

Tennessee Archivist

The Newsletter of the Society of Tennessee Archivists

Winter 2005

www.geocities.com/tennarchivists

ISSN: 1528-6436



1960s View of the Tennessee Capitol Building in Nashville

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TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

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

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

The Tennessee Archivist is published occasionally throughout the year. This newsletter was designed using MS Publisher 2000.

The URL for the Society of Tennessee Archivists is:
www.geocities.com/tennarchivists/

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Tennessee Open Records

How easy is it for an individual to gain access to public records in Tennessee? Apparently, not too easy and the recently organized Tennessee Coalition for Open Government recently conducted its own audit of public records accessibility in the state. The Tennessee Coalition for Open Government (TCOG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving open access to public records in the state. After reports that citizens were being denied access to public records and documents the TCOG decided to conduct its audit. Nearly one hundred people were selected as auditors and they visited government offices in every county in Tennessee. The government offices were not notified in advance of these visits. The auditors asked for four documents that should be accessible according to the Tennessee Public Records Law. These included documents concerning crime in neighborhoods and conditions in local schools. After visiting all 95 counties in Tennessee auditors were denied access to public records 25% of the time.

In a related matter, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued guidelines in early January 2005 which limits when judges could rule that certain civil court documents be kept confidential. The ruling stated that "the public interests are best served by open courts and an independent judiciary." Some documents could still be sealed, including those in which access is restricted by law, and those which deal with matters subject to a protective order or to maintain the privacy of an individual's financial situation.

Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC) Coming to Nashville on March 28-30, 2005

The Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC) is a consortium of State Archives from TN, AL, MS, VA, WVA, NC, SC, FL, KY, GA, and LA. Each year, the State Archivist and staff members from each state institution gather to discuss archival issues. At the 2004 gathering in Jackson, MC, SARC members chose the Tennessee State Library and Archives to host the 2005 meeting.

The meeting will begin with a reception at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville on Monday evening, March 28. The Board of Directors of the Society of Tennessee Archivists has graciously offered to sponsor the opening event.

Session discussions include topics on electronic records and digitization, records management, providing reference services in the digital age, and outreach programs for government archives. Approximately fifty archivists and records managers are expected to attend the two and one-half day conference.

Confused about your STA membership dues? You're not alone!

By Jami Awalt, Treasurer of STA

Membership renewal is almost upon us. Several members (including myself) have been in the dark about the lifecycle of membership dues. So, in order to clear up any confusion AND to make my life as treasurer a little easier....

Included below is information from the By-laws concerning types of membership and due date of fees.

Beginning April 2005, all dues for STA membership will be due on or before April 30th. All dues paid before April 2005 (including dues paid at the November 2004 meeting) have been marked as payment for 2004.

I will send out membership renewals in late March as a reminder. After your payment has cleared, I will send a payment confirmation indicating your membership is up to date.

Hopefully, this will create a more even flow for the payment of dues. It is extremely important that everyone pay their dues in the spring so we have enough money to cover the Annual Meeting in the fall.

Article IV (Membership) of the by-laws:

Regular members are those persons who are full-time or part-time employees in the field of archives, manuscripts or records management.

Associate members are those interested persons in allied disciplines, students and others who do not qualify for regular membership. Associate members enjoy all the privileges and benefits of membership except that they shall not hold office.

Institutional members may include includes archives, libraries, businesses, government agencies and other institutions and organizations. Institutional members do not hold offices. They may designate someone to cast their vote on matters brought before the society's membership.

Article V (Dues) of the by-laws:

Dues for each membership category shall be proposed by the executive committee and approved by a majority of members present and voting at the annual business meeting of the Society. Notice of any proposal dues change shall be given the membership at least four weeks prior to the business meeting. **Dues for each calendar year shall be paid by April 30th.**

The current dues (adopted November, 1996) are:

- For Regular Membership: \$20.00
- For Institutional Membership: \$20.00
- For Associate Membership: \$10.00

Lighting the Path Heritage Exhibit: Celebrating 75 Years of Youth Ministry

By Eric Waggoner, Reporter

The Dixon Pentecostal Research Center and archives opened the new *Lighting the Path* heritage exhibit on October 28, 2004, in Cleveland, Tennessee. It celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Church of God's first general youth program – the Young People's Endeavor. On display are past issues of *The Lighted Pathway* a monthly youth magazine, artifacts, memorabilia, letters, photographs, and other historical documents.

A special section honors Dr. Ray H. Hughes Sr., who as a young minister preached at a Hollywood Bowl youth rally in 1948. He became the third director of the Church of God's National Youth Department. Since then, he has faithfully served in many capacities including general overseer, president of Lee University, president of the Church of God Theological Seminary, and as president of the National Association of Evangelicals. He donated his papers, documents, and other materials to the Dixon Research Center during the summer of 2004.



Ray H. Hughes, Sr. served as the president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) from 1986-1988; during his tenure President Ronald Reagan addressed the NAE.

Before the General Assembly adopted the Young People's Endeavor in 1929, the Church of God had already demonstrated a commitment to children and youth through Sunday school, Bible Training School and ministry to needy children. The first General Assembly was held in 1906 and urged adoption of Sunday schools to benefit children and teens.



Alda B. Harrison sitting at The Lighted Pathway Desk

The Church of God Bible Training School, now Lee University, was established in 1918, along with the Church of God Orphanage in 1920.

"The year 1929 was a decisive moment for Church of God youth," stated Dr. David Roebuck, director of the Dixon Pentecostal Research Center. "Several local and state youth organizations inspired the General Assembly to implement a national program for its young people." Alda B. Harrison and other key leaders particularly encouraged the adoption and promotion of YPE. The same year Mrs. Harrison established *The Lighted Pathway* as a monthly magazine for youth, which later was adopted by the general church and published until 1991. Since 1929, the Church of God has developed many other youth ministries including youth camps, short-term mission trips, Youth World Evangelism Action, and Teen Talent. The International Department of Youth and Christian Education was founded in 1948.

Lighting the Path heritage exhibit is sponsored by the Church of God Historical Commission and the Dixon Pentecostal Research Center.

The exhibit is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during normal hours. It will remain on display at the Pentecostal Resource Center at Lee University until June 2006.

For more information contact: Dixon Pentecostal Research Center, (423) 614-8576, or email at: dixon_research@leeuniversity.edu.

Minutes of the 27th Annual Meeting, Society of Tennessee Archivists, Held at the Chattanooga Choo Choo, Holiday Inn, November 3-5, 2004.

To be approved – Annual Meeting, 2005

President Barbara Garrett, Maury County Archives, welcomed all participants to the 27th annual meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists on Wednesday, November 3rd. The concurrent sessions included the following speakers and topics:

“Collection Development for Archives” Jay Richiuso, Director, Archival Technical Services, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

“So You Want to Do a Digitization Project ... Things You Need to Consider Before You Begin,” Clara Swann [absent] and Mary Jane Spehar, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library; Carol Roberts, Director, Preservation Services, Tennessee State Library and Archives; Lucinda Poole Cockrell, Archivist, The Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University.

A forum and discussion session was led by Steve Cotham, Director, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library, with members introducing themselves and speaking about topics of interest and concern related to historical records, archives, and research.

On Thursday morning, President Garrett announced an open invitation to the group, given by the Chattanooga Downtown Partnership, to attend an optional breakfast event at the Sheraton Read House.

Next, Mr. Cotham presented the STA conference speakers:

“Overview of the Library and Archives: Kalmbach Memorial Library,” Brent Lambert, Kalmbach Library, National Railroad Museum.

“Building a D.C. Collection: Exploring the Political Collections of the University of Tennessee Special Collections,” Erin Lawrimore and Aaron D. Purcell, University Archivists, University of Tennessee.

After lunch, the conference continued with the presentations and tour events:



Treasurer Jami Awalt (front) and past president Barbara Garrett at the annual meeting.

“Tennessee Resources in the National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Regional Branch,” Dr. Charles Reeves, Director, Archival Operations, NARA, East Point, Georgia.

The afternoon program activities were the following events:

- 1) Travel by Shuttle to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library.
- 2) “DPI’s to URLs: An Overview of the Chattanooga Digitization Project,” presented by Mary Jane Spehar and Mary Helms, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library.
- 3) Tour of the Chattanooga Regional History Museum. Britt Brantley, Exec. Director and Education Coordinator, presented an overview about exhibit and educational programming.

The STA banquet was held in the Roosevelt Room of the Chattanooga Choo Choo, with the featured guest speaker Walter T. Durham, Tennessee State Historian, who presented an address on “The State of State History.”

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President Garrett introduced Dr. Wayne C. Moore, TSLA Asst. State Archivist, who commented about the significance of archival repositories representing “the greatest reservoir of historical knowledge that we have yet to tap into.” He announced the recipients of the John H. Thweatt Archival Advancement Awards, a special recognition awarded for outstanding service and achievement in municipal and county archives for 2004: Yolanda Reid, Robertson County Archives, Springfield, Tennessee and Peggy Bevels, Lincoln County Archives, Fayetteville, Tennessee.

At 9:00 a.m. Friday morning, President Garrett opened the STA Business Meeting with a vote on whether to approve a joint conference meeting with the Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) in 2005. A majority voted in favor of the motion, with a view that the meeting will be hosted in NC, or at a location near the Tennessee State border.

As editor of the STA Newsletter editor, Steven Cox, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, discussed his concerns regarding the *Tennessee Archivist* publication. He encouraged members to provide him with more content and quality articles about repository holdings and other significant topics for review to publish, especially since EBSCO has approached him about a possible licensing agreement of the newsletter. It will be more feasible to do so, once the STA newsletter improves in overall quality and expands its coverage.



Assistant State Archivist, Dr. Wayne Moore, addresses the society during a meeting

Barbara Garrett acknowledged consensus approval on this issue and she reminded everyone about current online access to the newsletter via the STA website [<http://www.geocities.com/tennarchivists/>] that is created by Archivist Cathi Carmack, TSLA. The newsletter was moved to online publication because of the exorbitant printing and postage costs.

Next, STA Treasurer Jami Awalt, Archivist, TSLA, reported a balanced budget for the fiscal year and her fiscal report was distributed to the group.

The ballot results for the election of new executive officers were Steve Cotham, (McClung Historical Collection), President; and, Sara Harwell (Disciples of Christ, Nashville), Vice-President.

The fun and excitement of the raffle began, with many wonderful door prizes such as books and collectibles.

Barbara Garrett inquired as to any old business issues, with none stated, she next opened the discussion on new business:

- Treasurer Jami Awalt informed the group that the due date for annual membership dues is in June and she announced that any unpaid memberships that are 3 years old will be deleted from the active list. Approval on this was made, with acknowledgement that the dues notice would continue to be mailed in April, to members in advance.
- Barbara Garrett expressed her gratitude for her service opportunity as STA President. Jay Richiuso made a motion to recognize her for her leadership role and contributions.

Next, Dr. Wayne C. Moore, Assistant State Archivist and Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) Chairman and State Historical Records Coordinator introduced Archivist Jami Awalt, TSLA Local Archives Program and THRAB Secretary and Deputy State Historical Records Coordinator, who presented the purpose and

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scope of the Volunteer Challenge 2004, federal grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, enabling them to conduct a systematic statewide assessment survey of more than 450 archival organizations and repositories, the presentation of workshops for the benefit of local projects affiliated with municipal and county archives, advancement of the Archives Summit, and the publication of *Volunteer Challenge 2004: A Report on Archives and Record Keeping in Tennessee*, which included a summary of improvements that have been made since the initial survey of 1994.

Dr. Moore discussed outcomes of the Volunteer Challenge grant and how important outreach is to benefit the advancement of public life and cultural heritage in Tennessee. Archival participants were recognized for their contributions in the survey, as well as Jay Richiuso's work on the first directory of statewide repositories published a decade ago. Especial recognition for the late John Thweatt's leadership role in lighting the path in establishing some for the first County Archives in Tennessee was acknowledged.

The STA Annual meeting was concluded prior to noon, with an especial thanks by President Cotham for Sarah Swann's contributions towards the success of the program.

Respectfully submitted by Leanne Garland, Secy. of STA.



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Opens

On October 14, 2004 the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library was opened to the public in Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois. The library's holdings include over 48,000 Lincoln artifacts, including one of only five handwritten copies of the Gettysburg Address. Many of these will be held in the museum part of the library, scheduled to open on April 19th of this year. In addition to items related to President Lincoln, the library also holds over 12 million items dealing with Illinois history.



The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

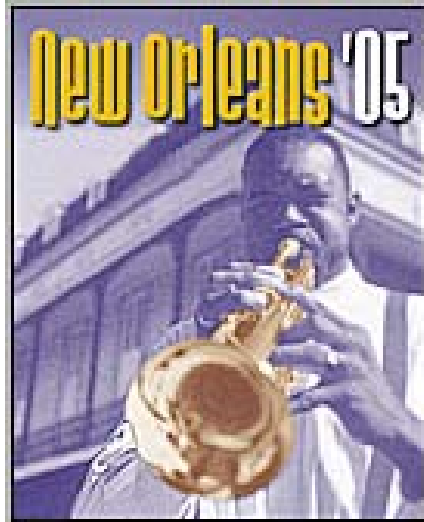
Wanted!

Original articles and pictures of what's happening in Tennessee archives, libraries, and repositories. Toot your own horn and promote your department, report on an important new acquisition, advertise an exhibit or display, or post a job notice. You can even try your hand at an article on archival standards and methodology. There is a lot of good work out there, done by excellent Tennessee archivists, so let's spread the joy around a bit! Please contact the editor if you would like to submit something for future newsletters.

SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

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STA Annual Meeting– New Orleans, August 15-21, 2005. Go to www.archivists.org for further information.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.geocities.com/tennarchivists/>

WHY NOT JOIN US?

The Society of Tennessee Archivists invite membership from all persons interested in Tennessee's archives and historical resources. Membership is on a calendar basis. STA currently holds one meeting each year which includes the annual business meeting. STA is a member of the regional association called the Southern Archivists Conference. Currently the four southern states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee make up the conference. A SAC meeting is held every other year in conjunction with the other states and each state alternately host the meetings.

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

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

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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