

# The Primary Source

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# The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

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Volume Three

November, 1981

Number Four

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## SMA HOLDS ACTION WORKSHOP ON COAST

A follow-up workshop on the *Summary Report* issued by the National Association of State Archivists and Records Administrators (NASARA) was sponsored by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, November 6-7, at the Gulf Park Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Twelve representatives from seven archival programs at four institutions gathered for evaluation and discussion of the NASARA report.

The *Summary Report*, a NASARA project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, was a three year survey project of state archival agencies. Three questionnaires were sent to these agencies requesting information on archival and records management practices, reference services, microfilming practices and standards, and conservation standards. One of the points of investigation for the project was the way in which the archival agencies reported work practices in-house, inter-agency, and to funding authorities. NASARA Executive Director A. K. Johnson, in presenting the report at the July, 1981, annual meeting of NASARA stated that there was little uniformity at any reporting level in the way that statistics were gathered and used. The *Report* was accompanied by an "Action List," calling for follow-up discussion of the *Report* around the country. It was in response to the "Action List" that the Society of Mississippi Archivists held its workshop.

The workshop's first session was spent in examining the *Report* page by page. The format of the *Report* was based on a project questionnaire sent out in 1980. All sections of the *Report* were covered with the exception of the section on records management (that program being unique to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History). Upon completion of the examination, workshop consensus was that there was, indeed, little uniformity of terminology, standards or work practices in effect across the country. Most troubling to workshop participants were the various terminologies used by archives to describe a single operation.

The second session focused on the practices of institutions represented at the workshop. Using the outline of the *Summary Report* as a basis, reports were made on each program represented. The conclusions that had been reached in the first session were confirmed in the second session. Not only was there no uniformity in reporting work practices or in standards among Mississippi institutions, there was little or no conformity among programs within an institution.

The third and final session dealt with possible approaches to improving the situation, as described in the *Summary Report* and in workshop reports. While the importance of the problem and its magnitude were recognized, any discussion beyond that was lost in the overwhelming shadow of the problem. Participants did agree that further investigation was in order and expressed the hope that the Society's Executive Council would officially support continuing discussion of the problem.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

The Primary Source is a quarterly publication of news and ideas produced by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, a non-profit organization of professional archivists and interested persons. Subscription to *The Primary Source* is included in the Society membership dues. Membership information is printed on the last page of each issue.

Your contributions are welcome. Write *The Primary Source*, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, MS 39205.

Deadlines for inclusion are:

- #1 (February) -- January 31
- #2 (May) --- April 30
- #3 (August) -- July 31
- #4 (November) -- October 31

h t holmes.....Editor  
Martha C. Sparrow....Asst. Editor

Membership renewals are coming in daily. As of November 15, we have 117 paid members for 1981-82, and, of that number, twelve are new. It is our hope that the Society can surpass last year's total and challenge the membership numbers of the previous two years.

The *Membership Directory* for the 1980-1981 membership year was distributed in mid-September. If you did not receive your copy or your address was wrong, please bring it to our attention so we can send you a copy or correct our records.

At the Executive Council meeting held at the Archives and History Building in Jackson on September 18, 1981, the executive director reported that the closing membership for 1980-81 was 254, which represented 80% of last year's total. The major points of the meeting were: fund raising for the Society and the terminology and work standards seminar, which was successfully held at the Gulf Park Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, November 6-7. The turn-out for the seminar was sparse, but those present found the meeting stimulating.

Hopefully, the meeting will serve as precursor for more concentrated examination of the common terminology and work standards which should be adopted for archival management and records administration in Mississippi.

The Fall is always a busy season as we gear up for the current membership year. If you can suggest ways in which the Society can benefit you or your program or the archival field in general, please contact us at the headquarters office in Jackson. -- RET

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Executive Council.....January, Jackson, Miss.  
Last met on September 18 in Jackson - copies of minutes available from Ex. Director
- Awards Committee.....Not Scheduled
- Committee on *The Primary Source*.....Not Scheduled  
Latest report in minutes of September 18 Council meeting - available from Ex. Director
- Membership Committee.....Not Scheduled  
Latest report in minutes of September 18 Council meeting - available from Ex. Director
- Ways and Means Committee.....Not Scheduled  
Latest report in minutes of September 18 Council meeting - available from Ex. Director



# A C C E S S I O N S

## EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY - ABERDEEN

*McKnight (Frank S.) Photographer.* pre 1900.

One 16x20 brown photograph, clear and in good condition. The library also has McKnight's camera and over 4,000 of his glass negatives covering Mississippi and Alabama towns as well as studio registers 1885-1920 (scattered) of Aberdeen, Ripley, Amory, other North Mississippi towns, and parts of Alabama. Presented by Mrs. Mary Candles Ray, Corinth, Mississippi.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

*Bradley (Norman and Frances Weems Bradley) Papers.* 1940 - 1981. 5 linear feet.

Correspondence, clippings and memorabilia of Norman Bradley, editor emeritus of the Chattanooga Times and founding editor of the Jackson (Mississippi) State Times and of Frances Bradley, former food editor of the Chattanooga Times. Presented by Norman and Frances Weems Bradley, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

*Tenn-Tom Collection.* 1947 - 1977. 3 cubic feet.

Papers, correspondence, clippings, reports concerning Florida's entrance into the Tennessee Tombigbee Compact, information on Cross Florida Barge Canal; planning functions of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Authority; correspondence between Water Authority and board members including Lt. Governor William Winter, Governor John Bell Williams and Governor William Waller of Mississippi and Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama.

Presented by Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

*Tenn-Tom Collection.* 1970 - 1976. 3 cubic feet.

Correspondence between Tenn-Tom Development Authority and board members including Sage Lyon, Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, and Governor Wendell Ford of Kentucky, Governor Winfield Dunn of Tennessee and Governor Ross Barnett of Mississippi; speech by President Gerald Ford; studies, correspondence, clippings concerning environmental battle over Tenn-Tom Waterway.

Presented by Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

*The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection.* ca. 300 linear feet.

Original manuscripts and illustrative materials.

*The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection.*

Large private collection including 518 titles by George Henty, 1,294 works by other authors and 125 periodicals.

*Noted Genealogical Collection.*

Acquired by the bequest of Mrs. Sue Farrand.

*Williams (Howard S.) Papers.* 1921 - 1960.

Collection now open. Papers of former owner and editor of the Hattiesburg American, who later became a traveling evangelist, papers include correspondence, photographs, broadsides, and newspaper articles.



# A C C E S S I O N S

## TOUGALOO COLLEGE

*Heyman's Slave Document.* 1863. 1 item.

An original bill of sale for a slave named Matthew John, aged about 19 years, dated November 7, 1863 (after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863) in Savannah, Georgia, for a purchase price of \$3,000 by Robert S. Thurston Esq. from Joseph P. Harlee.

Presented by Dr. John Heyman, Trustee of Tougaloo College, formerly of New York and currently a resident of Richland, Mississippi.

*Smith (Rev. Dr. Robert L. T.) Papers.* 1960s - 1970s. 3 cubic feet.

Rev. Robert L. T. Smith, noted civil rights leader in Jackson, Mississippi, area, and the first black in Mississippi to run as a congressional candidate (1962) has donated personal correspondence, speeches, sermons, campaign flyers, etc. attesting to his involvement in civil rights activities.

Presented by Rev. Dr. Robert L. T. Smith.

## SAA SCHEDULES BASIC ARCHIVAL CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

The Society of American Archivists is pleased to announce the following conservation workshops which have been scheduled as part of its Basic Archival Conservation Program:

### 1981

December 9-11 - National Archives, Washington, D.C.

### 1982

January 20-22 - Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, in conjunction with the Conference of Intermountain Archivists

March 24-26 - Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

May 19-21 - State Library Commission of Iowa in conjunction with the Iowa Historical Material Preservation Society, Des Moines, Iowa

Each workshop will be of two and one-half days duration and will consist of lecture/discussions on various aspects of conservation philosophy and administration as well as hands-on demonstration and practice of basic archival conservation techniques. Limited enrollment; the \$50 tuition will cover the cost of a conservation supply kit. Persons eligible to attend a workshop must currently hold a position in a manuscript or archival repository and have little or no previous training in conservation.

Inquiries and request for applications may be directed to the Basic Archival Conservation Program, Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.



## NEWS NOTES

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Charlotte Capers and Patti Black attended the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Williamsburg in September. Ms. Capers was elected to the council of the Association. Ms. Black is national chairman of the Association's Award Committee.

### EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY - HISTORICAL DIVISION

Visitors and researchers including professors and authors from many states have used the library's manuscript collection and its genealogical material. Especially prized is a photograph of J. H. Ingraham, who laid the cornerstone of St. John's Episcopal Church (1851). The library also has many of Mr. Ingraham's books. Other items of great interest include the picture of one of the county's oldest supervisors and a newspaper from Aberdeen, Scotland....Students from nearby colleges who are researching the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway have made use of the library's collection of almost 300 account books.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Anne Wells attended the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Berkeley, California, in September....During homecoming activities on October 17th, Norman and Frances Weems Bradley presented their papers to the University.

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

John Kelly, Curator for Special Collections, has been promoted from Librarian II to Librarian III....Delores Jones has been promoted to Librarian II and Associate Editor of Juvenile Miscellany.

### RESEARCH UNDERWAY INTO MECHANISMS OF FOXING AND PAPER DEGRADATION AT MILLSAPS

Dr. C. Eugene Cain, Professor of Chemistry, is conducting research directed at understanding the processes involved in the aging of paper and of the growth of foxing (brown spots). One aim of the research is the development of a treatment for paper labels on wooden objects such as clocks, looking glasses, and furniture. Dr. Cain has done research at the Analytical Laboratory of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum and is continuing his work at Millsaps. He welcomes samples (to be sacrificed for science) of degraded or foxed paper as well as reports of unusual foxing. Since all of his spare time is spent on his research, Dr. Cain says that he does not have the time or expertise to consult on conservation.

### WOMEN IN NEW JERSEY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM TOPIC

The subject for the 13th annual New Jersey History Symposium to be held in Trenton on December 5th will be "Women in New Jersey History." Four scholars will deliver papers on the women's rights movement, divorce laws, and women's experiences as industrial workers. In the morning session Delight Dodyk of Drew University will discuss "The Operation of Paterson's Silk Mills: A Study in Women's Industrial Experience in the Early Twentieth Century." Elaine Tyler May of the University Of Minnesota will speak on "In-Laws and Out-Laws: Divorce in New Jersey 1890-1925." Michele I. Naples of Rutgers University will act as chairman-commentator.



## NEWS NOTES

In the afternoon, Barbara Petrick of William L. Dickenson High School, Jersey City, will talk on "Mary Philbrook: The Professional Woman and Equal Rights." Amelia R. Fry of the University of California will present a paper on "Alice Paul and the Divine Discontent." William L. O'Neill of Rutgers University will be chairman-commentator. Registration for the symposium is \$5.00. For a brochure write Howard L. Green, Acting Research Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, 113 W. State Street, CN 520, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625.

### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Smithsonian Institution Conservation Information Program has the following slide - tape and video tape programs on paper:

- V-81 The Removal of Pressure Sensitive Tape from Flat Paper.
- S-4 Cleaning of Prints, Drawings, and Manuscripts: Dry Method.
- S-5 Curatorial Examination of Paper Objects.
- S-6 Hinging and Mounting of Paper Objects.

These programs are available on loan for \$20.00 for the video tape and \$17.00 for the slide - tape programs. For more information contact: Conservation Information Program, Office of Museum Programs, Smithsonian Institution, 2235 Arts and Industries Building, Washington, D. C. 20560.

### CANADIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

The Canadian Conservation Institute has the following technical bulletins available at no charge:

- #1 Relative Humidity: Its Importance, Measurement and Control in Museums by K. J. Macleod.
- #3 Recommended Environmental Monitors for Museums, Archives and Art Galleries by Raymond H. Lafontaine.
- #5 Environmental Norms for Canadian Museums, Art Galleries and Archives by Raymond H. Lafontaine.
- #6 The Care of Black and White Photographic Collections: Identification of Processing by Siegfried Rempel.
- #7 Fluorescent Lamps by Raymond H. Lafontaine and Patricia A. Wood.

These bulletins may be ordered from the Canadian Conservation Institute National Museum of Canada, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

### PRESERVATION EDUCATION DIRECTORY

The Preservation of Library Materials Section Education Committee, Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association, has published the 1981 Preservation Education Directory edited by Susan Swartzburg and Susan White.



## NEWS NOTES

The directory lists available courses in conservation and preservation. Copies of the directory may be ordered from RTSD Office, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Prepaid orders are \$2.50. If an invoice is required, the cost is \$3.00 for the directory.

### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS CONSERVATION CONSULTANT SERVICE

The Society of American Archivists announced in September the availability of its conservation consultant service which is the second phase of the NEH-funded Basic Archival Conservation Program. Conservation consultants will aid archival institutions in evaluating environmental conditions, maintenance of collections, security systems, exhibitions practices, and archival procedures. The service will involve an on-site visit followed by written report from the consultant.

The consultant service is available on a cost-sharing basis. The consultant's honorarium will be provided by the Basic Archival Conservation Program. The host institutions will provide the consultant's travel costs. There are consultants from all areas of the country to help minimize the travel costs. To qualify for a consultant visit, institutions are required to have at least one full-time staff member working in an archival capacity. The chief administrative officer of the institution must also indicate support of the visit. Institutions with unique archival collections and a commitment to implementing and upgrading conservation practice will have preference. Inquiries and requests for applications should be sent to Basic Archival Conservation Program, Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

### YALE RECORDS SURVEY

The final report of the Yale University records survey to the NHPRC, "Planning and Organizing a Joint Archives and Records Management Program," is available at cost to interested individuals and institutions. The report covers the planning and implementation of the Yale records survey, survey findings, and the organization and design of a joint archives-records management program. The cost including postage and handling is \$3.00. Orders can be prepaid. Make checks payable to Yale University Library and mail to John Dojka, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

### SAA COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ACTIVITY

The Society of American Archivists' Committee on Regional Archival Activity has published A Directory of Regional Archival Activity. This directory lists regional archival organizations, establishment date, governance, size, dues and activities. 1981 officers and their addresses are given. Copies of this directory may be obtained by writing the SMA Executive Director, P.O. Box 1151, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

The report lists twenty-three regional organizations, ranging from loosely-organized groups with no membership counts to the Midwest Archives Conference with more than 500 members. The oldest formally organized group, the Society of Ohio Archivists, was founded in 1968; the most recent, Arkansas Archivists & Record Managers, in 1979. Dues range from \$2.50 - \$15.00 and most organizations meet at least annually. Sixteen organizations publish newsletters, while two publish journals.



## LOWNDES COUNTY LIBRARY ESTABLISHES LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVES

The Lowndes County Library System has demonstrated its commitment to the preservation of archival resources by establishing the Margaret Latimer Buckley Room and by hiring a professional archivist to head it. The room bears the name of the wife of Dr. George Truett Buckley, whose unrestricted gift enabled the Columbus Public Library to develop and strengthen its local history collection. Mrs. Douglas Bateman, director of the library system, said of the gift, "It is rewarding to me to be able to publicize the handsome Buckley bequest in hope that other people will follow suit in other public libraries. I have always felt that the local history and genealogical department of a public library was most vital to its services, but I know these departments have always suffered because limited public library funds usually have to go for other major services."

As a result of the Buckley gift, the library's Local History and Genealogy Room was doubled in size, totally reorganized, and beautifully furnished with handmade wooden pieces. Local cabinet maker Robert Chism built the book and map cases, storage units, desks, carrels, and special cabinet containing Mrs. Buckley's portrait. Glass cases flanking the door display items on loan from the community and from the collection.



Archivist Donna Kreuzer in Buckley Room Archives

The Buckley Room houses books, periodicals, census records, maps, an extensive photograph collection, scrapbooks, microfilm vertical files of newspaper clippings, and approximately 150 manuscript collections. The collection focuses on the history of Columbus and Lowndes County but also includes substantial holdings on genealogy and Mississippi. One future project is the initiation of an oral history program, with a concentration on Columbus social and architectural history.

The room is under the general direction of Mrs. Bateman and the Library Committee on Historical Columbus. Last year the library created a new position to head the expanded



Local History Department and hired Donnal Pannell Kreutzer to fill the job, which she describes as a combination "local history librarian, manuscript librarian, and archivist." Donna has done graduate work in history at Mississippi State University, where she took archival administration courses and worked in the Special Collections Department of the university library. Prior to her present position, she worked on the archival team of the Tombigbee Historic Townsites Project. In addition to Kreuzer, the room is serviced by a part-time assistant, a part-time volunteer, and additional staff members during the evening and week-end hours that the library is open. Researchers are requested to register upon arrival. The entire collection is non-circulating, but because of the library's magnetic book detection system, the majority of the non-manuscript items are available on open shelves. The photograph and manuscript collections are described in calendars and in card files with subject indexes. Conservation procedures include fumigation, deacidification, encapsulation and storage in acid-free containers.

The Buckley Room was officially dedicated on Sunday, November 8. Historian John K. Bettersworth was the speaker, and displays featured the activities of the Columbus Riflemen during the Mexican, Civil and Spanish-American wars.

## ABSTRACTS OF CONSERVATION RESEARCH IN PROGRESS AT MILLSAPS COLLEGE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Analysis and Artificial Synthesis of Foxing on Paper

C. Eugene Cain and John Turner IV

Current literature offers two differing explanations for foxing (development of brown spots) on paper: 1) biological -- growth of microorganisms on the paper or 2) chemical -- iron or copper particles embedded in the paper, catalyzing the degradation of cellulose around them.

Microscopic and ultra-violet fluorescence examination of old papers revealed evidence of fungal growth in about one-quarter of foxed spots. Spot test for iron revealed high concentration of iron +3 in all foxed areas. This high metal concentration could be the results of biological metabolism, or it could be a causitive factor in the development of biological activity; serving as a catalytic site for organism nutrition. Preliminary experiments designed to induce foxing by implanting metal particles in paper and the examination of a variety of foxed paper samples both suggest that the catalytic degradation of paper by iron fragments is the initial step in the formation of foxed spots on paper. Incubation in a warm, humid atmosphere, exposure to acid, and accelerated aging of paper with implanted metal particles reproduce the characteristics of foxing on paper. Present results indicate that foxing may involve the general mechanisms of paper degradation localized around high catalyst concentration.

Effects of Accelerated Aging on Paper Labels Attached to Wood: Proposed Control

C. Eugene Cain, Frank Wade and Bert Tagert

Degradation of paper labels attached to wood is a major problem especially related to the authentication of antique objects such as clocks and furniture. Mechanisms of paper aging are not yet understood although two separate, concurrent mechanisms are proposed: 1) a pH dependent acidic cleavage of cellulose chains, and 2) a free radical oxidative cleavage involving peroxides. In accord with mechanism (1), it was postulated that acids present in wood accelerate the degradation of attached paper. Preliminary results indicate that wood acid, such as tannic acid, are able to hasten the degradation of paper in direct proportion to the concentration of the acid. Artificial aging on wood was accomplished at elevated temperature in both humid and dry air. Protection of paper by pH control and coating offer promise. Preliminary attempts at reducing degradation which utilize sodium silicate and carboxymethylcellulose are promising when artificial aging is carried out in dry air. The aging process at elevated temperature in humid air appears to follow a more complex pattern with iron and other impurities catalyzing the degradation.



## RAILROAD ARCHIVES PROGRESSING AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

By Frank N. Walker, Jr., Project Archivist  
AAR-GMO Archives, U. of Southern Miss.

More than a decade ago the University of Southern Mississippi secured the files of the Association of American Railroads, an extensive collection documenting important aspects of the national railway industry. Seizing the opportunity to build a railroad research source of still greater magnitude, additional records were obtained, including those of the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad; the Mississippi Central Railroad; and the Vicksburg Division of the Illinois Central Railroad. Within a short time, University officials had thus saved from imminent destruction approximately seven thousand cubic feet of material.

Initially, no adequate storage facility existed on campus for such a large collection, nor was the staff of the University's library able to devote sufficient time for its processing. However, in 1976 a graduate library and archives building was completed and named in honor of retiring president, William D. McCain. Space thus became available for the railroad collections. Funds for processing of the collections were provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, in conjunction with the University. In all, the NHPRC provided \$57,787.00 of the \$114,145.00 required for the two-year project. A project archivist was hired, and work began April 1, 1980. As quickly as possible after his arrival in Hattiesburg, the project archivist assembled a crew of assistants. Most of those hired were graduate students in history, library science, and related fields. It was found that the records could be divided into four major groups according to their provenance (A.A.R., I.C.R.R., M.C.R.R., G.M.O.&R.R.) With the G.M.&O. were placed those records of its predecessor railroads, the Gulf, Mobile and Northern; the Alton; and the New Orleans-Great Northern. Arranged with the Mississippi Central were records of its predecessors, the Natchez and Eastern; the Pearl and Leaf River.

Because it was the smallest group and contained the most recent records, the Illinois Central papers were weeded first. Cumulative records were given high retention priority. Items such as waybills and vouchers which were present in vast quantity but which possessed little research value were discarded, excepting examples. At all times, the archivist was able to pass final judgment as to the weeding. As the records were initially sorted, those to be retained were placed in archival storage boxes and transported in a university vehicle to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, for fumigation. Personnel at M.D.A.H. were extremely courteous through fourteen months during which loads of railroad papers arrived regularly from the U.S.M. project. After twenty-seven trips, in all five thousand miles, fumigation was completed. Material returning from Jackson went directly to the McCain Library, where new shelving had been installed for the collections. There it is undergoing final processing according to standard archival procedures. In excess of thirty thousand folders will likely be utilized by the time the project is completed. A finding aid will include descriptions down to the level of the sub-series, as well as more detailed series descriptions, a history of the papers and the project, and other pertinent information.

Three semi-annual reports have been written for this project and sent to NHPRC. A fourth will mark the project's completion. These reports typically include a six-months narrative of activities, a detailed financial report, and other material of possible interest to NHPRC reviewers. Project personnel have been greatly assisted in the preparation of financial reports by U.S.M. contracts accountant Theresa Martin.

In the ninth month of the project, consultant Dwayne Swanson journeyed from Minneapolis to offer observations for the benefit of project personnel in Hattiesburg. Swanson, Assistant Archivist for Public Records at the Minnesota Historical Society, was recommended as consultant for this project by the NHPRC. Following this three-day visit (his second; it was he who assisted with the original appraisal prior to the writing of the grant proposal), Swanson provided advice and assessment in a formal report which later was incorporated into the second semi-annual report to the NHPRC.



As the project nears completion, publicity becomes a new concern. U.S.M. Public Relations Department personnel have assisted project personnel in this respect by producing and distributing radio, television and newspaper releases.

#### Association of American Railroads Collection

The Association of American Railroads grew from various predecessor groups, notably the American Railway Association, founded in 1891. Today the AAR includes railroads, switching companies, and terminal companies in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Not a railroad government, it is, rather, an organization set up to perform tasks for the mutual benefit of its members. Directors are chosen by the railroads and associated companies according to geographic regions.

Included in the Association of American Railroads Collection are correspondence, books, monographs, and records which reflect nearly every aspect of railroading in the United States. Perhaps the most valuable records in this collection are the files of the President's Conference Committee on the Federal Valuation of the Railroads. The Valuation Act of 1913 was designed to determine the value of carrier transportation property. Following this and the Transportation Act of 1920, the Interstate Commerce Commission set about the task of making rate adjustments according to the valuations. To facilitate valuation work, the President's Conference Committee divided U.S. railroads into Eastern, Western and Southern Groups. The work of these groups and of the parent President's Conference Committee is reflected in the Association of American Railroads Collection.

#### Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad Collection

The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad was formed in 1940 as a result of a merger of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad with the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad Company. Earliest original documents in this collection are from 1872. Most are from the twentieth century. A Mobile and Ohio Railroad "Road and Equipment" account contains financial information from 1850. Many items in this collection document the effects of the Great Depression on the M&O and the GM&N.

#### Mississippi Central Railroad Collection

Of particular interest on a regional scale are the records of the Mississippi Central Railroad. These papers portray the history of the Mississippi Central and its predecessors, the Pearl and Leaf River Railroad, and the Natchez and Eastern. (This is the Mississippi Central which came into being in 1904 and ran from Hattiesburg to Natchez, not the antebellum north-south railroad by the same name.) The MC was bought by the Illinois Central, which then merged with the GM&O. This large collection, second in size only to the Association of American Railroads, augments the AAR records by demonstrating on a local scale the effect of a small railroad on the region it served.

#### Illinois Central Railroad Collection

These records pertain to the Vicksburg Division of the ICRR and for the most part are recent. There are a number of interesting blueprints of railroad rolling stock in this collection.

This project, now more than three-fourths complete, demonstrates the cooperativeness on many levels that is necessary for its execution. A large university is particularly well-suited for an undertaking of this magnitude because the efforts of many university departments can be brought to bear on the subject. For instance, the University of Southern Mississippi's Accounting and Public Relations Departments already have been mentioned. Also assisting have been the University's Motor Pool, Physical Plant, Office of Student Employment and others. Their assistance, as well as that of the NHPRC and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, has been invaluable.



## BOOK REVIEW

Guide des Sources de l'Histoire des Etats Unis dans les Archives Françaises. Paris: France Expansion (15, Square de Vergennes, 75015 Paris, France), 1976. 390 p. \$36.50.

The library of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has recently acquired a guide to American source materials in the French Archives. Published in 1976 on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the American Independence under the title Guide des Sources de l'Histoire des Etats Unis, the publication is not strictly an inventory but a guide providing a general orientation to the researcher in the different centers in France. It covers the period from the early eighteenth century to 1940. The Guide provides, with the description of each collection, information concerning access to documents, lists inventories and describes the microfilm available at the Library of Congress, if any. This new tool of research is valuable for the historian of French Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. It completes the series of earlier guides compiled by W. G. Leland, N. M. Miller Surrey and L. C. Wroth and G. L. Annan.

The researcher is already familiar with the *Fonds des Colonies* of the French National Archives, originated in the *Bureau des Colonies*, which is the basis for the considerable work of D. Rowland (recently completed by P. Galloway). He may be less aware of the existence of other collections at the French National Archives and in other archival establishments of the French Archives. The Guide provides a detailed description of the *Fonds des Colonies*, which remains the principal source of material for the history of French Louisiana. These records include the letters and instructions of the Secretariat of the French Navy, memos by Governors, Intendants and various colonial agents which related to the administration and to the economy of Louisiana, statements of local assemblies, statistics, court cases, land concessions, notary acts, personal files, missionary documents and papers relating to military movements and port activities, and, finally, the important archives of the *Compagnie des Indes'* administration of Louisiana. This collection covers approximately the period 1680 to 1815. Its continuation is the *Section Outre-Mer* of the French National Archives which is not of interest here. However, two series in the post 1815 collection are useful for the earlier period: *Depot des Papiers Publiques des Colonies* and *Depot des Fortifications des Colonies*.

To this imposing collection of the *Bureau des Colonies* should be added documents which originated in a number of other branches, both of the central administration and provincial jurisdictions. These are conserved respectively in the National and Department Archives. They may include *Conseil du Roi*, *Finances*, *Marine*, *Guerre*, *Affaires Etrangères*, *Service Hydrographique* and *Service du Consulat* (the latter two under the control of the Navy Department during the Old Regime), *Intendances* and *Chambres de Commerce*, private archives, family papers, merchant papers and ecclesiastical and notary papers. Up to now, this material has not been fully exploited. It provides a mine of information for the social and economic historian. For example, documentation about the history of the early settlers of Biloxi, including birth and death certificates and census data, can be found in the French National Archives, *Section Outre-Mer*, D.P.P.C., G1412 (Guide des Sources, p. 242), and the *Archives des Affaires Etrangères* show a *Correspondence Consulaire et Commerciale*, Natchez, for the years 1795 - 1816 (Guide des Sources, p. 378).

Much of the material mentioned in the Guide has been consulted by French historians, most notably Charles Giraud in his multivolume History of Louisiana, of which the latest volume appeared in 1974. However, the creation of the Guide necessitated very active research in the French archives -- at all levels -- for information relating to United States source materials. This search, has, among other things, turned up some invaluable new sources in the Department Archives, and, more precisely, in family archives. The survey cannot be exhaustive, but it does give the reader an excellent idea of the richness of the French collections. -- Marie Gallup, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



## TO HER, PAPERS ARE PRECIOUS

By Annabelle Armstrong

Reprinted from Baton Rouge *Sunday Advocate*,  
October 4, 1981, with permission

Peggy Davis wanted to know about her family, the Maurice LeBlancs of Donaldsonville. Once she started digging into the Spanish and French backgrounds of both parents, she found she was on a wider path. She walked right into state archives work.

She's now on a non-stop campaign to "save those papers" and is president of Friends of the Archives of Louisiana, on a cross-state search to find documents, papers and pictures. A group of concerned paper preservationists, Friends includes archivists working in research centers, universities, museums and churches. Their concern resulted in a workshop for the public on records surveys, held in New Orleans, and featuring Bill Linder of the National Archives as the speaker.

"So many sad things happen through ignorance," Mrs. Davis laments. She's been known to rush to a home when an elderly member she knows dies to warn against burning anything old, and she's contacted company businesses and old institutions. If nothing else, she seeks permission to microfilm records, for safekeeping and accurate history writing. "Priceless records have been lost through neglect, or burned by people who just don't know any better," she points out.

She formed a search committee for Friends, and their chief purpose is to locate historic papers and records and to direct them to archival repositories. On this committee are Clifton Johnson, director of Amistad Research Center, New Orleans; M. Stone Miller, Jr., LSU archivist; Collin Hamer, Jr., New Orleans City Library archivist; Nora Lee Pollard, Diocese of Baton Rouge archivist; and Msgr. Warren Larroque, Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport archivist.

Too busy these days to trace family histories, she's absorbed in archival memorabilia, working in the construction business of her husband, Al Davis, caring for the family that includes sons Andy, 17, and Paul, 15. "Church papers - we call them sacramental records - are a goldmine in historical facts," she says. For twelve years, she's worked with the Catholic Archives, housed in the Catholic Life Center. Her admiration for the diocesan endeavor is boundless. "Do you know that our late beloved Bishop Tracy called in all church records, everything up to 1875? Until then, every church kept its own records. I have always heard that Bishop Tracy was the first in the world to do this. Not even the Mormon records are centralized."

"Three acadian books that survived and were housed in St. Gabriel are now in a specially designed vault of the Diocese. The Acadians brought five of their books with them, and two got lost along the way. These are 1706 sacramental books.

"The first church in the Diocese was St. Ann's at Pointe Coupee; its 1726 records are there. Years ago, we started translating every entry in every book, putting information on index cards and cross-filing everything. We completed the work, and then about three years ago we had Bishop Sullivan call in all books up to 1900, and everyone of those have now been indexed."

Back in 1975 when Friends started, Mrs. Davis was right there - along with such notables in the field as Samuel Wilson, Jr., restoration architect who has written numerous books on New Orleans; Arthur Watson of Natchitoches, attorney whose grandfather was responsible for saving all the papers in that parish during the Civil War; and Msgr. Larroque, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport. "We have some top notch people in our movement."



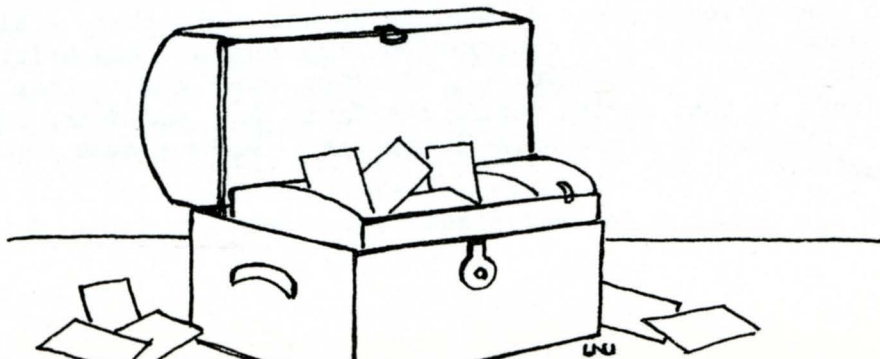
"Do you know," she asks. and there is sorrow in her voice, "that for 40 years people have labored to get a new state archives building here? Our governmental records -- especially the highway department's -- are in jeopardy simply because there is no safe place to store them. It's a crying shame what's happening to our public records," she says. The Clerk of Court officers went with us in our campaign for a state archives building, and you would not believe the petitions we had -- thousands upon thousands of names -- but it was killed in committee before it got to the House. We had letters of support from many legislators."

She calls the house of parish papers in the old Sears Building in downtown Baton Rouge more than regrettable. "The situation in Baton Rouge is very tragic. I was reading an 1833 book, which had a lawsuit by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard vs. a local woman, and it was being dripped on through a leaky roof." She praises C. J. Stevens, retired college administrator, who has joined the move to save the papers and is trying to get public records cataloged, boxed and put into storage.

"I was raised in downtown Baton Rouge and next door to us was an apartment house. An elderly lady, Courtney Winchester, granddaughter of Thomas P. Leathers, who owned the steam boat Natchez, lived there. My mother helped take care of her. Before she went to a nursing home, she gave my mother and me a wooden crate and we put it on the back porch of the house. When we opened it, there were the personal papers of Thomas P. Leathers. We got so excited and said, "There's no way we can keep all of this, this does not belong to us," so we called T. Harry Williams, and he said he would send someone over. That night this guy sat on our living room floor going over papers, until one in the morning. He said he didn't want to leave. We got the papers signed over to LSU." She said the Leathers papers included an elaborate document which was a Presidential pardon for Leathers, supposedly a registered enemy (spy) for the South. From these same papers it was ascertained that Leathers had taken the Natchez up the Yazoo River, dismantled it, and, from these pieces, built the first ironclad. This was a departure from what had been in the history books, she was told.

She has story after story about archives. "A friend of mine over in Ville Platte had heard about this old woman who died, and felt that possibly there were papers in the attic. By the time she got there, the daughter-in-law was cleaning out and burning. Old Bibles, diaries, papers were gone, and all that was left was a brand new Bible. These are the sad things that happen because people don't know what to do with things. In our workshop held in early October we will tell who wants the documents and where to look for them. The National Archives is very big on genealogy and is one of the groups being cut and is fighting President Reagan for funds now, but it's also one of the things nobody speaks up for."

A special interest of Mrs. Davis is records in the construction business. Founder and first president of Women in Construction in Baton Rouge, she knows that there are firms that have photographs, papers and records significant in early city history. She has acquired some of these through phone calls, and is heartened by the young people in the business who are catching a little of the historical spirit and remembering where they saw records. "There's so much I can't go out and do, and I can't go out and search for these papers. That's one reason for the search committee. And even if people don't want to release papers, they can be microfilmed for the future."





## MISSISSIPPI MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES - AN INFORMAL REPORT

(Continued from last issue)

Curious as to the types of archival programs currently active in Mississippi, *The Primary Source* sent requests to Mississippi manuscript repositories listed in the NHPRC guide to U. S. archival repositories, plus a few not identified by NHPRC. Information was requested on repository history, collecting policy, major holdings, staff and sources of support, conservation and reference programs. Of the twenty-one requests mailed, nine were answered. Eight appeared in the last issue; the ninth was delayed by our extraordinary mail service, and is herewith presented.

### WILLIAM DAVID McCAIN GRADUATE LIBRARY

University of Southern Mississippi  
Southern Station, Box 5148  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401  
(601) 266-4171

Dr. Claude E. Fike, Director

Open: 8:00am - 9:00pm, Monday - Thursday  
8:00am - 5:00pm, Friday  
1:00pm - 5:00pm, Saturday  
2:00pm - 6:00pm, Sunday  
(Specific hours for University inter-  
sessions and holidays are posted in  
advance.)

The University of Southern Mississippi was established in 1910 by the state legislature for the purpose of training teachers. Since that time, it has grown in size and now offers a wide variety of educational opportunities on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. During the late 1950s, the University became interested in developing its resource of original research materials. That commitment was reinforced in 1976 when the McCain Graduate Library was opened. This facility was designed especially for special book and manuscript collections and is one of the most modern facilities in the Southeast. It is staffed by five professionals and three paraprofessionals and has the technical services support of the University's main library.

In regard to manuscripts, the McCain Graduate Library has two primary collecting areas. The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection actively seeks the original materials of authors and illustrators of children's literature. The goal of the library's historic manuscript collecting program is the documentation of the development and the accomplishments of the institutions, organizations and people of southern Mississippi.

In addition, the library maintains the University Archives, which documents for the future the development of the University of Southern Mississippi and the contributions of the many individuals associated with it.

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection includes original materials of more than 950 authors and illustrators. Among those who have material located at the McCain Library are Marcia Brown, Barbara Cooney, Roger Duvoisin, Berta and Elmer Hader, Madeleine L'Engle, Lois Lenski, Maud and Miska Petersham, and Lynn Ward. In addition, the collection is especially proud of its holdings of Kate Greenaway correspondence, greeting cards and illustrations.



At the present time, the library has more than two hundred historic manuscript collections, including the political papers of U. S. Senator Theodore G. Bilbo and U. S. Representative William M. Colmer, the organizational records of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the business records of the Lackey Lumber Company, the Hattiesburg Brick Works, the American Association of Railroads and the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad and its predecessors. It also has the personal papers and manuscripts of such literary figures as Maurice Maeterlinck and Patrick Mahony and the papers and musical scores of composers William Presser and Albert Gower. Other significant collections include the papers and records of Charles F. Heartman, an early twentieth century book dealer and antiquarian; the papers of Alexander Melverne Jackson, an officer in the Mexican War and the American Civil War, secretary of the Territory of New Mexico and a member of the Texas judiciary; the papers of Louis E. Faulkner, a twentieth century business and civic leader and an outspoken foe of liberalism; the papers of Joseph Brackin Kirkland, a pioneer of social education and associate director of the Boys Clubs of America; and the papers of Howard S. Williams, a noted Mississippi Evangelist. Moreover, the library has the records of the Jefferson Davis Soldiers Home, the records of the American Tung Oil Institute and a variety of newspapers, maps, photographs, documents and correspondence pertaining to Mississippi economic, political and social life in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The library employs conservation controls in the form of temperature and humidity regulation, the screening of ultra-violet light and the storage of materials in acid-free folders and containers. Integrated in the procedures for the processing of collections are provisions for the dry cleaning, mending, selective deacidification and selective polyester encapsulation of documents. The library also has an ongoing program for the care and repair of leather book bindings.

Mail services are limited to specific questions requiring a reasonable amount of staff time. Reproduction services are available for those materials whose physical condition will allow such handling. Most collections are open for use by the serious scholar.

## ALABAMA AND THE BORDERLANDS: FROM PRE-HISTORY TO STATEHOOD

The College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Alabama celebrated its sesquicentennial by hosting a symposium entitled "Alabama and the Borderlands: From Pre-History to Statehood," September 24-26, 1981, in Tuscaloosa. Funding for the event was provided by the University, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Spanish Embassy, and by local benefactors. Many well-known scholars contributed new research in the sessions, which covered the archaeology of the Mississippian Period, the route of the Soto expedition, and early Spanish settlement in the Southeast. The papers presented were uniformly excellent, and the proceedings, which are fully funded for publication, are to appear early next year.

Contributors to the symposium were:

Mississippian Period -- James B. Griffin, Bruce Smith, Christopher S. Peebles, James A. Brown  
Soto research -- Charles Hudson, Jeffrey Brain, Charles Fairbanks  
Spanish settlement -- Wilcomb Washburn, Michael C. Scardaville, William Coker, Eugene Lyon.

The papers were particularly strong on the use of documentary sources for ethnohistoric parallels to explain archaeological evidence and for the general problems of research and interpretation regarding the southeastern Spanish borderlands.



## WHO'S ENTITLED TO KNOW WHAT? THE DEBATE IN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA

From SAA Newsletter (November, 1981)

Freedom of information legislation proposed by the government is pending before legislators in both the United States and Canada. As the *Newsletter* went to press in mid-October, the Reagan Administration submitted a legislative package to Congress which proposed sweeping changes in almost every aspect of the U. S. law, first enacted in 1966 and considerably broadened in 1974. While an administration spokesperson, Jonathan C. Rose, termed the recommendations "very moderate and limited," Jack C. Landau, director of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press, termed the proposals "a frontal assault on the Act. The kind of government accountability we've known will not exist if the Administration bill is passed." The new legislation would result in less access to government records in all cases. What the measure does not do, however, is ask for a total exemption for the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency, as some observers had expected.

Many who testified at congressional hearings on FOIA this summer argued that the taxpayer foots the bill for commercial requesters who obtain commercially valuable information under the Act at a relatively low cost. Under the Reagan measure, agencies would be permitted to charge requesters the fair market value for information obtained through FOIA.

In the summer hearings, Joan Hoff Wilson, executive secretary of the Organization of American Historians, argued that historical research on contemporary events would be undermined if Congress restricted what can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. "Because scholars interpret government decisions affecting individual citizens and national policy, they may be the most important users of the act even though they are few in number," Wilson stated.

Criticism of the act has mounted in recent years, with opponents contending that it now costs up to \$50 million a year for U. S. agencies to respond to requests for information. Other critics say that confidential business data have sometimes been disclosed by agencies and that intelligence agencies have been harmed because informants fear that material about them may be released. At the hearings, Rose and Wilson agreed that Congress should consider allowing more public access to its own records. Congressional documents are currently exempted from coverage of the FOIA, which applies only to agencies in the executive branch.

In Canada, the federal government's proposed freedom of information legislation has been under consideration for some time. According to one knowledgeable observer, it became "almost a victim of its friends," who delayed its consideration by Parliament this summer by trying to achieve perfection in its FOI and privacy aspects so that the body adjourned without taking action. Now Parliament is back in session and chances for passage seem good.

The Act, C-43, Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP), is similar in many respects to the present U. S. legislation. But a former president of the Canadian Historical Association, Desmond Morton, has charged that "our government is trying to creep in under the impression that they're doing what the Yanks have done. I think it's just a name, not a useful piece of legislation." The "bureaucratic trick," he said, has been to combine the FOI provisions with new regulations on privacy that cut off access to many important sources of information. An early version of the Canadian legislation would have resulted in the closure of some records now available in the Public Archives of Canada, but that has been changed.

Echoes of the dispute concerning the appraisal of the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the National Archives in Washington are being heard in Ottawa where historians have charged that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been withholding previously public documents concerning their activities.



## THE EDITOR NOTES --

After watching a repeat showing of one of the *Mash* television programs, a friend remarked that there was one certain similarity between this editor and Hawk-Eye, one of the show's characters: both have a tendency to get the last word in. Well, if friend is reading this last page, he will feel confirmed in his analysis.

The format change in *The Primary Source* should be noticeable in this second issue under the new one. For those persons responsible for its production, the format is easier to work with in most instances, and, it is to be hoped, that the publication is now easier to read, as well as being more attractive. The change came about when our printer decided to return to school, taking with him his printing talents. In our subsequent search for a printer's devil, we found an angel in the person of a long-time supporter of the Society, who asks to remain anonymous. While your anonymous request is honored, thankless you shall not be. To you, dear supporter, and to your co-workers many thanks for coming through with help when we needed it.

The new format is easier to work with in most instances. For an editor who knew very little about editing and production when he started two and one half years ago, the switch from the now relative security of two page additions to four page ones is a bit unsettling. That's the reason for getting the last word in, and that accounts for any misnumbered pages you may find -- so much of this business is still new.

One of the advantages of being on the last page is having the opportunity to look retrospectively at the Society and its publication. With this issue, *The Primary Source* completes its third volume. While a newsletter was one of the original objectives in the formation of the Society in 1977, things weren't organized well enough until 1979 for one to be issued. Ronald E. Tomlin served as interim editor for the first two numbers, after which Robert J. Bailey was appointed editor. An ensuing change in Bob's professional responsibilities caused him to relinquish the editorship shortly before publication of the third issue, when the present editor was asked to assume the job. So much for a masthead listing of editorial responsibility. The real story of this publication has been the wonderful cooperation and support from Society members in providing material, information and news, and physical assistance. Certainly, publication would have been hindered greatly without the very real contributions of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Crucial in the beginning, the Department's interest still remains vital to the success of the publication. It's a good time to say thanks to Elbert Hilliard and his staff at the Department. Thanks, Elbert and staff!

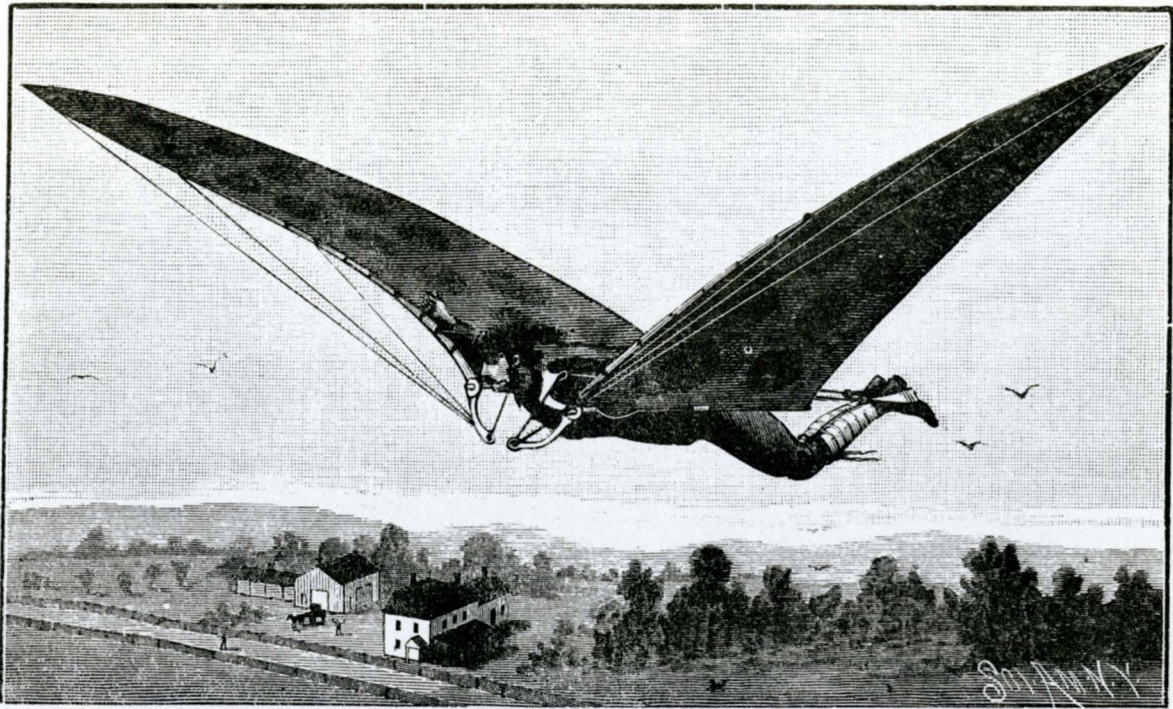
Thanks are in order, also, for all the contributors in this issue and past ones. Only infrequently does the editor meet with resistance when a Society member is asked to write or contribute information, and it is this helpfulness and generosity that gives *The Primary Source* value.

Because the editor has not noted in the last several issues, there has been no chance to comment on JoAnn Bomar's specific contributions as cartographic records editor. She willingly assumed the responsibility for providing an article on the subject for each issue, and it was a delight to have someone appreciate editorial deadlines even more than the editor. While she is uncertain whether she can continue in her editorial capacity, thanks to her for a job well done.

*The Primary Source* now has an assistant editor, Martha C. Sparrow of Starkville. Martha will be in charge of accession reporting and news notes compilation. Society members affiliated with institutions have probably heard from her about reporting news and accessions. Any member may submit information directly to her by writing her at 207 Arrow Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759.

As this publication enters into its fourth year, you can believe that its editorial goals and objectives are continually being refined and sharpened to provide members of the Society with useful information. As it grows, so grows the need for more help, cooperation and information. If the past is indicative, there will be no lacking of such from Society supporters. For the moment, the last word is "Thanks!" -- hth





"..no other profession calls for more various talents."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1981 - 1982 Membership Year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$5.00 Please make checks payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists and send this form and dues to Joseph J. Mika, Treasurer, Society of Mississippi Archivists, Southern Station, Box 5146, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401. The membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Current members will receive a membership renewal notice in September.