Model Railroader* magazine and founding member of the National Model Railroad Association, the Kalmbach Library provides both members and non-members with a variety of services, including research assistance, photocopy services, and video rentals and purchases. The Kalmbach Library also publishes how-to books and clinics for modelers, historical reprints of railroad-oriented publications, and contributes a monthly photo-feature to the organization's monthly magazine, the *NMRA Bulletin*. Model railroaders, model manufacturers, railroad historians and enthusiasts, writers, and publishers have all made use of the Kalmbach Library's services.

Recently, the Kalmbach Library began work on a history of the H. K. Porter Locomotive Works. The H. K. Porter Company was the leading manufacturer of the "industrial locomotive" and the third-leading builder of locomotives in the world, behind such giants as the ALCO and Baldwin. During the turn of the twentieth century, the industrial locomotive was a key fixture in steel mills, foundries, brickyards, stone quarries, gravel pits, sawmills, and sugar cane plantations throughout the world. H. K. Porter led the way in industrial locomotive design, having built

over 8,000 steam and diesel locomotives of various types.

The Kalmbach Library is working with author and NMRA member, Larry Hargis to produce a history of the company and their industrial locomotive fleet, as well as a reprint of their company catalog and roster of locomotives. The bulk of research material for this book was derived from the Kalmbach Library's collection of builder's photos and company catalogs, originally donated by Mr. John Kentlein. For over thirty years, Mr. Kentlein worked for the H. K. Porter Company as apprentice, draftsman, and ultimately, chief engineer. After H. K. Porter was sold to the Davenport Locomotive Works in 1950, Mr. Kentlein worked for the Pittsburgh Piping Company, but locomotives never left his life. After his retirement, he advised hobbyists in restoring locomotives and constructing miniature steam locomotives for amusement parks. Although Mr. Kentlein died in 1988, his legacy lives on for all who admire the art and craft of locomotive building in his superb collection of photos generously donated by his family to the Kalmbach Memorial Library. The book is tentatively set for publication during the Winter of 2000-2001.

For information about the A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library and our publications and services, please contact us by phone at: (423) 894-8144, fax: (423) 899-4869 or email at: lib@hq.nmra.org.

"If what William H. Kilpatrick, professor of education at Columbia University, said the other day, in a talk before the Southern Club of the university, on the importance of preserving southern historical records, is true—and there seems every reason to acknowledge that it is—southerners have no one besides themselves to blame if their states receive inadequate treatment in written histories. 'I went to one of the oldest counties of North Carolina,' said the professor, and asked for some papers of the Colonial period. The reply was: 'They are probably in that old outhouse you see. There are barrels and barrels full of old papers there. Nobody knows just what.' Mr. Kilpatrick told of many other similar incidents, including a conversation with a well-known historian of his time in Georgia, whom he urged to return to Georgia in order to work up the history of that State. The historian replied: 'Why go back to Georgia? I can study Georgia's history in Wisconsin better than I can in Georgia.'"

Christian Science Monitor
9/12/1924

The Curious Life of Cole Younger by Julia Rather, Tennessee State Library & Archives

The Tennessee State Library and Archives recently lifted the restriction on eleven letters written by Cole Younger, the famous Missouri bank robber allied with Frank and Jesse James. The letters are part of an addition to the John Trotwood Moore Papers. The collection has been microfilmed (mf. #1575) and is available for purchase or interlibrary loan. The letters have been transcribed as a convenience to the researcher.



Henrietta Younger & her
brothers: Bob, Jim & Cole
Younger

The documents were acquired through the family of Mary Brown Daniel Moore, wife of John Trotwood Moore, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist (1919-1929). Mary Moore's mother, Lizzie Brown Daniel, was Cole Younger's childhood sweetheart in Harrisonville, Missouri. The letters are dated 1901-1903 and 1914, with the majority of them written during Cole's incarceration at the Minnesota State Penitentiary. Most of the rest were written immediately following Cole's release; one was penned many years after his return to his childhood home in Missouri.

The fierce, bloody controversy along the Kansas-Missouri border on the eve of the Civil War provided the grim background for Cole Younger's youth. Missouri, admitted to the Union as a slave state in 1821, feared antislavery Kansas. Missourians believed their property would be overrun by antislavery contingents if Kansans voted themselves into the union as a free state. The Younger and James families, who lived within a few miles of the Kansas border, witnessed the ruthless border skirmishes. Cole Younger's sympathy lay with the citizens of his home state and he strongly believed that the preservation of their customary way of life should be defended at all costs.

When the Civil War broke out, Cole joined a group of Confederate irregular soldiers. These irregulars saw the war as an opportunity to lash out at Kansas and Union supporters without enlisting in the regular army. They terrorized the countryside,

robbed citizens, looted towns, and carried out a campaign of personal vengeance. Frank and Jesse James, cousins of the Youngers, were also involved with these Confederate guerrillas, and together with Cole were provided the groundwork for their future calling: robbing banks, trains, and stagecoaches.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, the struggle to maintain the necessities of food and shelter left the people of Missouri bitter and disillusioned. Local farms and businesses were ruined. Political restrictions shackled Confederate sympathizers. Frustrated over the sanctions of Reconstruction and the end of their old way of life, the James and Younger brothers chose to rebel in the manner which had become familiar to them as trained guerrillas. For the next decade, the James-Younger gang acquired notoriety by committing bank and train robberies in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri as they played cat and mouse with local posses and Pinkerton detectives.

Their thirst for adventure and quick money eventually led Cole Younger, his brothers, the James boys, and three outlaw accomplices to Northfield to participate in the robbery of First National Bank of Minnesota. The robbery of September 7, 1876 was a total debacle. An intuitive bank customer managed to warn the citizenry of Northfield that a robbery was taking place and some inhabitants responded with overwhelming firepower. The botched robbery resulted in the deaths of the three accomplices, a bank bookkeeper, a civilian caught in the crossfire, and the arrests and incarceration of Cole, Jim, and Bob Younger. All of the Younger brothers took bullets from the angry mob. Frank and Jesse James escaped the fiasco and fled either to Kentucky or Texas. The Northfield bank robbery netted the James-Younger gang \$26.70. The Younger brothers pleaded guilty to the charge of bank robbery in November 1876 and were ordered by the judge to spend the rest of their natural lives in the Minnesota State Penitentiary at Stillwater.

After serving five years of their sentence, efforts commenced to free the Youngers through a governor's pardon. Concerned family members and close friends petitioned the Minnesota governor to grant a parole on grounds that the Youngers' chaotic background had led them to a life of crime. Their repeated pleas fell on deaf ears but parole attempts surfaced off and

(Continued on page 10)

on for almost two decades. Family, friends, and influential citizens of Missouri and Minnesota wrote letters pressuring the Minnesota legislature to release the Youngers. The press of the day followed each parole drive with acute interest. Meanwhile, Bob Younger acquired a respiratory infection caused by a bullet he took in the chest during the Northfield incident. After thirteen years in prison, Bob Younger died at the age of thirty-five. His body was returned to his beloved Missouri for burial.

Cole began corresponding with Lizzie Daniel during the last parole drive. Lizzie, by this time, had married a prominent attorney of Harrisonville, Henry Clay Daniel, who also had been mayor of that community. Many of the letters Cole Younger wrote to Lizzie describe, in detail, his attempts at parole and release from prison, as well as comments about mutual family and friends in Missouri. The letters are lengthy and wordy. Cole pines for the blissful happiness of his boyhood and recalls his fondness for Lizzie when they were school children. He relates that he first took notice of her at school "because you were so full of life and as full of play as a lamb." Cole also mentions his outlawing days. He tells her how he was asked to exchange U.S. bonds, stolen in a bank robbery, into cash "for other parties." He tells Lizzie, "I ask no questions tho I had an idea where they got it." However, Cole is careful not to reveal too much by stating: "I know it was wrong but wrong or right I never betraid [*sic*] a friend."

Finally, in 1901, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill allowing a prisoner serving a life sentence to be paroled after serving twenty-four years if the Board of Pardons gave consent. On July 10, 1901 the board voted to release Cole and Jim Younger, now fifty-seven and fifty-three, on the basis that they were model prisoners. The following day they walked out of the Minnesota State Penitentiary free men. The Northfield Bank Robbery had cost them twenty-five years of their lives. One of the first persons to be informed of Cole's release was Lizzie. Cole sent her a telegram on the evening of July 10 announcing his freedom.

A visit to Missouri was out of the question. According to the strict rules of their parole, the Youngers could not leave the state of Minnesota. The brothers took jobs as tombstone salesmen in Stillwater. A repentant Cole wrote a letter of gratitude to Lizzie: "And as I said when I walked out of prison I thank my God, my friends, and the powers that be with all my heart." Jim, who suffered from severe bouts of de-

pression, never adjusted to the outside world. He took his own life in St. Paul, Minnesota in October of 1902. Cole wrote Lizzie a letter regarding Jim's suicide: "Pore Jim killed himself... Oh how could he have done so unless in the worst state of momentary insanity." Jim Younger's body was transported to Missouri to be buried beside his brother, Bob.

As Cole Younger's own health began to deteriorate, he became more and more homesick for his native Missouri. Cole sought permission to leave Minnesota and, in 1903, he was granted a pardon on the condition that he never return. He immediately journeyed to his childhood home. There is no indication that Cole ever saw Lizzie following his return to Missouri. After a few business ventures, the ex-outlaw found success on the lecture circuit recounting his exploits. Cole wrote a final letter to Lizzie in 1914 describing the pace of his hectic lecture tours: "I have been away from home half the time for seven years." Following a spell of ill health, Cole Younger died at the age of seventy-two on March 21, 1916. He was laid to rest next to his brothers in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The Cole brothers were all finally home.

The Cole Younger letters show him to be humble, hopeful, thoughtful, polite, reflective but not particularly remorseful. The letters mention some of his war and postwar activities but concentrate on his devotion to family and friends. However, he appears regretful when he writes from prison: "Lizzie, I have built so many air castles in the past and laid so many plans." The fascination with the exploits and controversies surrounding the James-Younger Gang continues 120 years after the height of their famous robberies making them permanent American legends.

SOURCES

Marley Brant, *Outlaws: The Illustrated History of the James-Younger Gang* (Montgomery: Elliott & Clark Publishing, 1997).

John Trotwood Moore Family Papers Addition, ca. 1894-1944, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

MARRIAGE RECORDS DESTROYED BY ACCIDENT IN THE KNOX COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE

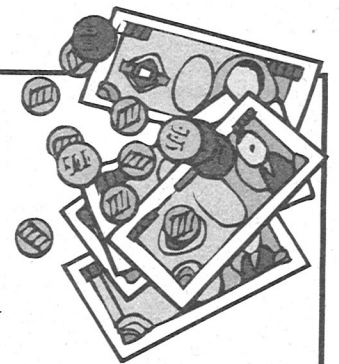
by Sonya Moreland & Doris Martinson, Knox County Archives

For years, the Knox County Archives has been trying to prevail on the County Clerk's office to send their old marriage records to the archives. Finally, in February of 2000 the marriage records arrived and Sonya Moreland, Senior Archival Assistant, began work on them as her project. As she began to accession the marriages, a rather large gap in the records was noticed; spanning from September 20, 1995 to October, 1998.

After speaking with Missy McMurray, the Marriage License Supervisor in the Knox County Clerk's Office, Ms. Moreland discovered that the original records (not to be confused with the marriage certificates filed with the State of Tennessee) had been loaned to the University of Tennessee for a statistics class. Archivist Doris Martinson informed Mrs. McMurray that those records should have never been loaned out, but transferred to the Knox County Archives. Ms. Martinson recommended that Mrs. McMurray request Mike Padgett, the County Clerk for Knox County, to issue a court order to retrieve those records.

The Archives contacted Mrs. McMurray regularly to check on the status of the marriage records. She responded that the staff was still in the process of locating them. In their last conversation, some resolution to this issue was made, albeit not one that an archivist would enjoy hearing. Mrs. McMurray confirmed that those marriage records had been destroyed; by whom and how is not known.

The County Clerk's employees in the Marriage Records Department now have the job of copying the marriage book entries for those lost years. In this, we will have something for inquiring patrons who wish to obtain a copy of their marriage certificate. We can only hope that after this records catastrophe that county officials will realize the importance of original records.



In early August Society treasurer Kathleen Smith mailed out reminders that this year's membership dues are now due. If you've already sent in your dues, we appreciate it! If not, please submit your dues to Kathy as soon as possible so we will have adequate funds on hand to cover pre-meeting expenses for this year's SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS meeting. If you didn't receive a reminder, please contact Kathy at (615) 322-2807, or by email at: smithk@library-vanderbilt.edu

THANKS!

SOCIETY OFFICER ELECTIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Nominating Committee Members

Gregory G. Poole, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN, chairperson
Email: gpoole@mail.state.tn.us
Phone: (615) 253.3473

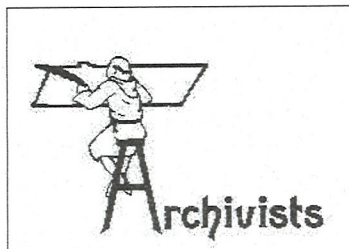
Gordon Belt, National Model Railroad Association, A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library, Chattanooga, TN
Email: lib@hq.nmra.org & gtbelt@bellsouth.net
Phone: (423) 894.8144

Richard Saunders, University of Tennessee-Martin Special Collections, Martin, TN
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MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

The Society of Tennessee Archivists invite 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. STA is a member of the regional association called the Southern Archivists Conference. Currently the four southern states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee make up the conference. A SAC meeting is held every other year in conjunction with the other states and each state alternately host the meetings.

STA publishes a quarterly newsletter and invites contributions from members and non-members. Officers are elected at the annual meeting.

Full Member (\$20/year) ☐ Institutional Member (\$20/year) ☐ Associate Member (\$10/year) ☐

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