

THE THOMAS S. STRIBLING COLLECTION TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

The literary history of Tennessee is filled with writers who have gained both national and international audiences in their efforts "to tell about the South." In the early twentieth century when the South was portrayed as little more than an "intellectual Sahara," a small group of writers established themselves as pioneers in the emerging Southern Renaissance, which culminated in the works of Faulkner, Wolfe and many others. One of the literary pioneers was Thomas S. Stribling of Clifton, Tennessee. Stribling, a writer previously little more than a literary footnote, has regained some of the status that he enjoyed in the 1920s and 1930s. This is due in no little part to the collection of his papers preserved at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Born on March 4, 1881, Thomas Sigismund Stribling grew up against a background of contrasts, his mother's side of the family having fought for the Confederacy and his father's side, the Union. The result was that Stribling became a doubter and questioner, particularly of morals, manners and social settings, a position well documented by his fiction.



Although Stribling prepared for teaching at the Florence (Alabama) Normal School and studied law at the University of Alabama, his interest in writing, an interest he had developed as a child, was so great that he was discontented doing anything else. Rejecting teaching school and practicing law, he began his career writing stories for Sunday School magazines, but was soon writing adventure stories. In 1921, *Century Magazine* published his first serious novel, *Birtheright*, a book dealing with the problems of an African-American educated at Harvard who returns to his hometown in Tennessee hoping to do something uplifting for his race.

Between *Birtheright* and his last novel, *These Bars of Flesh* (1937), Stribling turned out a dozen novels and a number of short stories, winning the 1933 Pulitzer Prize for *The Store*, the middle novel of a trilogy of the South that covers the years from the Civil War to the early 1920s. After 1937 Stribling continued to write stories for the *Saturday Evening Post* and various detective magazines. He died on July 10, 1965, in Clifton, Tennessee.

The Thomas S. Stribling Collection was acquired by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1989 as a gift from Mrs. William Hughes, the niece of the author. The collection is a large one, containing approximately 5,000 items and spans the period from 1907 to 1982. It is composed of book reviews of Stribling's works, newspaper clippings, literary contracts, and correspondence, among other items. The collection, because of its totality, allows the researcher the unique opportunity to view the multi-faceted career of Stribling's.

The vast majority of the collection consists of correspondence from Stribling's earliest years as a writer to the mid-1960s. The correspondence begins with the letters to his family while traveling in Europe (1914) and concludes with his acceptance of his illness and his death in 1965. One important part of the correspondence deals with publishing in the first three decades of the twentieth century. Stribling became one of the first of the Southern realists to "re-interest" a

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Northern readership in the works of a Southern writer. The correspondence allows the researcher to weave together the steps taken by Stribling to have his works recognized and published.

The social changes that occurred in the South in the early part of the century are an important part of the correspondence. Stribling was very aware of the metamorphosis of Southern thinking about African-Americans and wrote about the changes in his correspondence to his Northern and Southern friends. In the Edmund Haynes correspondence, Stribling describes a growing discontent with the old planter (master)-slave (subservient) mentality and his efforts to portray the plight of the African-American in a realistic manner in Southern literature.

The manuscripts are the largest portion of the collection. Due to the efforts of his widow, Luella Stribling, the collection of Stribling's writing is virtually complete. Thus the researcher has the opportunity to trace the development of a novel or short story through three or more variations.

The writings contained in the collection fall into several categories. One is the Sunday School and adventure stories that were published in such popular magazines of the period as *American Boy*, *Youth's Companion* and *Everybody's*. With their emphasis on titillating details, sensational and melodramatic plotting, and overt moralizing, these adventure stories closely anticipated elements that he would use in his novels of intrigue and adventure later in his career. Another category of manuscripts found in the collection are the various versions of his adventure novels, such as *Fombombo* and *Red Sand*. A third category is the "social conscience" novels such as *Birthright*, *Teefallow*, *Backwater*, *The Forge*, *The Store* and *Unfinished Cathedral*. These novels are the first major Southern novels written in a "revolt from the village" tradition. Although *The Store* and *The Forge* manuscripts are incomplete, the collection does include complete manuscripts of *Unfinished Cathedral*, and *The Sound Wagon*, a political novel. A small portion of Stribling's writings are unpublished short stories and novels.

The Thomas S. Stribling Papers represent an important contribution to the study of the life and works of a Southern writer. As one of the generating forces in the literary awakening which occurred in the mid-1920, Stribling, in his novels with Southern settings, applied the methods of critical realism to a broad and significant subject matter which

other writers had either overlooked or sentimentalized. In doing so, he brought to the forefront new themes, situations from Southern social history, and character types that more prominent Southern social novelists such as Erskine Caldwell, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, and Robert Penn Warren would treat similarly in their own fiction.

The Thomas S. Stribling Papers are open for public viewing daily at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. Operating hours are 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday through Saturday.

This collection has been microfilmed and is available on Interlibrary Loan.

LOOKING BACK AT TENNESSEE'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: ITS IMPACT ON ARCHIVES AND RECORDS IN TENNESSEE

A REPORT BY:

EDWIN S. GLEAVES

STATE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST

Introduction

Few celebrations and commemorations live up to expectations. I will leave the final assessment of *Tennessee 200* for wiser heads than I, but I am convinced that the impact of the bicentennial year's activities on our state's archives and records will be enduring and substantial. Much of that impact will derive from the projects developed and carried out by personnel from *Tennessee 200* and the Tennessee State Library and Archives, working with professionals and volunteers from all over the state. The report that follows consists primarily of the final report prepared by one of the key players in this project, Lauren Batte, who served as the Archives Program Assistant, bouncing back and forth between me and Carolyn Brackett of *Tennessee 200*, whose own ideas for projects continued unabated until the money ran out near the end of the year.

Tennessee 200 and the Tennessee State Library and Archives formed a unique and productive partnership during

Tennessee's bicentennial birthday year. The focus of this partnership has been two different projects, each with the purpose of preserving Tennessee's history through written records: (1) Saving Our Documentary Heritage workshops and (2) the World War II veterans survey. This partnership has, in my judgment, proven to be one of Tennessee 200's most successful endeavors during this bicentennial year.

Our first public announcement of the project came with a media event in Knoxville on March 8, 1996. At this event Governor Don Sundquist, Secretary of State Riley Darnell, and I were joined by local officials to announce the partnership and both projects. Shortly thereafter, a brochure on the project was distributed to county historians, county executives, county clerks, county registers of deeds, city recorders, churches and religious institutions, historical societies, Tennessee libraries, and others. We were off and running.

Saving Our Heritage Workshop Series

The first phase of the workshop series consisted of the workshops themselves, which were designed to teach the citizens of Tennessee how to properly conserve, organize, and access historical documents. Citizens in the state can find a tremendous wealth of historical documents at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, but there is also a great deal of information found in the county courthouses, libraries, and private collections. With this workshop series we sought to bring to those citizens information necessary for the long term preservation and use of these important sources on Tennessee history.

The workshops were offered in eight cities across the state: Johnson City, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Lebanon, Columbia, Martin, Memphis, and Jackson. The workshop was divided into three parts so each city was visited three times. The series began on March 20 in Chattanooga and concluded on June 7 in Jackson.

The information in the workshops was prepared by archivists at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, each of whom also served on the project coordinating committee. Carol Roberts prepared Part I of the series, which addressed the proper conservation methods necessary to insure long term preservation of paper and photographic documents; Jay Richiuso prepared Part II, which addressed the principles used in the arrangement, preservation and use of documents; and Chuck Sherrill prepared Part III, which addressed how to make historic documents available to the public while also protecting those documents.

The workshops proved to be a success with as many as 500 people representing over 250 different organizations registered. These citizens came from county and city governments, universities, local libraries, historical societies, and churches. Quite a few participants were not formally associated with an organization but interested in working with or beginning a local archives program.

The second phase of the workshop series was a grant program in which archival materials were distributed to fifty-one groups demonstrating programs to preserve public records of Tennessee history. Successful applicants were also asked to demonstrate a dedicated volunteer or paid staff person to oversee the use of the grant and related collection of documents.

The overall intent of the workshops program was to provide free instruction in the care of archival records to the citizens of Tennessee interested in the preservation of those records. Clearly we reached a good number of those citizens, many of whom came as representatives of larger organizations dedicated to preserving Tennessee history.

World War II Veterans Survey

The idea of a survey of veterans began several years ago with the archivists at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, who recognized the need to document the military experiences of Tennessee's World War II veterans. *Tennessee 200's* entry into this project provided the staffing, resources, and financial backing necessary to accomplish this endeavor. Through working relations with numerous members of the Tennessee State Library and Archives staff, we have been able to collect over 7,000 completed questionnaires from veterans of World War II who are native to or living in Tennessee.

We have asked veterans to share their military history as well as memories and experiences in this questionnaire. As many as half of these completed questionnaires have arrived with supplementary documentation including copies of discharge certificates, diaries, ship logs, unpublished manuscripts, and thousands of original World War II period photographs. The documentation which resulted will help to reveal the human dimension of this extraordinary period in American history.

We began to develop the questionnaire in February of 1996. The form was reviewed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives World War II veterans survey coordinating committee for input and suggestions. A pilot survey of Wilson County World War II veterans supplied by Col. Jim D. Henderson, formerly of the World War II War Maneuvers Commission, was conducted. After finalizing the questionnaire in early March it was sent to a printer with distribution beginning in late March.

Distribution was the biggest challenge with this project since there was no comprehensive mailing list of veterans of World War II living in or originally from Tennessee. It became apparent that direct mail would be a less than effective method of eliciting participation in this project. Many veterans were hesitant to participate until the true import of the project was communicated to them. This was accomplished through print, radio, television media and personal contact. Consequently, we used all available media, participating veterans organizations, other community groups, and enthusiastic individuals across the state who took a personal interest in the project.

To promote the project, *Tennessee 200* initially ran a series of press releases and then later hired a public relations firm, Varallo Public Relations. The focus of this promotion became the human side of the story of World War II. In many ways this was the most important aspect of the project, given the fact that the Tennessee State Military Department War Records Office has servicemen's records if they entered service from Tennessee. What did not exist was a collective location for the records on the personal side of the war. Dr. Charles Johnson at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has been doing individual in-depth interviews with veterans for many years but a large scale effort to locate and record the experiences of veterans had not been done.

On June 12, press releases were mailed to national media contacts to help locate Tennesseans no longer living in state. On June 27, a Statewide Media Advisory alerted reporters to the potential for a Fourth of July story concerning the project. This advisory included a list of veterans' names who had participated in the survey, demonstrated an ability to communicate their stories well, and were willing to be interviewed.

In the meantime, we continued our coordination with libraries, veterans organizations, historical societies, and the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs county officers with follow up mailings which included a letter, questionnaire, and return request card for additional copies of the questionnaire. In mid-July we did a similar mailing to all nursing homes and home health care agencies.

On July 4 the Bicentennial train, *The Spirit of Tennessee*, was formally opened to the public in Union City. At this grand dedication and opening event we set up a booth displaying World War II era photographs printed in poster size from the Tennessee State Library and Archives collection along with original World War II era posters from the Memphis/Shelby County Library History Department collection. From this booth *Tennessee 200* staff and local veterans helped to distribute questionnaires to the public while explaining the project.

The first major product of the survey project was a commemorative book entitled *Answering the Call: Tennesseans in the Second World War*, published in November of 1996. All surveys returned by September 20, 1996, are represented in this compilation, which includes the name of the veteran, home city at entry, year of entry, branch of service, final rank, theaters of operation, and year of separation. The 3,000 copies which were printed sold out almost immediately, and an additional printing of 500 copies was necessary to meet the initial demand.

I sincerely hope and believe that this collection will in time become a very valuable one for the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Perhaps it will be on par with the Civil War surveys collection. The Civil War surveys were done over several years and produced approximately 1,500 completed questionnaires; the World War II project was

carried out over an eight-month period and have resulted in over 7,000 completed questionnaires. We would like for this collection to become a valuable source of information for historians, genealogists, and World War II enthusiasts. The stories reveal the people of Tennessee who served their country in a major world conflict, and served their country well.



The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC), a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress, is pleased to announce that during the current fiscal year (October 1996-September 1997) the NUCMC World Wide Web page will contain a link to a search form that will provide researchers with free access to the RLIN AMC file through LC's WWW/Z39.50 gateway. The RLIN AMC file is widely recognized as a critically important source of information concerning archival and manuscript collections and includes all online cataloging created by NUCMC. To find the gateway, simply

locate the NUCMC Web page at: **<http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>**

Once there, click on either the NUCMC cataloging icon or the Utilities icon. No account number or password will be necessary to search the RLIN AMC file. Comments regarding the usefulness of the gateway and suggestions of ways to improve it are welcome. For more information concerning the gateway or the NUCMC program, contact the NUCMC Team, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4375 (telephone: (202) 707-7954; fax: (202) 707-7161; Internet: **nucmc@mail.loc.gov**).



Tennessee Newspaper Project Update

The *Tennessee Newspaper Project* has a web site:

(URL: **http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/~spec_coll/newspaper/tnphome.htm**).

The site currently contains some general information about the project, a brief history of newspaper publishing in Tennessee, staff contact information, links to other state newspaper project sites, and links to newspaper related sites. We are working on adding information from our state-wide newspaper holdings survey and from our current cataloging project. Our database of the survey data contains just over 10,300 records of newspapers held in about 270 Tennessee institutions. So far during our current phase of the project, we have catalogued, inventoried and created holdings records for over 600 titles held at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. These records are currently available through OCLC and we are working on making much of this information available on the web. For more information about the project please visit our web site or call us at (423) 974-4480.



LONG UNAVAILABLE, RARE FIRST EDITIONS GOING DIGITAL

Mention Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and people remember the tale of infidelity in Puritan New England from high school English class. Mention Catharine Maria Sedgwick's *Clarence*; or, *A Tale of Our Own Times*, another 19th century novel, and you get blank stares. But in his day, Sedgwick was just as well-known as Hawthorne.

In an effort to reconstruct and preserve the literary world 1775-1850, the University of Virginia is creating computerized versions of about one-third of the American fiction published during the era. The project will digitally archive the enduring classics, as well as obscure books long out of print.

Few readers today know that such famous works as *The Scarlet Letter* and James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* were a small percentage of the books published in the 18th and 19th centuries. The lesser-known works, however, made their mark on the literature of the day.

The authors of classics read, and were influenced by, "what you would tend to dismiss as junk fiction," according to Ronald Gottesman, an English professor at the University of Southern California. Many of the books that didn't become classics are inaccessible to most researchers.

"For a fair slice of these [now forgotten authors], there is no modern publication at all," said David Seaman, head of the U. Va. project.

For example, Sedgwick has only one book still in print – not *Clarence*. All her other works have been consigned to the musty shelves of rare-book libraries.

The fear that the books may fall apart in the rough hands of readers has kept many rare books locked away in library cabinets with dim lighting.

The \$600,000 project will scan 582 rare first editions into computers, so users can call up detailed replicas of the printed page on their computer screens. All the books are housed in Virginia. Once they are digitized, the project may expand to include books in other collections, such as Yale University and the New York Public Library, Seaman said.

The books are placed in a cradle and bathed in the bright light of special photo lamps and computerized camera records each page. Librarians delicately turn the pages, allowing the camera to scan again. A single book can take hours to be painstakingly recorded, said Karen Wagner, the project supervisor.

And for the first time, scholars from around the world now will be allowed to closely examine first editions of rare texts without traveling to Charlottesville. Ordinary readers might notice little difference between a first edition and a modern printing, which can amount to a changed word here or there. But to scholars those differences matter.

"The further you get away from the manuscript the author submitted, the more likely you are to have moved away from what the author wrote," Gottesman said.

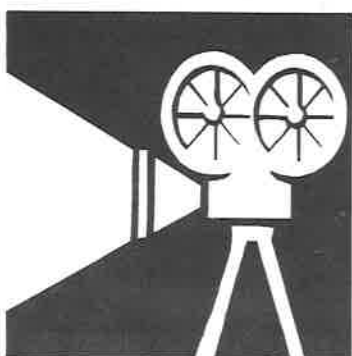
First editions also list other books printed by the same publisher, which gives researchers a glimpse of other titles that were popular at the same time.

The project estimates that by the summer of 1998, it will have scanned 125,000 pages. It will create two versions of each text – the digitally photographed original pages and text that has been typed into a database. Researchers will be able to use the typed version to do rapid searches of all texts in the database. For example, they could hunt for how often the word "liberty" is used in early American fiction.

Some of the texts will be released on the World Wide Web, but the whole collection will be sold to libraries on CD-ROM or available on the Internet for a fee.

The next stage of the project also has excited some literature professors. Seaman hopes to scan in the handwritten manuscripts of some of the texts.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS



MOVIES CENSORED IN NEW YORK: INDEX TO OLD SCRIPTS ONLINE

(ALBANY) “Frankly Scarlett, I don’t give a hoot.” Is that the way the original script of *Gone With The Wind* reads? The only way to find out is to look at the original script, and that is a lot easier now that an index to the scripts of 55,000 motion pictures produced between 1921 and 1965 is online at <http://www.sara.nysed.gov>, the web site of the New York State Archives and Records Administration.

Users can search the index by movie title, director or writer and get basic information about each film, including date, country of origin, manufacturer, and other writers involved in the script. A form for ordering the entire script can be downloaded. The form includes a section requiring anyone who wants a script to certify that they will abide by copyright laws. The cost of each script varies depending on its’ length. For example, the very lengthy script for *Gone With The Wind* would cost about \$50. Most others would be less than that.

The State Archives’ collection of movie scripts is one of the largest in the world. The State has the scripts because it used to play the role of censor. The practice began in 1921 when the (New York) State Legislature passed a bill establishing an independent commission to review and license films. It was responding to public pressure for government control over the brutality, crime and sex that was appearing in films. (New York) Governor Nathan L. Miller signed the bill into law as “the only way to remedy what everyone concedes has grown to be a very great evil.”

“The appeal of this collection to film buffs is obvious,” said State Archivist V. Chapman-Smith, “But serious scholars will also find that it is a valuable resource for examining shifting American attitudes towards sex, religion and morality.”

Among the basic information provided on the website is the state’s determination whether a film could be shown in New York. Most were approved, some were rejected, and still others were labeled with the word, “eliminations,” indicating that portions of the script that the reviewers deemed offensive had to be eliminated before approval was granted.

The case file on the 1934 film, *Cleopatra*, starring Claudette Colbert, indicates that state reviewers thought the movie was “immoral” and “inhuman.” They required many eliminations in the script, including “views of Antony kissing Cleopatra’s arm as she reclines on couch...” and “close views of man’s agonized face as spikes of wheel are about to pass over his body.”

School for Husbands, a 1947 film starring Rex Harrison had the following dialogue eliminated:

“And so when the oldest inhabitant was brought before the doctor, the doctor said to him: ‘How could an old man like you be a father in six different parishes?’ ‘Ah, said the old man.. I have a bicycle.”

During the 1950s, court challenges weakened New York's censorship law dramatically. By 1959, "indecent" and "immoral" were no longer grounds for denying a film a license. Only "obscenity" remained. These court decisions reflected society's increasing tolerance of mature themes in various forms of entertainment.

In 1965 the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a Maryland ban on the Danish film, *A Stranger Knocks* and demanded procedural changes in the appeals process of all state film censor boards. Because the New York State Legislature did not make the necessary changes in the law, the Board of Regents discontinued the Motion Picture Division on September 30, 1965.

The 55,000 film scripts are a small, but significant part of the more than 100 million archival records at the New York State Archives in Albany. Surfers of the Internet are encouraged to explore the other aspects of the Archives' website, including searching the online catalog, downloading publications, and viewing *Uniquely New York*, a virtual exhibit of some of the records in the State Archives. The Research Room of the Archives is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and researchers are asked to call ahead to (518) 474-8955.

—STATE ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (SARA), NEW YORK



NARA ARCHIVAL INFORMATION LOCATOR A Pilot Database of Selected Holdings

NAIL is a searchable database that contains information about a wide variety of the National Archives and Records Administration's holdings across the country. You can use NAIL to search descriptions for key words or topics, and then to retrieve digital copies of selected textual documents, photographs, maps and sound recordings.

Although NAIL contains more than 20,000 descriptions and 3,500 digital surrogates, it represents only a limited portion of NARA's vast holdings. To ensure you find all information in which you are interested, consult the National Archives and Records Administration/NAIL website:

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

or contact the NARA reference staff (email: nail.mailbox@arch2.nara.gov).

To view NAIL records, your web browser must support tables and multiple buttons. NETSCAPE 3.0 and Microsoft INTERNET EXPLORER 3.0 are two such web browsers. NAIL is updated every weekend.

RECENTLY ADDED NAIL DATA

As part of the NAIL pilot project, entries are added to the NAIL database on a regular basis. Large batches of data are also frequently uploaded. Some recent uploads of interest include:

Voice of America (VOA), Sound Recordings [Data added January 19, 1997]

Brief descriptions and physical holdings information for 5,123 Voice of America (VOA) sound recordings created by the United States Information Agency (USIA). Dates: 1919-1978. Edited broadcasts and supporting material, including recordings of news, speeches, interviews, documentaries, and information programs, primarily in English, that document the voices of world leaders and personalities, and cover major historical events. Of special interest are the FORUM series of radio broadcast programs from 1959 to 1976, consisting of interviews, lectures, and panel discussions by personalities in the arts, sciences, humanities, politics, and history that cover topics explaining the American way of life, its culture, and institutions. These records are held by the **Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch**, National Archives and Records Administration.

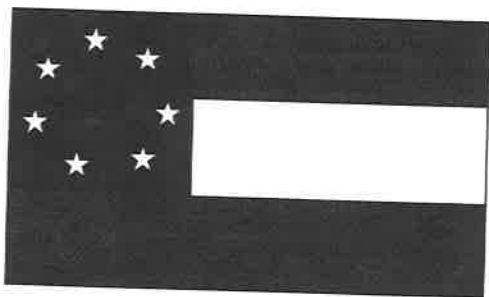
White House Telephone Conversations, Sound Recordings [Data added January 19, 1997]

1,491 recently-released sound recordings of White House telephone conversations, January 1, 1964 to March 31, 1964. These records are held by the **Lyndon Baines Johnson Library**.

Records of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II (Record Group 331) New Folder lists will be added weekly. [Data added January 19, 1997]

General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) was organized early in October 1945 principally to carry out the occupation of Japan, but also to see to it that the terms of the surrender of Japan were fulfilled. General Douglas MacArthur was selected as the Supreme Commander. The occupation of Japan was terminated by the Japanese treaty of peace of March 20, 1952.

The SCAP records in the National Archives include records of the Government, Civil Affairs, Legal, Economic and Scientific, Civil Information and Education, and Natural Resources Sections. These records are held by the **Archives II Textual Reference Branch (NWDT2)**. Related records of General MacArthur's commands are in the custody of the **MacArthur Archives**, 198 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510



The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County has just completed the processing of the Davidson County Naturalizations, 1789-1905. This record group consists of the Declarations of Intention and Naturalization of Citizens into the United States. Comprising over 2,000 names, the record group provides an insight into the diversity of the Nashville population over the last two hundred years.

One of the more unusual records is the naturalization of Charles Marshall Morris. Mr. Morris, a native of Kentucky, renounced his "*allegiance and fidelity....to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.*" He declares that he intends to become a citizen of the Confederate States of America, November 20, 1861.

The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County is located at 1113 Elm Hill Pike in Nashville, Tenn. Hours of operation are 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday-Friday. Phone No. (615) 862-5880.



**MARK
THIS
DATE**

**TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS CONFERENCE
1997 FALL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12-14, 1997
FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK**

- Reservations at FCFSP accepted after **Sept. 15th 1997**
- Rates (State rate): \$37.00 single \$58.00 double
- Toll-Free Reservations at: 1 (800) 250-8610

*Any ideas, suggestions on program session topics, workshops or seminars; or comments on the **Fall Meeting of the Tennessee Archivists**, please contact:*



Ned Irwin, ETSU Archives & Special Collections.
(phone: 423-439-6990),

or

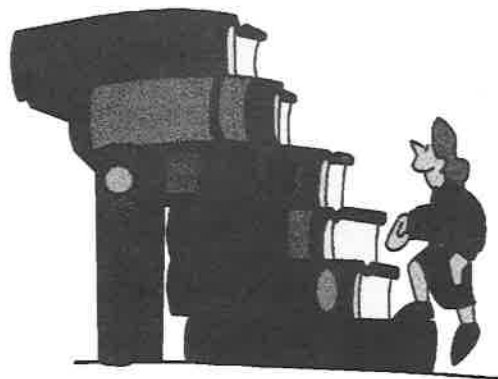


**Mancil Johnson, Tennessee Technological
University Archives**
(phone: 615-372-3537)

Included with this issue of the Tennessee Archivist is the 1996-1997 Membership Directory for the Tennessee Archivists.

If there any corrections, additions or deletions for this directory please contact:

Ralph Sowell, Tennessee State Library & Archives, Archives & Manuscripts Unit.
(phone: 615-741-2561, email: dsowell@datatek.com)



LITERARY NEWS

The following are several books which we believe will be of interest to the readers of the *Tennessee Archivist*:

The Goodspeed History of Cheatham County, Tennessee

With an introduction and reading list by Gregory G. Poole
and an index compiled by Lynette Hamilton Dalton
Serviceberry Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1996, 8½ x 11, 123 Pp., \$14.00
Appendices, selected reading list, and index.

This is the first of an intended series of updated reprints of the famed *Goodspeed Tennessee County Histories* by Serviceberry Press under the general editorship of Ilene Jones-Cornwell. The original edition, published in 1886, has been updated with an introduction and selected reading list written and compiled by Greg Poole, an archivist at TSLA. This new edition has been further enhanced by the addition of two new appendices - a list of Properties in Cheatham County Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a list of Schools and Teachers in Cheatham County in 1926, and an extensive index compiled by Lynette Hamilton Dalton. The book is available directly from Serviceberry Press for \$14.00, plus \$1.00 for shipping. Checks or money orders should be mailed to: Serviceberry Press, 1257 Oak Ridge Drive, Memphis, TN 38111.

Looking Back At Tennessee: A Photographic Retrospective

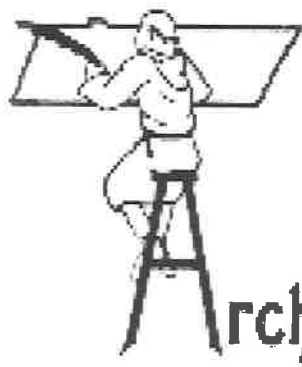
by Wayne C. Moore with Mark Herbison
Hillsboro Press
Franklin, Tennessee, 1996, 8½ x 11, 194 Pp., \$29.95

Over one hundred and seventy photographs from the Tennessee State Library and Archives dating from the 1860s to the 1960s reveal subtle nuances of everyday life for Tennesseans during this pivotal century. These rarely seen images, many of which have never before been published, are arranged topically covering four different perspectives: At Work; At Play; Portraits; and Events. Moore is a manuscript archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Herbison is Assistant Director of the Division of Publications in the Tennessee Department of State. The book is available in bookstores throughout the state, as well as from the publisher.

Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives: A How-To-Do-It Manual

by Gregory S. Hunter
Neal-Schuman Publishers, inc.
New York, New York, 1996, 8½ x 11, 220 Pp., \$45.00

This book is a needed addition to the present body of archival literature and is intended as an introduction to archival theory and practice for the non-specialist. The book contains an overview of the history of archives, the archival mission and the profession today, and the following topics: starting an archives; appraisal and accessioning; acquisition strategies and policies; arrangement; description; reference and access; preservation; electronic records; and the archival profession. For more information contact Neal-Schuman Publishers, 100 Varick Street, New York, NY 10013; (212) 925-8650.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beginning a new year is a time to look ahead but also to look back a moment. I want to thank Ken Fieth for the leadership shown as president in 1995-96 and to extend the thanks of all the membership for the excellent program and enjoyable meeting we had in Nashville this past November. The Parthenon reception was an especial treat for which I thank Ken, his helpful staff and the Friends of the Metro Nashville/Davidson County Archives.

In the coming year, I would like to see Tennessee Archivists accomplish many things. As president, I hope to focus on a few of these important issues: strengthening finances; enhancing educational opportunities; increasing outreach efforts; and developing a vision of where we want to be and what we want to be doing as a professional society in the years ahead.

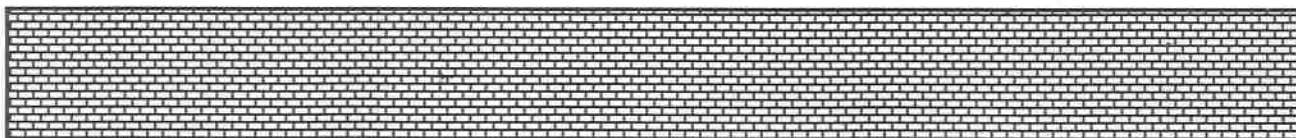
The society took a major step towards improving our financial situation by approving an increase in membership dues to take effect January 1, 1997. This was something long overdue. This may be a bad pun but a truthful statement. A portion of this increase could be set aside annually to begin the development of an endowment fund. Such a fund would help stabilize finances and insure the long-term fiscal viability of the society. A portion of our dues increase (and eventually funds from an endowment) could help fund pre-conference workshops, provide monies to help a member attend a workshop or program, and further promote educational and professional development of members.

There are many ways we can reach out to fellow archivists and the general public. From such contacts might come professional links, advocates, and even new members. A homepage or website for Tennessee Archivists would provide the opportunity to reach beyond ourselves to others who might help the society and our profession. Several members and member institutions already have existing sites. So the expertise to develop a site for the society exists. It needs to be tapped. Anyone interested in working on such a project should contact me.

Nineteen ninety-seven marks the society's 20th anniversary, thus providing a chance to also look back and look forward. Two events this year may help us look at where we have been and where we want to be. The revision of by-laws now being undertaken will likely draw ideas for needed revisions at the fall meeting. Also for the fall meeting, we are examining the idea of having a session at which to both reflect on the past and speculate on the future of Tennessee Archivists.

I look forward to serving as your president in 1997 and to work with you on such issues as these and others which may move forward during the year. Here is to a great year ahead for Tennessee Archivists!

Ned Irwin, President



MINUTES OF THE
TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS
 FALL MEETING, NOVEMBER 6-8, 1996
 HOLIDAY INN-VANDERBILT, NASHVILLE, TENN.

Doris Rivers Martinson
 Secretary, **TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS**

On November 6th through 8th, 1996 at the Holiday Day Inn-Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee the Fall Meeting of the Tennessee Archivists was held. At three o'clock, November 6th Kenneth Fieth, President of the Tennessee Archivists, and Donna Mancini, Director of Public Libraries in Nashville and Davidson County, welcomed state archivists, members and guests. After the welcome and orientation, Linda Center of the Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County introduced Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist, and John Thweatt, State Records Programs Coordinator, who discussed the Tennessee State Library and Archives Long Range Strategic Plan.

In the late afternoon of November 6th, a reception was held at the Parthenon in Nashville. Attendees were offered a tour of the exhibit, *A Tale of Two Parthenons*. Bobby Lawrence welcomed everyone to the Parthenon. Special awards were given to State Legislators, State Sen. Andy Womack and State Rep. John Bragg, who were not in attendance. Under the giant statue of Athena in the great Parthenon hall, Kenneth Fieth presented the Outstanding Service Award to the Knox County Archives, and the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. James Neal, Middle Tennessee State University Archives. After the Awards ceremony, the Friends of the Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County furnished the catered reception. Belmont University provided the instrumental music.

On November 7th, Susan Wilson, Friends of the Metro-Nashville/Davidson County Archives, introduced Dr. Bobbie Lovett and Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, both of Tennessee State University. They gave informational sessions on African-American research. Mary Barnes, Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County moderated a session on establishing Friends Groups. John Connelly, Friends of the Metro-Nashville/Davidson County Archives, and Ned Irwin, East Tennessee State University addressed this session. Kenneth Fieth moderated the session on the World War II Tennessee Veteran's Survey Project. Project coordinator Lauren Batte and John Thweatt, both of the Tennessee State Library and Archives gave information on this survey project. After the lunch break, Buster Adkisson, Nashville Gas Company, moderated the session on dealing with the media. David Logan of the *Nashville Banner*, and Pat Nolan of Dye, Van Moll & Lawrence Public Relations Company, gave suggestions for successful media coverage. Kenneth Fieth and Jonathan Andrews, both of the Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County, gave a demonstration on scanning photographic images for archive use. From 6:00-7:00 P.M., the attendees were given a tour of the Hatch Show Print Company on Broadway, Nashville.

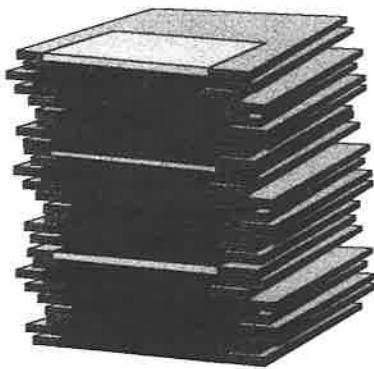
Carolyn Brackett, on the morning of November 8th, gave a summary of the Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration and the *Tennessee 200* projects. The Tennessee Archivists business meeting followed. Kenneth Fieth called the meeting to order. The Nominating Committee presented the 1997 slate of Tennessee Archivists officers. By unanimous vote, the following officers were elected:

President	Ned Irwin, East Tennessee State University
Vice President	Mancil Johnson, Tennessee Technological University Archives
Secretary	Doris Martinson, Knox County Archives
Treasurer	David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society
Editor	David R. Sowell, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Under New Business, James Lloyd expressed concern over the archiving of e-mail and asked the Tennessee Archivists to consider an e-mail policy for archives in Tennessee. A vote was taken and passed to raise the regular membership dues to twenty dollars, and to double other category dues. Carol Roberts suggested that the by-laws of the organization be updated. David McWhirter, Treasurer of Tennessee Archivists, who had left to prepare for his daughter's wedding, left a report stating a possible treasury of \$4,000.00.

At 11:00 A.M., Kenneth Fieth adjourned the business meeting.

CENSORING WEB SITES POSES DILEMMA FOR LIBRARIANS



Like most librarians, Brenda Branch is swift to defend what she considers her patrons' rights to a library free of censorship. No professional librarian ever wants to compromise intellectual freedom in any way. So it was with great reluctance last month that Branch, director of the Austin Public Libraries, oversaw the introduction of "filtering" software to block users' access to potentially objectionable sites on the Internet.

Branch said she believed she had no choice but to install the programs. Several weeks earlier, she had received reports of patrons using library computers to view sexually explicit graphic material on the Internet, including, in one case, images of young children engaged in sex. Young library patrons and others could walk by and easily view the material displayed on computer screens. Indeed, in some cases young people were themselves surfing for sexually oriented sites.

Branch and her staff were growing uneasy. Among other things, she began to wonder if the sites a few of her patrons were calling up could run afoul of laws prohibiting the display of material harmful to minors, to say nothing of statutes banning child pornography.

And so the filters went up. "This was a very difficult decision," Branch said. "No professional librarian ever wants to compromise intellectual freedom in any way. But the only way I can put it is that I am trying to balance a lot of different needs here. I am trying, in addition to supporting the First Amendment, to deal with the legal, ethical and moral issues arising because of some of the kinds of things that are available on the Internet and out of my control."

Branch is not alone in her dilemma. As the Internet is introduced into more and more institutions, librarians across the country are trying to decide whether they should offer it to their patrons uncensored. Some, including officials of the Los Angeles Public Library, insist that they should. Others, like librarians at the Connetquot Public library in suburban New York, say they should not. Many others -- like Branch, who is keeping the filters on as a temporary measure until she can think through all the issues and hit on the most appropriate solution -- still don't know.

What they all agree on, however, is that the Internet has raised new and complex questions for librarians. "This is a very difficult subject," said Susan Goldberg Kent, who as city librarian oversees the Los Angeles Public Library, one of the largest library systems in the nation. "It is an unprecedented time in the world of information. We have at our fingertips zillions of pieces of information never available before. It is very exciting. But some of the material is extremely controversial."

Since last summer, there have been a number of reports of smaller libraries around the United States facing complaints from parents, patrons, politicians or staff members that library computer users were viewing sexually explicit material on the Internet. But it was the situation in Boston that put a national spotlight on the issue last month, when Mayor Thomas M. Menino ordered that filtering software be installed on all city-controlled computers to which children have access. Menino acted after a local city councilwoman complained that children in her district could view smut in a local public library.

The move was approved by the library's board of trustees, but it disappointed Judith F. Krug, director of the office for intellectual freedom of the Chicago-based American Library Association. The library association opposes the use of filtering software in public libraries. For one thing, Krug says, the technology is still imperfect, too often sweeping innocent sites onto lists of banned material. For another, she says, the Internet gives patrons a freedom that has until now been impossible for libraries limited by the physical boundaries of library shelf-space: unfettered access to information. To begin cordoning off sections of the Internet, she says, would be to unreasonably restrict precisely what distinguishes the Internet from other forms of communication.

Not all librarians agree. Indeed, although she does not have figures on how many public libraries use filtering software, Krug notes that since news of Menino's order in Boston, she has received numerous reports about other libraries installing filters. "It's becoming almost an epidemic," Krug said.

One of those libraries is the Connetquot Public Library, which serves three middle-class New York suburbs on Long Island. All four computer stations at the Connetquot library run filtering software, and patrons seem happy that a blocking procedure is in place, said Joan P. Zaleski, director of the library. As for the Library association's opposition to blocking software, she said: "I don't think it is a common sense approach. You have to reflect the needs of your

community. After all, they pay you to be there." In fact, Zaleski's one complaint about filtering programs is that sometimes a computer-savvy patron can outsmart them. Recently Connetquot library employees realized that one patron had figured out how to circumvent the filter and was spending hours viewing erotic sites. "We found that our other patrons were offended -- and rightly so," Zaleski says.

The result has been a new library policy. Signs inform patrons that if they summon "offensive images" their machines will be unplugged. Patrons of the Los Angeles public library system, with 66 branches and a main library, find quite a different attitude. A notice on the library's own Web site informs users, "The library has no control over the information on the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content."

Kent, the city librarian, says that the notice is in keeping with her opposition to filtering software. Her fear is that blocking for sexually explicit material will open the door to censoring other sites. Any Internet topic from religion to nutrition might be at risk of offending some library patron, so if one type of site is banned, why not other types? "Who is filtering what for which person?" Kent asked. "You couldn't find a filter to satisfy every member of the community."

Branch, of the Austin library, ran into just that problem after she authorized the installation of Cyber Patrol, a program that can be adjusted to block access to nine categories of potentially offensive material -- from sexually explicit content to violent sites to those advocating gambling, drug use or extremist politics.

Initially, the program was running on its strictest setting, blocking access to all nine categories, and Kent swiftly received complaints from patrons who said they could not reach a variety of sites that have nothing to do with sex. Now Kent is adjusting the software to block only sexually explicit material. She is also meeting with community representatives, including civil libertarians, to try to work out a good solution. One possibility, Branch says, is to set up separate computers for children and adults, with filtering software running only on the children's terminals. But with only two computer stations per library, that option would severely limit adult access to computers.

In the end, Branch said, she might remove the filters. For now, she is hoping for Solomon-like wisdom. "It is a thorny problem," she said. "It will take time to work through it and come up with the balance that needs to be met."

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

- Knox County (Tenn.) Records Management
<http://www.korrnet.org/knox/records/records.htm>
- Tennessee State Library and Archives
<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/tslahome.htm>
- University of Tennessee, Martin. Paul Meek Library, Special Collections
<http://www.utm.edu/departments/acadpro/library/speccoll.htm>
- *American Memory* website, Library of Congress
<http://rs6.loc.gov/>
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Special Collections
http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/~spec_coll.htm
- Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County (Tenn.)
<http://waldo.nashv.lib.tn.us:80/screens/libinfo.25.html>
- *Guide to Archives on the Internet*
<gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu/0R0-32901-/inetdirsstacks/archives:kaynTHONY>
- East Tennessee State University. Sherrod Library, Special Collections
<http://cass.etsu-tn.edu/archives/index.htm>
- National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (National Archives)
<http://www.nara.gov/nara/frc/mpr.html>

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following committee appointments have been made for 1996-1997:

AD HOC BY-LAWS UPDATE COMMITTEE

- Carol Roberts (Tennessee State Library & Archives)
- John Thweatt (Tennessee State Library & Archives)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- John Dougan (Memphis/Shelby County Archives), chair
- Clara Swann (Chattanooga/Hamilton County Bicentennial Library)
- Cathi Carmack (Tennessee State Library & Archives)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Linda Clark (King Information Services, Knoxville), chair
- Mary Barnes (Metro-Nashville/Davidson County Archives)
- Martha Egan (City of Kingsport Archives)
- Jack Wood (Jackson/Madison County Library)

In addition, the Awards Committee is composed of the three immediate past presidents of Tennessee Archivists:

- Steve Cotham (McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville), chair
- Bill Sumners (Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission)
- Ken Fieth (Metro-Nashville/Davidson County Archives)

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

Tennessee Archivists invite membership from all persons interested in Tennessee's archives and historical resources. Membership is on a calendar-year basis. **TA** currently holds one meeting each year which includes the annual business meeting. **TA** 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. **TA** publishes a quarterly newsletter (*Tennessee Archivist*) and invites contributions from members and non-members. Officers are elected at the annual fall meeting.

Enclosed is my check for membership in Tennessee Archivists Conference as a:

Full Member (\$20/year) ☐ Institutional Member (\$10/year) ☐
Associate Member [for newsletter subscriptions only] (\$5/year) ☐

Renewal? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: (Work) _____

(Home) _____

Email Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: **TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS** and mail to:

David McWhirter
Disciples of Christ Historical Society
1101 19th Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37212-2196