

Tennessee Archivist

WINTER ISSUE, 1999

DAVID SOWELL, EDITOR

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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WORLD WAR II IN MEMPHIS: THE PAPERS OF MAYOR WALTER CHANDLER

U. S. involvement in World War II transformed the economic and social structure of the South, especially urban centers like Memphis, Tennessee. A deeper understanding of this transformation can be found in the papers of Walter Chandler, who served as Mayor of Memphis from 1940 to 1946.

Born in Jackson, Tennessee in 1887, Chandler moved to Memphis at the age of fifteen. After graduating from Memphis public schools, Chandler attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a law degree in 1909. He served as Assistant Attorney General of Shelby County and was a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives before entering the United States Army in 1917.

During World War I Chandler attained the rank of Captain of the 114th Field Artillery Regiment and participated in the Battle of San Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Returning to Memphis after the war, he was elected to the Tennessee Senate and in 1928 was appointed City Attorney of Memphis. This appointment brought Chandler into the political organization of Edward Hull Crump.

Elected to Congress, he was named one of its ten best members by the New York Times after passage of the Chandler Bankruptcy Act of 1938. With war raging in Europe and America's involvement less than two years away, Chandler returned to Memphis to take up the position of Mayor.

Preparations for possible American participation in World War II had already begun to affect Memphis. The Second Army headquartered in Memphis beginning in 1940, positioning the city to become an important player in any war effort that might be required. After Pearl Harbor, the importance of Memphis grew. A major Army supply Depot, a Naval Air Station and a Military Hospital were located in or near the city.



Important war production facilities such as the Pidgeon-Thomas Ironworks and Dupont's Chickasaw Ordnance Plant added to Memphis' significance to the war effort.

These new facilities contributed to Chandlers' difficulties in governing a city rapidly expanding in size. Over 30,000 service men and women and war workers poured into Memphis, causing a critical housing shortage that would not be relieved until war's end. With this sudden population increase, long standing social customs relating to gender and race began to break down.

The documents in the collection provide evidence of how women entering the workforce and military service changed their role in American society. Accommodations were made in the enforcement of segregation which gave African Americans greater status, as documentation in the collection reveals.

Commenting on the situation in Memphis, Chandler wrote the following in September of 1942: "Everyone in Memphis is busy at war work, and we are sending more men to the colors each week. Apparently, the war is just beginning for Americans, and we must expect reverses and sacrifices, but I feel that ultimately we will win a complete victory...." Indeed Chandler was correct and the City of Memphis played an important part in achieving that victory.

Wayne Dowdy
Memphis/Shelby Co. Archives



Memphis, Beale Street, ca. 1950

MARY CATHERINE BARNES IN MEMORIAM

On Thursday, September 24, 1998, Mary C. Barnes, an Archival Assistant with the Metro Archives of Nashville/Davidson County, lost her year long struggle with cancer. She was in the 33rd year of her life. In Mary's death, her family has lost a devoted and loving daughter, sister and wife; Metropolitan Government a dedicated and efficient public servant; the Metro Archives a confident and knowledgeable team builder and her friends a loving and caring soul. The sadness of her friends at the Archives is too deep for words.



Mary left Waterville, New York to pursue a career in history, graduating from the Historic Preservation program at MTSU in the fall of 1989. She then began working for the Technical Services Section of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Her work as a legislative recorder was so exemplary that she was recognized by the State Senate in a joint resolution. The only member of the TSLA to be so recognized.

In 1992 she was awarded a scholarship by the Colonial Dames of America to attend the Modern Archives Institute held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Mary was one of only two persons to be awarded the scholarship.

She came to work for the Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville/Davidson County in 1993. She quickly applied herself to strengthening the services of the Archives, gaining public support of the programs and services there, building and completing effective team-oriented projects and enhancing her knowledge of archival theories and techniques.

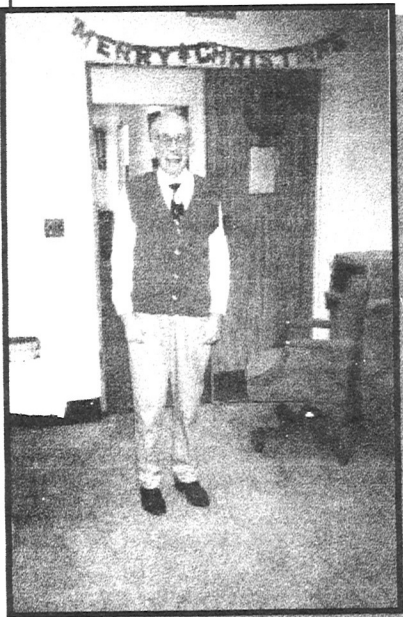
A scholarship has been established in her memory. The Mary C. Barnes Archival Scholarship Fund will grant funding to new archivists for education and training. Tax deductible donations to the Fund may be made through the Friends of the Metropolitan Archives, 1113 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210. For more information contact the Metro Archives, telephone (615) 862-5880, fax (615) 862-5724.



JOHN THWEATT AS I REMEMBER HIM BY EDWIN S. GLEAVES

We all live our lives in various worlds, and John Thweatt was no exception. He was a family man. That was his home world. He was a churchman, a faithful member of the Baptist Church. That was his church home. He was an organization man, having served as president of the local Sons of the American Revolution (His wife Mary Elizabeth was president of the local Daughters of the American Revolution) and the Tennessee Archivists, now called the Society of Tennessee Archivists.

He was a professional archivist and historian. This is how I knew him best. I would like the world to know with what esteem and affection he was held by those who knew him professionally.



John was a good man to work with. He had a broad knowledge of history, including the history of our own institution. He possessed a prodigious memory about many things, especially his encyclopedic knowledge of baseball. He could talk about games played thirty years ago as if they were yesterday—or even today. In thinking of John's last days, I am thankful that he lived to see Mark McGwire hit 70 home runs, and Sammy Sosa 66. I am thankful that he lived to see Cal Ripken play 2,632 games in a row. John may not have seen them all himself, but he knew as well as anybody what an astounding accomplishment that was.

John was a fun man to work with. He could see the humorous side of things that some of us, caught up in our own seriousness, often failed to see. He was particularly good with plays on words, puns, never missing the opportunity to slide in a turn of phrase as deftly as any baseball pitcher ever threw a slider. He was, in the words of Alexander Pope, an example of true wit, of what oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed.

John was a scholar and a gentleman. He was a reader and a writer. He was particularly proud of his contributions to the Tennessee Encyclopedia; he wrote the first article to be accepted by the editors of the encyclopedia. Subject: John Trotwood Moore and Mary Moore. He also wrote the article on archives in Tennessee, as well as seven more articles on Tennessee governors.

John had a quiet dignity about him. He was a contemplative man, and thought before he spoke. If you asked him a question, he always had the same reply: Putting his hand to his chin, he said "Hmmm." Then, and only then, he would answer your question.

We all know that John was a gentleman, but he was also a gentle man. If John held grudges, or thought or spoke ill of other people, I never knew it. He was truly a man without guile.

John was revered and beloved. His family can tell you how many cards and letters of concern he received while he was ill. From the time he became ill not so long ago, virtually everyone I talked to inquired about John before they said anything else. Our Secretary of State, Riley Darnell, always began his weekly staff meeting by asking about John. Conversations, e-mail, cards, telephone calls, faxes—all began with the question, "How is John?"

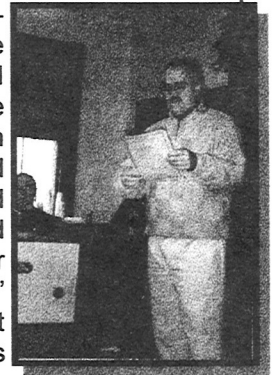
It is not too much to say that John Thweatt was a prince of a man. And so we say, with love in our stricken hearts, but with thankfulness that we have had the chance to know him: "Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels speed thee to thy rest."

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS
HELD AT HISTORIC RUGBY IN MORGAN COUNTY, TENN.
NOVEMBER 4-6, 1998**



On November 4, 1998, the annual meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists was opened at the Community Center of Historic Rugby. STA President Mancil Johnson and Rugby Executive Director Barbara Staggs welcomed members of the Society. That afternoon, the first session of the meeting was held. Georganne Burns, Regina Lee, Billy Tindall and Mancil Johnson of Tennessee Technological University presented a program on "Disaster Planning for Archives, Libraries and Special Collections." Later that afternoon, a tour of Historic Rugby and the Rugby Archives was held. That evening at the Community Center, a lively discussion on "the Archivist as God" was held by attendees.

During the morning session of November 5th, three sessions were presented. The first was "Carrying the Torch for Titanic: Archivists and the History of Memory," by Sara Harwell of Vanderbilt University Special Collections. The second was "Each Grave Has a Story: Researching the Battles of Franklin and Nashville," by Tim Burgess, a local historian from Nashville, Tenn. John Perry discussed his research for his novel, "Sgt. York: His Life, Legend and Legacy." After lunch, Dr. Carroll Van West, Middle Tennessee State University, discussed "Creating the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture." A discussion on appraisals and problems associated with historical collecting was held by Marshall Falwell, a certified appraiser from Middle Tennessee. Howard Ray Duncan, a local "Long Hunter" reenactor, presented an animated history of the Big South Fork region. That evening, after the members' banquet at the Harrow Road Cafe, members were treated to a wonderful presentation of bluegrass music at the Community Center.



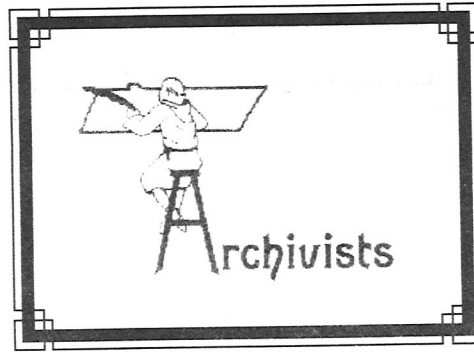
On Friday, November 6th, Chuck Sherrill of the Tennessee State Library and Archives presented a session on "The Yankees Took All We Had: Records of the Southern Claims Commission." Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist discussed the report of the Tennessee Archives Summit, held at Murfreesboro, Tenn. the previous month, and introduced William W. Moss, who had recently joined TSLA as Assistant State Archivist. Mr. Moss discussed strategies for assistance to local archives and records centers in Tennessee.

After a short break, the business meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists was held. The Nominating Committee presented its' report on nominations for officers for STA in 1999. The slate of officers were as follows:

President: Doris Martinson, Knox County Archives
Vice-President: John Dougan, Memphis/Shelby County Archives
Secretary: Suzette J. Raney, Chattanooga/Hamilton Co. Bicentennial Library
Treasurer: David McWhirter, Disciples of Christ Historical Society

By unanimous vote, all nominees were elected. By unanimous consent, David Sowell, Tennessee State Library and Archives was appointed archivist for the Society of Tennessee Archivists. After the election, Doris Martinson presented a report of the committee on establishing standards for archivists in Tennessee. A spirited discussion was held on this subject, and it was decided to continue the committee's work through the next year, and report again at the next annual meeting. Mancil Johnson presented four resolutions to the membership for discussion and vote: one to honor the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University on it's twentieth anniversary; a resolution to honor Gene Hollars on his retirement from the Tennessee State Library and Archives; and memorial resolutions to honor the memories of John H. Thweatt, Tennessee State Library and Archives and Mary Catherine Barnes of the Metro-Nashville/Davidson County Archives.

At 12:00 P.M., STA President Mancil Johnson adjourned the annual meeting.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy 1999! Just twelve months until the anticipated year 2000 comes roaring in. We have much to celebrate as we head toward the millennium. Tennessee Archivists in the last few years has accomplished a great deal. We changed our name in 1997-98 to the Society of Tennessee Archivists. As charter members of the Southern Archivists Conference, we joined our neighboring Southern states in a cooperative effort to promote archives and share archival information. In 1998, the Society of Tennessee Archivists, under the leadership of our president, Mancil Johnson, began the process of establishing a Tennessee archives graduate school program and professional standards for Tennessee archivists. Our membership is growing in numbers. We have a diverse representation of Tennessee archives and manuscript collections. We have archivists and persons involved with archives in universities, county and municipal governments, religious organizations, historical societies, and collectors of creative materials.

This year, as your president, I encourage you to join me in making 1999 the year of achievement. The future of archives in Tennessee is extremely promising. We participated in the 1998 Archives Summit. We support the Summit's recommendations for the training of archivists in their endeavors to establish governmental and historical records archives. At the State Library and Archives, Tennessee now has an Assistant State Archivist, William W. Moss. Mr. Moss will be in charge of developing programs statewide for archives and records depositories.

By the year 2000, it is my hope that we can combine our Society's expertise in the field of archives with the State Library and Archives and move forward in the promotion of quality Tennessee archival education, training, and archives. Many of you will be called on to assist in this promotion. You will be asked to serve on committees, provide suggestions for archival education, and to help with the Society of Tennessee Archivists annual meeting. Our annual STA meeting will be November 3-5, 1999, at Henry Horton State Park, located in Marshall County, Tenn. We are in the process of preparing an archives training workshop on November 3. If you have ideas for this workshop or for program speakers, please contact me before March, 1999.

Together we will make 1999 a successful year and march gallantly into the year 2000!

Doris Rivers-Martinson,
President, STA

LOCAL ARCHIVES PROGRAM INITIATIVE FROM TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Well-managed records and archives are essential for government service to citizens. They build public confidence in government. They help government to be more effective, efficient and economical. They also help citizens to understand local history. Every Tennessee county and municipality deserves a well-managed records and archives management program.

I'm delighted to tell you about the local archives program, a new initiative for local archives sponsored by the Secretary of State and the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). We are pleased to have Mr. William W. Moss, newly appointed Assistant State Archivist, in charge of the program. He comes to us with strong archives management experience, mainly with the Smithsonian Institution.

This initiative raises TSLA aid to a new level of cooperation with local archives, building on the microfilming assistance we've been providing for many years. There are several important components to TSLA's local archives program:

- State archives partnership with state and local government agencies;
- A new position of Assistant State Archivist to spearhead a drive for better archives;
- Enhanced archives management training for local officials;
- Local archives self-evaluation and needs assessment surveys; and
- Direct grants to local archives to encourage development.

This is the beginning of a new and brighter day for local archives in Tennessee, but we have a long road ahead and much work to do. With your energy and enthusiasm we can build a network of mutually supportive local archives that other states may envy. I look forward to joining with you in this most important effort.

Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves
State Librarian and Archivist

TENNESSEE ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY INITIATIVE STARTED AT TSLA

TSLA is launching a new series of archives management advisories to be distributed to local government executives, archivists, and to other interested people. They will be known as the Tennessee Archives Management Advisory (TAMA) series.

Pending advisories will include topics such as basic archives establishment, guidelines for general archives set-up and management, microfilming, electronic records concerns, and the like. The series will be issued occasionally (sporadically) as the occasion demands rather than periodically according to a schedule.

We will start out by using the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) mailing list as a base. Anyone who wishes to get on the mailing list should write to:

William W. Moss
Assistant State Archivist
Tennessee State Library & Archives
403 Seventh Ave. North
Nashville, TN 37243-0312
Email: willmoss@mail.state.tn.us

TSLA is sending out (as TAMA 99-002), the announcement, grant criteria, application and grant administration procedures, and application form for a series of small grants (\$1,000-\$5,000) to local archives. Sponsored by the Secretary of State's office, this is part of the new TSLA initiative to encourage development of local archives. The grants will be offered annually. Those wishing to receive a copy of TAMA 99-002 should write to me (same address as above).

William W. Moss
Assistant State Archivist
Tennessee State Library & Archives
Nashville, Tenn.

Tennessee Archivist

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TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

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 (\$10/year)** ☐ **Associate Member (\$10/year)** ☐

Please make checks payable to: **SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS**, and include membership information (name, address, institutional information, phone number, fax number, email address) and mail to:

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