



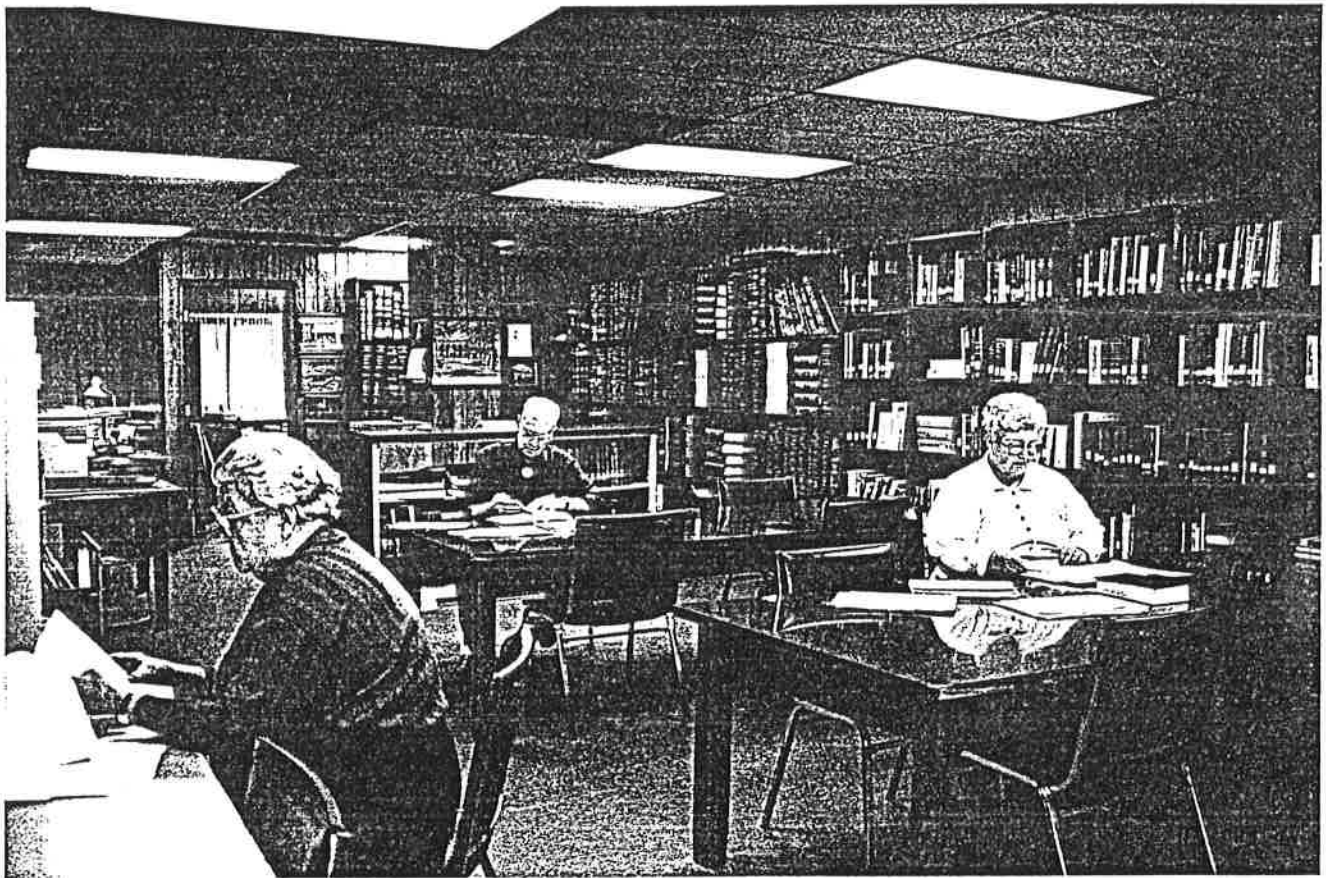
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Tennessee Archivists Newsletter

Spring 1995

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Sumner County Archives provides a comfortable resource for local records.

## EDITORIAL

In this issue of *Archivists*, you will find the long-awaited and much talked-about membership directory for our archival organization. Special thanks go to Ned Irwin who served as chairman of the Membership Committee which was responsible for the development and distribution of the survey forms and for the compilation of the membership information. By means of the information included in this directory, one may contact fellow members by mail, telephone, fax or e-mail during business hours. In addition, with a few exceptions, individual members are identified with their respective archival agency or historical records repository. As is the case with virtually all publications of this type, errors do manage to creep through in spite of our best efforts to eliminate them from the final copy. Since the effectiveness of such publications is dependent on accurate information, you are encouraged to look for errors or changes which have not been reported. By updating our database with changes called to our attention we should be able to maintain an up-to-date listing for our Tennessee Archivists membership. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful conclusion of this project.

**John H. Thweatt**  
Editor

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings. One of the rewards or punishments of being President of Tennessee Archivists is having the opportunity to write this column. First, I wanted to encourage you to plan to attend the Spring Meeting of Tennessee Archivists, April 27 -28, 1995, in Memphis. The meeting is hosted by the Shelby County-Memphis Public Library and will include a 1/2 day workshop on the care and handling of artifacts and oversized materials, other interesting program sessions, and a chance to visit the Wonders Exhibit on China. The folks in West Tennessee are really making a strong effort to involve local archivists in our meeting and enlist new members for the society. You will find additional information on the meeting in this newsletter.

Secondly, I wanted to say a word about our society and the support from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It wasn't too long ago that the Library and Archives staff was only marginally involved in Tennessee Archivists. I recall, when I joined the society over ten years ago, the lack of involvement by the State Archives in our organization. Because of this renewed support, I have been heartened by the involvement of many state archives staffers in Tennessee Archivists. I applaud the leadership of Ed Gleaves in encouraging his staff to participate and lead in the society. It has always been my opinion that the heavy involvement of the State Library and Archives is vital to the success of any significant archival enterprise in Tennessee. Let me know of any concerns, issues, ideas, or projects that should be considered by Tennessee Archivists. I hope to see you in Memphis.

**Bill Sumners**  
President

## SPOTLIGHT ON ARCHIVES.....

### **The Sumner County Archives**

**155 East Main Street**

**Gallatin, Tennessee 37066**

**Hours: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday through Friday**

**Parking: Free and Plenty Available**

Researchers with an interest in history and genealogy in Middle Tennessee will enjoy a visit to the Sumner County Archives, a relatively new research facility located in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee.

Sumner County was formed in 1786, ten years before Tennessee became a state. It was the fifth county formed in the state and the second county formed in Middle Tennessee. It is the parent county of most of its adjacent counties. The land it encompassed at its formation includes much of what is now Middle Tennessee.

Everything about the Sumner County Archives is unique, including the manner in which it was formed. It opened in April of 1987 for the purpose of housing the county's loose court papers. These records had recently been organized and indexed by volunteers and were in the process of being microfilmed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Two small rooms in the basement of the courthouse annex were provided by the county and volunteers initially organized and operated the facility.

The archives has been growing by leaps and bounds since the day it opened. Today it occupies 2000 square feet on the main level of the courthouse annex and has another 974 square feet of storage in the basement. The staff now includes two full time county paid clerks and a half time federal Green Thumb worker. Volunteers still provides many services to the archives, including all of its administration.

The county itself is unique in that its records are largely intact and date from its formation in 1786. The focus of the archives is on Sumner County and Middle Tennessee and the collection is divided into two main categories.

The official county records include those of the courts of Circuit, Chancery and County as well as tax records and deeds (on microfilm). The archives is particularly proud of the organized, indexed, and microfilmed collection of loose records. Original wills and the packets from intestate estates from 1786 to 1985 are housed, indexed and readily available for use.

Enhancement records aid in the use and interpretation of the official records. A modest, but swiftly expanding, genealogical library collection on Tennessee and surrounding states includes all of Sistler's published census indexes. Family vertical files are indexed by family surname and subject matter. Microfilms include vital records and newspapers for Sumner County and census records for Sumner and some surrounding counties. Primary

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**MINUTES OF TENNESSEE  
ARCHIVISTS BUSINESS  
MEETING: NOVEMBER 4, 1994**

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President Steve Cotham called the meeting to order in the Ellington Room of the Paris Landing State Park Inn at 8:30 a.m.

After thanking this year's officers and newsletter editor John Thweatt for their work, Steve Cotham asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was made by Sally Polhemus, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent. Treasurer David McWhirter gave his report (see attached sheet), noting the change of banks from Third National Bank to First American Bank and the reasons for the change.

New business- Steve Cotham introduced the idea of having only one meeting per year. Much discussion ensued, including questions such as the effect of such a change on the rotation of sites and whether a by-law change would be necessary. John Thweatt made a motion to have a Fall meeting only, with the next one taking place in Memphis. After comments that more study was needed, however, the motion was withdrawn. Sue Lynn McGuire suggested that a polling device be included in the next newsletter, and the question was deferred until the next meeting. Ned Irwin reported on the membership questionnaires. We are moving toward having a complete directory of membership. Forms were passed out for those who did not receive them or had changes to make. Steve Cotham reported on public relations project by archivists in other states. Some state organizations are sponsoring an "Archives Week" and

Steve suggested we consider doing so. The mechanics of such a project were discussed, and Bill Sumners suggested a committee look into the issue.

Volunteers were asked to let Bill know of their interest in the project.

Sue Lynn McGuire gave the report of the nominating committee for 1994-1995 officers. After reading the proposed slate, paper ballots were distributed and the slate was elected by a majority vote.

Officers are: Ken Fieth, Vice-President/President-Elect; Mattie McHollin, Secretary; and David McWhirter, Treasurer.

Bill Sumners reminded members to fill out a sheet concerning future program ideas.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Cathi Carmack,**  
Secretary



The following column is the Tennessee Archivists' Bank Statement **Submitted by Dave McWhirter, Treasurer**

10/21/94

DATE	TRANSACTION	CK#	REC DUES	REC MEETINGS	REC GENERAL	EX MEETINGS	EX OFFICE	EX NEWSL	EX BANK	BALANCE
1/01/94	BALANCE BROUGHT FOR									189.01
1/20/94	Dues	403	25.00							214.01
1/24/94	LA Archives & MSS A			100.00						114.01
1/31/94	Bank fee							14.36		99.65
2/17/94	Bank fee							15.65		84.00
2/28/94	Dues		120.00							204.00
3/17/94	Bank fee							187.66		16.34
5/03/94	Dues		113.00							300.66
6/29/94	Adjust for new acc			36.94						337.60
6/29/94	Dues		98.00							435.60
7/14/94	Dues		23.00							458.60
7/14/94	Dues		10.00				11.35			468.60
7/13/94	Checks									457.25
8/26/94	Dues		19.00							476.25
8/26/94	LA Archives & MSS A			116.83						593.08
9/07/94	Society AI Archivis	89				70.50				522.58
9/07/94	Bobby Flannary	90				85.00				437.48
10/21/94	Dues		76.00							513.48
10/21/94	Meeting receipts			875.00						1,388.48



## TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS SPRING MEETING MEMPHIS TENNESSEE APRIL 27 - 28 1995

The Spring meeting of Tennessee Archivists will be held on April 27 - 28, 1995 in Memphis, Tennessee. The meeting will be hosted by the Shelby County/Memphis Public Library. Program sessions for the meeting will be held in the Holiday Inn near the library. The meeting will feature a 1/2 day workshop on the care and handling of artifacts and oversized archival materials on Thursday morning. The program will also include sessions on legal issues, Memphis community archives, an open forum on health and safety issues for archivists, and a session highlighting two major photographic collections in Tennessee. Thursday evening is reserved for a visit to the Wonders Exhibit on China. Registration information and more details on the program and accommodations will be mailed to members in a few weeks.



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## ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF THE BEESON HIKING DIARY

*In the Spirit of Adventure: A Hike in the Great Smoky Mountains*, edited by Tennessee Archivists members Norma Myers and Ned Irwin, along with Charles Maynard of Seymour, Tennessee, is being published as a joint venture of the Archives and Special Collections department, East Tennessee State University, and the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park's creation.

Written by Johnson City architect, D.R. Beeson, Sr., the diary describes a 1914 hike Beeson made with C. Hodge Mathes along the ridge of the Great Smokies. Beeson and Mathes were attempting to disprove a statement by Horace Kephart that it would be nearly impossible to make the journey to Mount Guyot. It was Beeson's belief that they were the first two white men to accomplish this feat. The present Appalachian Trail in the park largely follows their path. The book includes a transcription of the diary and reproductions of photographs Beeson took during the course of the hike. The diary itself, along with other personal papers, were donated to the archives in 1983 by Mr. Beeson's children. Myers and Irwin wrote a biographical sketch to accompany the diary. Maynard provides an introductory essay comparing the Beeson-Mathes hike with a similar journey he took exactly 80 years later. Copies of the book may be purchased from Panther Press, P.O. Box 636, Seymour, TN 37865. The book is \$12.95 (hardback) and \$7.95 (paperback), plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Tennessee residents should include 8 and 1/2 percent sales tax.

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### Sumner County Archives: Concluded from page 3.....

material is found in Manuscript/Special Collections and includes church records, photographs, family Bibles, maps and manuscripts. The geological survey maps of the county have been enhanced with the locations of important historical sites, as pinpointed by local historians. A funeral home collection is heavily used by patrons. A new addition to the facility is Family/Search, a CD-ROM program developed by the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). This program includes the Social Security Death Index and four other computerized searches and is available to patrons for a small user fee.

Another unique feature is a Records Preservation Laboratory. A state grant provided the services of an archivist for one year. Most of the original documents through 1850 were cleaned and deacidified and many were also repaired and encapsulated.

The archives prides itself on the fact that most of its collections are catalogued, well indexed and easy to use. The facility is open 8:00 to 4:30 Monday to Friday, with plenty of free parking nearby. Staff members and volunteers work side by side to insure that visitors are successful in their searches. While visiting historic Sumner County, patrons may want to take time to visit some of the beautiful old homes and historic sites in the area. Brochures are available upon request.

For those unable to visit Sumner County, mail requests for specific items are encouraged. A list of researchers is available when in-depth research is needed. A \$5 search fee and an SASE, along with a request for a maximum of ten items, entitles one to a half hour search. Requests should be sent to the Sumner County Archives, 155 East Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066.