

# Tennessee Archivist

WINTER 2000 EDITION

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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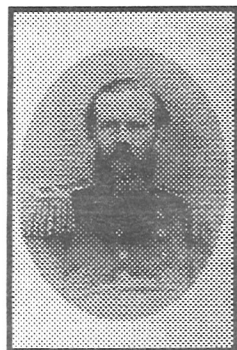
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## THE JOHN LORIMER WORDEN PAPERS LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY HARROGATE, TENNESSEE

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) granted funds in 1997 through 1998 to the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum. The commission funded the creation of a new Internet Web site as well as the development of finding aids to the collections. Among the new developments made possible through the grant, the papers of Rear Admiral John L. Worden are now open to scholars and those with an interest in studying the life and career of this courageous man.



John L. Worden entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1834. During the Civil War, he commanded the Union ironclad *Monitor* against the C.S.S. *Virginia* in the historic sea battle at Virginia's Hampton Roads. This first conflict between ironclads occurred on March 8, 1862, lasting for several hours. During the battle, Lieutenant Worden was temporarily blinded. Afterwards, while recuperating at a fellow officer's home near the White House, he was visited by President Lincoln. Worden gives a handwritten account of this visit. Additional letters, documents, and communications further document the actions of his long naval career.

The collection was acquired by Lincoln Memorial University in April, 1931 from Thomas F. Madigan, a well known autograph dealer of New York City, who had previously purchased the majority of the items from Commodore Worden's daughter. Mr. Madigan added several additional items from his own stock to make up the sizeable collection of more than sixty original documents.

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Worden was issued official orders on April 2, 1861 to report for duty. Initially he reported to Admiral S.H. Stringham and was assigned to the North Atlantic Squadron. Within the next few days, he received an urgent message from Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy instructing him to leave immediately for Pensacola, Florida on a special mission. It involved personally directing Captain Henry A. Adams, the commanding officer stationed off the harbor, to reinforce Fort Pickens.

Worden narrowly escaped capture in Atlanta, and surprisingly he was later granted a pass at Confederate General Braxton Bragg's check point at Pensacola. Upon reaching the flagship of Captain Adams on April 12, 1862, the secret orders to not surrender to the secessionists were delivered. On the return trip north, however, Worden was seized and held at Montgomery, Alabama for seven months, and became the Confederacy's first prisoner of war. The collection contains letters and documents concerning the efforts to gain his release, along with information on his parole.

Historic artifacts, such as the speaking trumpet used by Admiral Worden, and a model of the U.S.S. *Monitor*, presented by it's crew compliment the collection. They are on public display in the exhibit area of the museum.

As a result of the NHPRC project, the Worden papers and other manuscript collections of the Civil War era are now more accessible to historians, researchers and the general public. The Abraham Lincoln Museum welcomes the discovery and enjoyment of the historical collections and may be contacted for further information. The museum's homepage is accessible on the Internet at [<http://www.lmunet.edu/Museum/index.html>](http://www.lmunet.edu/Museum/index.html).

Leanne Garland

## President's Letter

As we look toward the new millennium archivists face numerous challenges. Some, like the increasing demands of technology, are new. Others, like the need for training beginning archivists, are older than the profession. It is my hope that the Society of Tennessee Archivists collectively and its members individually, will take a leading role in addressing these issues.

As a group we have been talking about standards for several years. Everyone involved seemed to have differing ideas, some almost direct opposites of one another. But the one unifying thread that wound throughout the discussion was the need for education. We sponsor educational workshops like the extremely well attended pre-conference, but there is a need for much more.

In October, I was invited to attend a program whose purpose, it turned out, was to create a nearly identical statewide organization. Why? I learned at the meeting that STA is perceived as not offering enough relevant regional training seminars for our fellow archivists. At the time, several of our members voiced disagreement with the need for a separate organization, but need for education remains.



Attempts are being made to create training programs. The University of Tennessee at Knoxville has its School of Information Science and Middle Tennessee State University is working on adding archives courses to their Masters in Public History program, but in most instances the need is much more basic. These programs will be inaccessible to the new, part time archivist for Obion County.

Please think about ways that you and your institutions can contribute to archival training in your area and send them to me by email at: <douganj@memphis.lib.tn.us>. If we all contribute to this effort, hopefully we can keep up with the ever rising standards of our profession while broadening the base of archivists across the state.

John Dougan  
STA President

### SOUTHERN ARCHIVES CONFERENCE

*Radisson Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.*

**April 13-15, 2000**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 13 | Workshops on Copyrights; Privacy and Confidentiality    |
| April 14 | Session I, Documenting the Civil Rights Movement        |
|          | Session II, Building or Renovating Archives             |
|          | Session III, Records of the Southern Claims Commission  |
| April 15 | Session IV, Making Primary Source Material Kid Friendly |
|          | Session V, Blues Collections                            |

Registration Packets will be Mailed to STA Members in March.  
Hotel reservations may be made now. Contact the Radisson Hotel in Memphis, Tenn. at 1 (800) 333-3333. Please mention *The Southern Archives Conference*.



## A "BREAKAGE" FACTOR IN MODERN ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT?

Medium may be more massage than message.

It is becoming abundantly clear that one of the casualties of using modern media systems for mass-retention of records is quality control. Confidence that a scanned or filmed image is a true copy of the original record requires side-by-side, item-by-item visual comparison. Such painstaking examination and comparison of original documents with the electronic images or microfilm frames are more often now eliminated. They cannot be done at an acceptable cost, compared to the relatively cheap per-item cost of electronic creation, processing, and distribution of data that has become the economic standard. The cost we pay for volume, speed, and low budget, however, is to forego the confidence of fidelity and authenticity that comes with direct, visual comparison. Nor is there a remedy on the horizon, though there are always promises in the dawning of new technologies, just over the horizon.

The practical consequence of this seemingly inescapable condition is that though archivists may be loath to do so—because it violates professional standards and ethics—we are going to have to build in loss of confidence and often loss of documentation as a planning and cost factor in archives and records management. This is comparable to the way high-volume sales outlets build in a certain percentage of "breakage" or "wastage" as a necessary cost of doing business. It comes at a time, paradoxically, when scholarship relies far more heavily and more often on the accumulation of many different records to contribute a preponderance of evidence than on individual documents of singular significance.

*William W. Moss*  
*Assistant State Archivist*

### TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION NOW ONLINE

One of the State Library and Archives' largest and most popular photograph collections is now completely processed and ready for use online.

The Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, 1930-1976 (**Record Group 82**), contains 11,212 photographs and 364 slides, and was processed by archivist David (Ralph) Sowell. The collection is arranged by subjects into the following thirty-three categories: Agriculture; Animals; Appalachian Mountains; Arts, Crafts & Folklife; Birds; Bridges, Highways, & Roads; Buildings; Caricatures & Symbols; Cities & Towns; Colleges & Universities; Conservation; Fishing; Flowers; Forestry; Geology; Grand Old Opry; Great Smoky Mountains; Historic Sites; Horses; Hunting; Industry; People; Reelfoot Lake; Roan Mountain; Soil Conservation Service; Special Events; State Parks; Tennessee Valley Authority; Tours of Tennessee; Waterways; Weather & Other Phenomena; Slides, and Oversize Photographs.

The collection is indexed and the finding aid and index have been uploaded to the TSLA website in the "Archives & Manuscripts Collections" section. A number of selected images have also been scanned and are hyper-linked off the online index. Additionally, there are also 21,000 negatives for the collection that were previously indexed by former TSLA employee Mancil Johnson.

*Jay Richiuso*  
*Tennessee State Library and Archives*

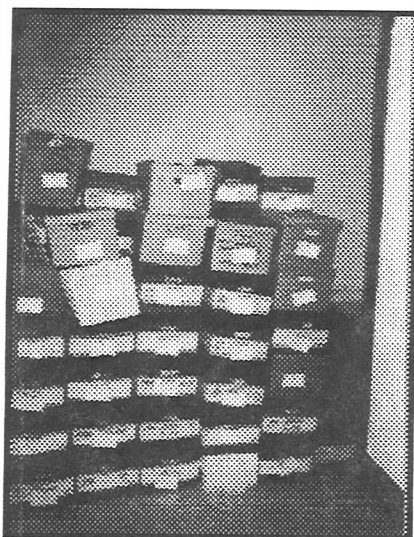
## STA Member News

### TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, Nashville, Tenn.

The following collections have been recently processed and finding aids for these collections can be viewed on the TSLA website under "Archives and Manuscripts Collections": Thomas Earl Wade, Sr. Genealogical Papers; the Morton Boyte Howell Papers; Tennessee Department of Education Records (Record Group 273); and the Catherine Avery Papers, Addition.

A number of audio collections have also been processed. They are: American Jewish Community Oral Histories; Weems Family Interviews; Cary E. Waldtrip Interviews; Stephen D. Boyd Interviews on Frank G. Clement; Gleeson Perry Reminiscences; Bank Holding Company Hearings; and House Property Reappraisal Hearings.

*Jay Richiuso,  
Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Nashville, Tenn.*



### TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, Cookeville, Tenn.

The Archives at Tennessee Tech received the papers of the late Sen. Tommy Burks, totaling 84 cu.ft. of records.



The Society of Tennessee Archivists recognized Tech student Jeff Tollison with a resolution at its Fall 1999 Meeting, for his work in the creation and maintenance of the STA website.



*Mancil Johnson,  
TTU Archives  
Cookeville, Tenn.*



### FRANKLIN COUNTY ARCHIVES, Winchester, Tenn.

The Project Preservation of the Franklin County Archives has published *Franklin County Tennessee Slaves Mentioned in Loose Records, 1815-1879*. This volume contains abstracts of Franklin County loose records that mention African-American slaves that lived in the county. For more information about this volume, please contact:

Project Preservation  
Franklin County Archives  
304 First Ave., NW  
Winchester, TN 37398  
Phone: (931) 967-7802

*Jeanne Bigger  
Franklin County Archives  
Winchester, Tenn.*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting,  
SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS  
November 3-5, 1999  
Henry Horton State Park

The meeting began with a pre-conference workshop held at Henry Horton State Park on November 3, 1999. Tennessee State Library and Archives staff—Wayne Moore, William Moss, Cathi Carmack and Carol Roberts presented sessions intended for county and municipal archives but applicable to all who work in archives. The presenters covered archival definitions, principles of archives management, the archivist's responsibilities to both the public and to the institution, preservation and conservation techniques, paper and electronic storage problems, and accessioning and retaining of records. Of particular interest was the discussion on the problems inherent in electronic records, their lack of permanence and the controversy over their legal standing. Also discussed was the need for some standardization of archival descriptive terms. Approximately seventy-five people—archivists, records managers, county officials, historians, etc. attended the workshop, held in a room that demonstrated quite well the appropriate cold temperatures for preservation.

On November 4, in the same room but with temperatures more suitable for human habitation, the Society of Tennessee Archivists annual conference began at 12:00 with a welcome from Doris R. Martinson, STA President and with an introduction to Henry Horton State Park from Randy Whitworth, Assistant Park Manager. Dr. Wayne Moore, TSLA, led the first session, a panel discussion of issues in local government archives. Panelists included Shirley Wilson of the Sumner County Archives, Yolanda Reid of the Robertson County Archives, Kathy Neidergeses of the Lawrence County Archives and Peggy Bevels of the Lincoln County Archives. They discussed dealing with local officials, handling materials in "dungeons" and attics, and working with volunteers. For Peggy, this meant driving to the local Dairy Queen with a load of county jail inmates. Volunteers were an essential component of the recovery effort in Montgomery County, Tenn. after the tornado of January 22, 1999. Through a slide presentation, Jill Hastings-Johnson of the Montgomery County Archives showed the necessity for disaster planning as she went through the process involved in restoring damaged records and finding a new home for the archives.

After a short break, Greg Poole of the Tennessee State Library and Archives discussed how the past became a part of the present as he researched his book *Robertson County Obituaries and Death Records*. The "life stories" found in local newspapers flesh out a community's history beyond dates and events. Next on the agenda, Tom Kanon, also of the State Library and Archives, discussed Gen. Andrew Jackson and the Creek War—an event that shaped the future of Gen. Jackson relative to the War of 1812 and the Native American removal to the West, or the "Trail of Tears."

The Henry Horton State Park Restaurant hosted the evening banquet. Members feasted on ham, catfish and cobbler. Ms. Suzanne Dewberry of the National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region, delivered an address on "Preserving Federal Records – What's Hot, What's Not and Disposal is Good." David McWhirter of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society was honored with a plaque for his eighteen years of service as the Treasurer for the Society of Tennessee Archivists. Mr. McWhirter was one of the charter members of the Society.

The meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> began with a discussion on "What's New in Your Archival World," moderated by Jay Richiuso of the State Library and Archives. On this panel were Mr. Gordon Belt of the Kalmbach Memorial Library in Chattanooga, who invited members to discover the library's resources on model railroading and railroad history. Dr. Lisa Pruitt of the Gore Research Center offered her vision on the Center's future. Mr. Bill Bisig of the State Records Management Center gave a talk on the future of microfilm scanning and electronic records management. William Moss, the Assistant State Archivist, discussed the state of archives in Tennessee. Mr. Moss listed four standards by which an archives could be defined: the existence of a public records commission, a physical storage facility, an operating budget assigned by local officials and someone with custodial responsibility for the records.

Mancil Johnson gave an update on the professional standards report committee discussing standards for an archivist in the state of Tennessee. The committee's draft resolution had been printed in the Fall 1999 issue of *The Tennessee Archivist* for members evaluation. Another resolution, drafted by William Moss, was presented for consideration during this discussion. Many members expressed concern over the proposed educational qualifications for professional archivists. Also a few feared that the smaller counties and cities would not be able to hire someone with the appropriate degree. The new draft of the committee's resolution requires at least thirty days for examination so a vote on the resolution for professional standards for archivists was tabled. A committee of members, chaired by Mancil Johnson, will compare the two drafts and evaluate members responses. The committee's recommendations will be presented during the Southern Archivists Conference in Memphis, Tenn.

The STA business meeting opened with Doris Martinson thanking committee chairpersons Mancil Johnson (Professional



Standards) and Wayne Moore (Education Committee) for their service. There was no reading of the treasurer's or secretary's reports. The STA state and federal tax exemption number is now available. In new business, Mancil Johnson offered a resolution honoring Jeffery Tollison for his work on the Society's website. This resolution passed unanimously. Ralph Sowell, TSLA, offered an amendment to the by-laws of the Society of Tennessee Archivists to create an arrangements committee. This amendment was also approved by the members. John Dougan of the Memphis-Shelby County Archives discussed and encouraged everyone to attend the Southern Archivists Conference in April, 2000.

The eagerly awaited door prizes were awarded, with a bottle of wine as the first prize. By unanimous vote, the following were elected officers of the Society of Tennessee for the next year:

President: John Dougan, Memphis-Shelby County Archives  
Vice President: Jay Richiuso, Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Secretary: Leanne Garland, Lincoln Memorial University Archives  
Treasurer: Kathleen Smith, Vanderbilt University Special Collections.

Mr. Ned Irwin of the Archives of Appalachia had informed the membership that their institution would gladly host the next annual meeting of the Society in Johnson City, Tenn. Ralph Sowell encouraged members to submit articles for the newsletter, with an emphasis in 2000 on reports relating to African-American archival collections in Tennessee.

The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists adjourned at 11:30 AM.

*Suzette Raney*  
Secretary,

SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

*The following resolution of the Professional Standards Committee will be presented for discussion and vote at the Business Meeting for the Society of Tennessee Archivists, Southern Archivists Conference, April 14, 2000, at Memphis, Tennessee:*

### STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

Professional archivists are expected to adhere to the code of ethics promulgated by the Society of American Archivists; they are expected to attain and exhibit competence in the seven domains of archival work identified by the Society of American Archivists as necessary to fully productive archival performance; and, they are further expected to continue to grow and develop professionally.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Mancil Johnson  
Chairperson, Professional Standards Committee  
SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2000 STA DUES YET?

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

Please Remit Your Membership Dues to:  
Kathleen Smith

Treasurer, SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS  
Vanderbilt University

Special Collections and University Archives

419 21st Ave. South  
Nashville, TN 37240-0007

## ORIGIN OF THE SOUTHERN ARCHIVISTS' CONFERENCE

The Southern Archivists' Conference (SAC) was an outgrowth of joint meetings of the Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) and the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA) which were held at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in the spring of 1985, and at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach, Mississippi, in April, 1986. At the 1986 meeting, there was discussion of forming a regional archival organization. There was little, if any opposition to forming such an entity, but there was debate about its scope and nature. (ACCESS, Summer 1986, Vol. 9, No. 3).

Since the SALA/SMA joint meetings worked well, it was decided that these organizations would meet again in 1987. Prior to that, SALA and the Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA) had met jointly a time or two. Archivists from Georgia and Tennessee were invited to join SALA and SMA for a meeting at the 4-H Camp at Lay Lake in Columbiana, Alabama, in 1987. "The theme of regional cooperation dominated the (spring 1987) meeting. While everyone saw some advantages, there was disagreement about the nature, scope, and even the value of a regional organization. Out of the discussion came a more clearly focused image of what Mississippi and Alabama were willing to try." (ACCESS, Summer 1987, Vol. 10, No. 4). Alabama and Mississippi agreed to join together and form the conference.

President Sally Ripatti, Tennessee Archivists, stated that she would take the SAC proposal to the state organization and invited Mike Thomason, SALA member, to present the idea for formation of SAC at the joint Tennessee/Kentucky fall meeting. At the September, 1987 fall meeting, Tennessee decided to join. Mike Thomason and Linda Overman, SMA members, presented the idea for a regional organization at a joint SGA/SALA meeting in the fall of 1987. By a narrow margin, the membership of SGA declined to join SAC at that time.

The following proposal to form a regional archival organization was printed in each state's newsletter in the summer of 1987.

### PROPOSAL TO FORM A REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ORGANIZATION

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

The first official SAC meeting was held at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss., May 17-19, 1988. Archivists from Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi were in attendance. Since that time, SAC meetings have been held, every other year, at Lake Guntersville, Ala. (1990), Nashville, Tenn. (1992), Natchez, Miss. (1994), New Orleans, La. (1996), and Selma, Ala. (1998). The next meeting will be held in Memphis, Tenn., April 14-15, 2000, at the Radisson Hotel Memphis.

A decision was made that SAC be an association of organizations rather than a membership organization. No one wanted competition with the state organizations. SAC was purposely loosely formed for that reason - no constitution, no by-laws, no officers, and no membership fees. The primary goal was to increase the potential for speakers and have better programs. With greater financial resources, it would be possible to offer more workshops, hold more training programs, and bring in more speakers for sessions. At the 1988 meeting in Oxford, there were three pre-conference workshops, including one from SAA, followed by a day and a half of concurrent sessions of two or three topics with three to five speakers each. Nine representatives of non-member organizations were on the program or taught the workshops. Tours and receptions were included. The state organizations made money on the meeting.

SAC was meant to achieve whatever goals we in the region felt were worthwhile. It was meant to help us pool our resources, increase communication between state organizations and their members, and strengthen the profession in the member states.

Initially, meetings were held at inexpensive sites where meeting spaces were free, where attendees ate all meals together, and where there was an opportunity to really get to know one another. Over the past few years, the meetings have been held in larger cities and they have become more expensive. In some cases, this has reduced the number of members from the same institution who have been able to attend.

There has also been some confusion among coordinating committee members as to how SAC is supposed to function. In recent years, responsibilities for host site, program, finances, and publicity have been divided among the four states, with members from the host state planning the meeting site, hotel accommodations, meals, and tours. Each state has contributed \$500.00 up front to the state responsible for finances. Remaining funds, after all expenses have been paid, have been divided with an equal share going to each of the four states.

Has SAC accomplished what it set out to do? Is SAC meeting the needs of its members? At the SAC business meeting in Memphis on April 15, 2000, there will be a discussion of SAC. Prior to that meeting, member states should review the above proposal and consider if revisions are required to meet their needs. State business meetings will be held at SAC on April 14, 2000.

*Linda Overman, SALA President*

## The Oral History Association Invites Nominations for Its' Project Award

In 1993 the Oral History Association established an honorific award to recognize an outstanding oral history project, which is presented biannually in even-numbered years. The next Project Award will be made at the OHA's 2000 annual meeting, to be held October 11-15, 2000. The winning entrant will receive a framed award certificate and a one-year membership in the OHA; the person accepting the award will receive complimentary registration to the annual meeting.

Projects completed between April 1, 1996, and March 31, 2000, are eligible for consideration. The OHA welcomes nominations for projects with an institutional affiliation, including those undertaken by libraries, archives, colleges and universities, museum and historical organizations, community-based institutions, and others; as well as those undertaken by academic scholars, independent researchers, and ad hoc groups. The award will not be given to an ongoing project or oral history program, although it may be given to a distinct project or interview series within such a program. Entries are welcome from around the world but must be in English. Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The project entails a research design that addresses significance, objectives, manner of selecting interviewees and interviewers, outline of major topics of inquiry, schedule of questions, plan of work, quality controls, staff, budget, user access, and use.
- The project possesses noteworthy scholarly and social value.
- The project advances both the understanding of an important historical subject, issue, or theme, and also the disciplined practice of oral history.

To submit: Nominations must include samples of the project interviews (e.g. audio-and/or videotapes, transcripts); examples of products associated with the project (e.g. anthologies, photo essays, media presentations, finding aids); and a nomination letter that outlines the project's research design/methodology and addresses its scholarly and social significance. One copy of all material submitted is to be sent to each member of the awards committee below. Submissions must be postmarked by April 1, 2000.

Nomination may come from the individuals/institutions responsible for the project or from some other source. If the cost of submitting application materials places undue financial burden on the applicant, please contact the committee chair. If a nominee wishes entry material returned, send a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to each member of the award

**Chair:** Lois E. Myers  
Baylor University  
Institute for Oral History  
P.O. Box 97271  
Waco, TX 76798-7271

Jacqueline K. Dace  
Research Division  
Missouri Historical Society  
P.O. Box 11940  
St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

Sandy Polishuk  
P.O. Box 12471  
Portland, OR 97212-0471

**Deadline for submission: April 1, 2000**



## HEIRLOOMS FIND HOME IN SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

Walter Green knew his family's farmland in Grayson Co., Ky. once was owned by George Washington. A historical marker on State Route 54, west of Leitchfield, tells about Washington's holdings along the Rough River. The land, totaling 5,000 acres, was bought as an investment in 1798, the year before Washington's death.

What the Green family didn't know was that Washington also had made a map of the land. That map, like many other historic Kentucky documents, had long been held by out-of-state collectors.

"The reality is, some of the very best Kentucky materials are no longer in Kentucky," said Kevin Graffagnino, the Kentucky Historical Society executive director.

When the Green farm map became available in 1999, Graffagnino snapped it up. Well preserved, the map now is at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort. "We weren't aware of any hand-drawn map" of the family farm, said Green, a farm implement dealer in Leitchfield.

Now the historical society is going after other such items. Graffagnino, a trained archivist, is its key player. "He knows the business," said James Shepherd, a Carrollton attorney who recently completed a two-year term as the society's president.

Graffagnino also acquired an 1863 petition to Abraham Lincoln from Kentucky Gov. Thomas E. Bramlette and others. They wanted Lincoln to promote an Army officer, Col. Marcellus Mundy. The petition bears Lincoln's notation and signature. Like the Washington map, it also had been in private hands.

Until the history center opened in April, 1999, no one with a prized heirloom could have been expected to donate it, Shepherd said. The society's collections had been deteriorating in a warehouse. "The Kentucky Historical Society's whole persona has changed with the Kentucky History Center. It has given us a standing we didn't have before," Shepherd said.

His successor as president, former Gov. Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt, says one of his goals is to create an endowment that will fund acquisitions. "For the first time, this society has the space to collect Kentucky's history on a grand scale," Breathitt said. "We might have to buy a collection, and the state's not going to come up with the money."

Graffagnino said the Washington map was acquired for \$22,000, the Lincoln petition for \$7,000. Private donations financed both deals. They were brokered by Dana Robinson, a Kentucky native who deals in antiquities in New York.

Breathitt said his eye is on a private collection of Henry Clay memorabilia. It includes the early American statesman's pistols and some of his letters. He hoped the society would eventually acquire it or at least have it on loan. "We want the school children of Kentucky to know about the history of Kentucky. We're looking to the future, not to the past. History is a guide to the future."

*Charles Wolfe*  
Associated Press

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES & THE ONGOING CASE ON ELECTRONIC RECORDS

On November 4, 1999 Public Citizen and numerous historical and library organizations petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn the August 6, 1999 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia regarding GRS 20. That ruling reversed the October 22, 1997 decision of District Court Judge Friedman who declared "void" the National Archives' policy of allowing agencies to destroy electronic records as long as those records having permanent value are copied on to paper, microfilm or to an electronic records-keeping system. The plaintiffs question whether the Archivist of the United States was correct in deeming that the format in which records are stored is irrelevant and the use of Justice Department interpretations of laws and regulations in the appeals portions of the case – arguments that were not made by the National Archives during the administrative proceedings of the case.

*Jim Cross*  
Society of Georgia Archivists

## TENNESSEE'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS SURVEY

In 1996 the State of Tennessee celebrated its bicentennial. To commemorate this event a special Tennessee 200 Commission was established by the state Legislature in 1992. Following its creation, Tennessee 200, Inc., developed and carried out statewide a series of projects to mark this event. One of these projects involved Tennessee 200 and the Tennessee State Library and Archives collaborating on a survey of Tennessee's World War II veterans. The goal was to establish a more complete record of the men and women who served their country during World War II by developing a body of research materials and a corresponding computer database.

### Background

Precedent for conducting veterans surveys in the State of Tennessee had been set early in the 1920s when surveys of both Civil War and First World War veterans were conducted. The idea for a World War II veterans survey originated in early 1987 with the archivists at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. During the early discussions inquiries were made with neighboring states to determine if a similar survey had been conducted or was being contemplated. The responses were negative.

Discussion and planning for the veterans survey continued over the next few years. During this interval it was determined that many of the records of World War II veterans had been lost when the national personnel record center building in St. Louis burned in June 1973. In addition, what records existed with the Military Department of Tennessee were incomplete. Thus, it became increasingly evident that if a survey of Tennessee veterans were to be undertaken it would have to be done by the personnel of the State Library and Archives. With time running out on the aging population of World War II veterans, implementation of the project became urgent. Credit must be given to Ken Fieth, TSLA for his constant lobbying for this project.

An early form of the survey questionnaire was developed. It was to be concise and limited to the actual military record of the veteran. "Veterans" would be identified as men and women who served between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945. Distribution of this initial survey was limited to probably no more than two hundred veterans.

For the next eight years the veterans project languished for lack of high level support and financial aid. But the project unexpectedly became a reality when Tennessee 200 proposed a joint project with the State Library and Archives in late 1995. The proposal was actually for two different projects: the World War II Veterans Survey, and a series of archival workshops designed to teach the citizens of Tennessee how to properly conserve, organize, and access historical documents. Tennessee 200 allocated \$75,000.00 to carry out the two projects. The grant provided for the hiring of a full-time program assistant for the 1996 calendar year to administer the veterans survey and the archives workshops.

### Survey Questionnaire

A new questionnaire was developed in early 1996. It was reviewed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives World War II Veterans Survey Coordinating Committee for input and suggestions. In contrast with the earlier form, the new questionnaire was expanded to solicit veterans' experiences, both during their military service as well as their return to civilian life. Also, the number of veterans that the survey was intended to reach was broadened to include those who were living in Tennessee at the time of the war, as well as veterans presently residing in Tennessee. If a veteran was deceased, a relative could complete the form. A pilot survey of veterans was conducted. The questionnaire (see copy) was finalized in early March and distribution began later that month. Initially, fifty thousand questionnaires were distributed. Another fifty thousand were later printed, of which only about 30,000 were distributed.

### Outreach

Reaching veterans with the survey proved to be the biggest challenge since there was no comprehensive mailing list of veterans of World War II living in or originally from Tennessee, and because of reticence on the part of veterans organizations fearing that a resulting mailing list would be sold to merchandisers. To impress upon veterans the importance of the project, all available media (print, radio, and television), veterans organizations, community groups, and enthusiastic persons across the state were employed. An announcement event featuring the governor and other dignitaries was held in Knoxville in March. Of all these varied approaches, personal contact proved to be the most effective.

### Promotion

To promote the project, Tennessee 200 initially hired a public relations firm and sent out a series of press releases. A traveling exhibit also promoted the survey. The emphasis of this promotion was the human side of the story of World War II. In retrospect, this was the most important part of the project.

## TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

As the year progressed renewed efforts were made to reach veterans. Press releases were sent to national media contacts to help locate Tennesseans no longer living in state. Work also continued with Tennessee 200 county committees, libraries, veterans organizations, historical societies, and the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Administration, and County Officials with follow up mailings that included a letter, questionnaire, and return request card for additional copies of the questionnaire. In mid-July a similar mailing was done to all nursing homes and home health care agencies.

When it was announced that a commemorative book titled, *Answering the Call: Tennesseans in the Second World War*, would be published in November 1996, the return of the completed surveys, usually accompanied with a photo and other information, increased dramatically. The book included the name of the veteran, home city at entry, year of entry, branch of service, final rank, theatre of operation, and year of separation. The book also chronicled the role that Tennesseans played in the war effort including selected photos and letters contributed by veterans. The 3,000 copies that were printed sold out almost immediately, and an additional printing of 500 copies was necessary.

All surveys returned by September 20, 1996 (the total exceeded 6,400) were represented in the book. To date over 7,500 surveys have been received.

Information and materials gathered from the survey are kept exclusively for research and learning purposes at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

### Observations

Hindsight provided the following observations about the survey project that should be considered before undertaking a veterans survey.

The survey questionnaire did not specify the inclusive dates of the United States' participation in World War II. It was the intent of the committee that December 7, 1941, the date of our entrance in the war, and September 2, 1945, the formal surrender of Japan, serve as the beginning and end dates. However, the United States Congress, for the purpose of awarding veterans benefits, set the closing date of the war as December 31, 1946. Hence there was confusion on the part of some of the respondents who served in 1946. In practice, it was decided that survey questionnaires would be accepted for those who served until the end of 1946.

An initial estimate of a return of 2,500 completed questionnaires was considered early in the project as a benchmark for success. The response received to date, 7,500, is overwhelming. What was not anticipated was the amount of supplementary materials that were sent in accompaniment with the completed surveys. The survey asked that a copy of a photograph of the veteran during the war be sent in if available. Not only were original and copy photographs sent in, but copies of service records and other documents, newspaper clippings, published books, and memoirs and diaries, some of extensive length, accompanied a significant number of surveys. In hindsight, it was thought that donor agreements and acknowledgment letters should be sent to the donors since a large amount of materials were original photographs, documents, and original handwritten or typescript diaries and memoirs. The process of drafting donor agreements and acknowledgment letters became an unintended, and large, part of the project, requiring a significant outlay in person hours and postage. This chore stretched beyond the year that the program assistant was on staff and had to be completed by State Library and Archives staff. Indeed, the data entry and drafting of donor letters and agreements utilized the services of two part-time interns and numerous volunteer hours, none of which was anticipated or could have been accurately predicted given the unexpected number of surveys received. Upon reflection, the survey form should have included the statement that any materials submitted along with the survey, original or otherwise, would become the property of the State Library and Archives.

Despite the few difficulties encountered in developing, promoting, and carrying out the Tennessee World War II Veterans Survey project, we believe that the database and materials generated are a valuable source of information for historians, genealogists, and anyone interested in learning about experiences of men and women in World War II.

Harry Stokes & Jay Richiuso,  
Tennessee State Library and Archives

## ANNOUNCING THE SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL MEETING 2000

The Program Committee for the STA Annual Meeting would like to announce that this year's Annual Meeting will be held in Johnson City, Tennessee on November 8-10, 2000, and will be hosted by the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University.

Look for additional announcements in subsequent issues of the newsletter.



# 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.

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

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