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The Primary Source

MISSISSIPPIANA
McCain Graduate Library

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COLONIAL/EARLY STATEHOOD LAND RECORDS ACQUIRED BY THE HISTORICAL NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

By Patricia Brady Schmitt
Director of Publications
The Historic New Orleans Collection
(cTHNOC 1985. Reprinted with permission.)

(Editor's Note: A fuller version of this article appeared in volume 3, no. 1, of The Historic New Orleans Collection Newsletter. Because of the nature of the documents and the question of replevin, an abbreviated version is reprinted here for the benefit of TPS readers.)

A collection of over 1,000 early surveyor's drawings and notes has recently been brought to Louisiana. Of particular interest to historians of the colonial and early national periods, these documents have been processed by the manuscripts division staff and are now available to researchers at the Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC). The surveys of present-day Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas were prepared by several surveyors, including Carlos Laveau Trudeau, Andre LeSage, Josiah Nicholas, and Luke Collins, during the years 1775 to 1827. The whereabouts of the individual documents during the 19th century is a matter of conjecture, but by 1922 this large group of items from disparate sources had been brought together and was purchased by the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) for their Americana collection.

The location of the documents has long been public knowledge. As Theodore A. Sande, director of WRHS stated on October 15, 1984, "Their importance has long been recognized by the Western Reserve Historical Society, which has conserved and made them available to all scholars and interested persons for more than fifty years. These documents were prominently listed among the Society's holdings in A Guide to the Manuscripts and Archives of The Western Reserve Historical Society, published in 1972. Three years later, this listing was reported in detail to libraries throughout the country by the Library of Congress [the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections]." In 1982 WRHS deaccessioned these documents and offered them for sale in a catalogue for a publicly advertised auction scheduled for November 4, 1982, at the Swann Galleries, a well-known book and manuscripts dealer in New York. There was a great deal of interest among New Orleans research institutions and individual collectors in this proposed sale and at the possibility of bringing such a large body of Louisiana-related materials to the state. Staff members at a number of area institutions called, urging the Collection to bid at the auction.

The Collection has consistently followed a policy of acquiring similar large documentary collections that enrich the research opportunities in the state. THNOC has very considerable holdings in real estate development and land-use patterns, including Spanish colonial land papers and plats and surveyors' field notebooks,

(Continued on Page 2)

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

Deadlines for inclusions are: #1 (February) January 31; #2 (May) April 30; #3 (August) July 31; #4 (November) October 31.

Editor: Lynne Mueller.....Assitant Editors: Martha Sparrow, h t holmes

collected by the Lawyers' Title Insurance Company. The documents offered for sale complemented the Collection's existing holdings, and their acquisition would continue a well-established acquisitions policy. The staff of the Historic New Orleans Collection recommended, and the board of directors agreed, that the Collection enter the bidding for these valuable documents. Although \$150,000 was set aside for the auction, it was realized that such an amount might be insufficient to acquire the documents because THNOC had learned that well-endowed out-of-state institutions, as well as manuscripts dealers, also intended to bid.

Until this point, the attempt to purchase important research materials and to provide easy availability for researchers had proceeded smoothly. Unfortunately, a conflict arose which delayed the desirable result for two years. It eventually required the good offices of Louisiana state officials and a considerable spirit of compromise to complete the purchase first planned in October 1982. In late October, the Louisiana State Museum declared an interest in bidding for these documents. THNOC director Stanton Frazar offered to continue a long-standing policy of refraining from bidding against a Louisiana institution: only after that institution's ceiling price had been exceeded, would the collection enter the bidding. However, if any Louisiana institution were outbid, the Collection refused to be deterred completely from bidding at public auction for documents relevant to its holdings. It was also feared the LAM might be outbid by competing institutions, private collectors, dealers, or business firms, thereby depriving local researchers of easy access to the materials.

It was a surprise, then, on November 1, 1982, when four of the six lots of documents were withdrawn from auction under the threat of replevin by the State of Louisiana. THNOC subsequently purchased the two remaining lots. Replevin is the action taken by state officials to reclaim official state papers which have been erroneously or improperly removed from possession of the state. According to Louisiana R.S. Title 44:441, an action of replevin in this state involves the Director of the Archives and Records Service, who was not consulted in the controversy until the following year. At no time during the entire course of negotiations and discussions was an action for replevin filed against the Western Reserve Historical Society, nor was a formal demand for the return of the documents made to them. The Society, in fact, extended an invitation to all concerned parties, including any appropriate representatives of the State of Louisiana, to examine the documents, to examine the documents, to evaluate all expert reports and findings, and to arrive at an amicable conclusion.

Once the items had been withdrawn from auction, the Louisiana State Museum began bargaining for the purchase of the documents with offers varying from \$30,000

ACCESSIONS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Haley (Warren L.) Reminiscence. n.d. 1 item.

Memoirs of Civil War, probably written by a family member of W. L. Haley, giving account of Haley and the Pettus' Rangers, Co. D, 12th Reg. Infantry. Presented by Sandra McFearin, Odessa, Texas.

McWillie Family Papers, Accretion. c. 1858; 1860-1. 12 items.

The letters (or fragments of letters) written by Catherine Anderson McWillie to her son, William McWillie, and a request for a medical discharge for William McWillie, Jr.; one letter written by Governor McWillie.

Presented by J. Walter Rodgers, Fresno, California.

Dampeper (Stephen) Civil War Letter. September 27, 1861. 1 item.

Letter written by Stephen W. Dampeper, a member of the 16th Mississippi Infantry, Co. B, from Camp Toombs (near Fairfax Courthouse, Va.) to his father, J. M. Dampeper, Westville. Dampeper writes concerning the health of the camp; troop movements around Fairfax Courthouse, including the 12th Mississippi Regiment; discusses the practice of trading caps and buttons of the the pickets of the U. S. army and rebel troops; and the scarcity of silver around the camp.

Clarke (Charles) Collection, Accretion. 1833. 1 item.

Letter from William Clark in Lebanon, Ohio, to Charles Clark written on July 10, 1833. William Clark discusses his schooling and plans for professorship; he also describes the recent Fourth of July celebration in Lebanon.

Presented by LaValle House, Cleveland.

Cannon (John Aloysius) Flood of 1927 Memoirs. ca. 1927. 1 vol.

A narrative account of the flood of 1927 written by John Aloysius Cannon, mayor of Greenville, 1926-7. The entries cover the period from the levee break on April 21, 1927, through April 23, 1927, and note the activities transpiring to protect property in Greenville from the overflow. It is unknown when the notes were written, but they appear to have been written soon after the flood. Includes photographs taken during the flood.

Presented by Frank Cannon, Long Beach.

Southern Package Corporation (SOPACO) Records. 1919-71. c. 150 c.f.

Collection contains primarily the papers of the Hazlehurst Box Company, which was a manufacturer of vegetable crates for use by the truck farming industry; also includes information from other SOPACO branches.

Presented by Mrs. Augusta Day, Hazlehurst.

Williams, (C. H.) Papers. 1909-1912. .33 c.f.

Correspondence of C. H. Williams, brother of U. S. Senator John Sharp Williams. The correspondence is from C. H. Williams' law office in Yazoo City and is a mixture of personal and business letters. Letters written by John Sharp Williams deal with family matters, affairs in Washington and business matters between the two brothers. There are several letters dealing with the activities of C. H. Williams in the Democratic Party and political affairs at the state and national level.

Presented by Marlane Chronister, Jackson.

ACCESSIONS

Moore (S. Blanch) Civil War Letters. 1863. 4 items.

Samuel Blanch Moore, a resident of Liberty and a member of the 7th Mississippi Infantry, wrote these letters to his wife while he was stationed in Tennessee. Moore attained the rank of sergeant before his death on May 31, 1864.

Presented by Robert I. Miller, Reno, Nevada.

Bryant (William C.) Collection. c. 1900-40. .33 c.f.

Papers of William C. Bryant, Edgar E. Bryant and other members of the Bryant family of Coffeeville. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and business papers as well as a typescript volume of a holographic diary.

Presented by Sally Stone Trotter, Greenville.

J. D. WILLIAMS LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The De Gaulle Story by William Faulkner. 1942. 187 pp.

The collection contains various treatments of Faulkner's story including 13 pp. carbon of the story line with holographic corrections by Faulkner; first draft screenplay - unfinished- carbon; new treatment - third carbon onionskin; revised screenplay - unfinished; random carbon - onionskin paper from first treatment; research department notes - carbon onion skin.

Presented by L. D. Brodsky, St. Louis, Mo.

Collection is closed.

"For a Word" handwritten poem by William Alexander Percy. n.d. 1 p.

Copy of the poem handwritten by Percy on hotel stationery from Muskegon, Michigan. The poem was first written by Percy in Italy in the summer of 1922.

Collection is open.

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ABERDEEN

Harvey (Tom) Collection. 1909-18. 4 items.

Old post cards of Aberdeen scenes: Aberdeen Hotel, Elks Club, and Temple Opera House. Latter has cryptic message to Mr. Mack James, Warren, Oh.

Presented by Tom Allmond, Aberdeen.

Collection is open.

Fooshe (John M., Jr.) Collection. 1984. 1 item.

Genealogical Record of the Fooshee Family, 1775-1935. Typescript.

Presented by John M. Fooshee, Jr., Chapel Hill, N.C.

Collection is open.

Green (Mrs. Edwin A.) Collection, Accretion. 1984. 1 item.

Computerized printout, Some Spencer Family data, by donor.

Presented by Mrs. Edwin A. Green, Memphis, Tenn.

Collection is open.

Hamilton (Mrs. Charles G.) Collection, Accretion. 1966; 1976. 2 items.

Book, Soil Survey, Monroe County, Mississippi. USDA, 1966; 1976

ACCESSIONS

Bicentennial stationery.

Presented by Mrs. Charles G. Hamilton, Aberdeen.

Collection is open.

Harvey (Mrs. Ruth Henley) Collection. 1973-1984. 1 c.f.

South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, Mars Hill Baptist Church by Reid and Warren; "Henly Families," "Pope Family Records of MS, AL, GA, NC, SC and VA" vol. 2, "The Pace Family from Greenville Dist., SC," "The Reese and Harvey Families," "Descendants of Edward Smith," all compiled by Ruth Harvey; seven notebooks on various family groups.

Presented by Ruth Henly Harvey, Aberdeen.

Collection is open.

Hughes (Mrs. Caroline E.) Collection, Accretion. 1984. 1 item.

Book by Mrs. Hughes entitled The Ancestors and Descendants of Lemuel Pruitt/Prewitt and Catherine Brantly with Supplement, Kirk, Prewett-Royston, Harris and Arnold. Less than twenty copies of this book were printed.

Presented by Caroline E. Hughes, Cushing, Okla.

Ivy (Mrs. Robert A.) Collection, Accretion. 1911. 23 items.

Items from the Clifton family in Aberdeen, including book probably belonging to Ruby Clifton, Class of 1911, Aberdeen High School, entitled My High School Days; programs for commencement and closing exercises, party invitation, bridge tallies and calling cards.

Presented by Mrs. Robert A. Ivy, Columbus.

Collection is open.

Murff (Mrs. Paul B.) Collection, Accretion. 1890. 1 item.

Photographic copy (17"x21") of composite picture of 1890 Mississippi State Constitutional Convention members, including her husband's ancestor, James Randall Murff.

Presented by Mrs. Paul B. Murff, Floyada, Texas.

Collection is open.

Paine (Dr. and Mrs. Thomas F., Jr.) Collection, Accretion. 1853. 1 item.

Two-page typed list of slaves as found in Robert Paine's Record Book of 1853.

Presented by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Paine, Jr., Nashville, Tenn.

Collection is open.

Parker (Ed) Collection. n.d. 1 item.

Limited reprint of rare old book, The Autobiography of a Little Man by R. R. Wyatt, MD (n.d.); contains considerable information about people and places on both sides of the Tombigbee River south of Columbus.

Presented by Ed Parker, Panola, Ala.

Collection is open.

Peoples Bank of Aberdeen Collection. 1984. 1 item.

Limited edition print of "Monroe County Courthouse" by Rick Anderson, Mississippi artist.

Presented by Peoples Bank of Aberdeen.

Collection is open.

ACCESSIONS

Thomas (Mac Allen) Collection, Accretion. 1980. 1 item.

Official invitation to inauguration of William F. Winter as Governor of Mississippi, January 22, 1980.

Presented by Mac Allen Thomas, Aberdeen.

Collection is open.

Wood (Thomas H.) Collection. 1984. 1 item.

Genealogical publication, *Swanzy Monthly Bulletin*, April 1984.

Presented by Thomas H. Wood, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Collection is open.

MCCAIN GRADUATE LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Weston (John) Letters. 1845. 3 items.

Two letters written on June 16, 1845, and November 24, 1845, by John Weston to relatives requesting information concerning the history of the Weston family which emigrated to America in the 17th century; one page outline of the generations of the Weston family including births, marriages and death dates.

Presented by Dr. Norvin L. Landshov.

Collection is open.

Ware Family Papers. 1881-1907; 1940-52. 1 f.f.

Tax receipts for Smith County (1881-1906) and Simpson County (1892-1907) of W. B. M. Ware family; membership cards of Pearl Ware in the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, 1940-1952.

Presented by Mrs. Carolyn Howell.

Collection is open.

Choctaw Indian Land Transfer. 1897. 1 item.

Five page land certificate (number 588, dated July 26, 1897) transferring the title of five tracts of Choctaw Indian land to Asa Russ, Alfred J. Griffen, William A. Oatis, James Leggett and Cader Mitchell; the original land grant arose from the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. This property is located in present-day Covington County.

Presented by Wilford (Wil) Geiger.

Collection is open.

MITCHELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Dana Andrews Collection. 2 c.f.

Posters, lobby cards and pressbooks concerning many of the films in which Andrews appeared; also included is an oral history interview.

Collection is in process.

Turner Catledge Papers, Accretion. 1922-1983. 5 c.f.

Correspondence, photographs, oral history interview and memorabilia; much of the correspondence (1975-1983) concerns the illness and death in 1983 of Turner Catledge, former editor of *The New York Times*; among correspondents are Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Richard Nixon and many prominent journalists.

Presented by Mrs. Turner Catledge.

ACCESSIONS

Collection is open.

Mississippi Climatological Records. 1892-1979. 40 c.f.

Reports concerning daily weather conditions and river stages in Mississippi as submitted by local observers to the National Weather Bureau or to its predecessor or successor organizations.

Presented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Collection is open.

John C. Stennis Collection, Accretion. 1960s-80s. 57 c.f.

Political campaign material, public papers, invitations, memos, clippings, photographs, case files, requests, routine office files.

Presented by John C. Stennis.

Collection is partially open.

"Thou may'st not kill, but need'st not
strive officiously to keep alive."

- Sir Hilary Jenkinson

NEWS NOTES

COLUMBUS - LOWNDES LIBRARY PUBLISHES CENSUS

The Columbus-Lowndes Library announces the publication of the 1870 Federal Census of Lowndes County, Mississippi. The publication was compiled by Paula Hunt and Billie Wartes under the direction of Kris Bennett and Donna Pannell Kreutzer. The census includes name, age, sex, race and occupation of each member living in a household. It also includes place of birth and value of real and personal estate. The two volume set of The 1870 Federal Census, Lowndes County, Mississippi is available at a cost of \$25.00 per set plus \$1.50 postage and handling for a total price of \$26.50. Delayed billing is available upon request. To order a copy or for more information, contact the Columbus-Lowndes Library, 314 North 7th Street, Columbus, Miss. 39701.

UNIVERSITY PRESS PUBLISHES FAULKNER GUIDE

A recent publication of the University Press of Mississippi is the second volume of *Faulkner: A Comprehensive Guide to the Brodsky Collection*. Edited by Faulkner collector L. D. Brodsky and Robert W. Hamlin, professor of English at Southeast Missouri State University, the collection includes 129 letters and telegrams from William Faulkner; 99 letters from Faulkner's mentor, Phil Stone; and 50 letters from Estelle (Mrs. William) Faulkner. Other correspondents include Ruth Ford, the actress who appeared in the New York stage production of *Requiem for a Nun*, Saxe Cummins, Faulkner's editor at Random House; and Faulkner's daughter, Jill. For further information, contact the University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Miss. 39211. (*Southern Register*, Winter 1984)

FUNDING FOR PAPERS OF JEFFERSON DAVIS APPROVED

According to Lynda Crist, editor of the Papers of Jefferson Davis, funding for the coming year is in good shape. The Davis project received \$33,600 plus \$8,617 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to upgrade the project's word processing system. In addition the National Endowment for the Humanities approved the request for \$34,000 for 1983-1985. (*Mississippi History Newsletter*, May 1984)

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY SERVES RESEARCHERS

Evans Memorial Library in Aberdeen continues to serve a large number of researchers. Thirty-one researchers came from Texas during the last quarter, the greatest number from a state outside of Mississippi. Annie Smith, a reporter for Columbus TV Channel 4 taped a segment on genealogical research at the library. The library also furnished two old photos for a contest held at the Aberdeen McDonald's.

THE DEGRUMMOND COLLECTION UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

New contributors to the DeGrummond Collection include the Alabama Historical Commission, Patricia Brown, Bryn Mawr Bookshop, Frances Gibson, Anita Gustafson, Carli Laklan, James L. Lowe, Mrs. D. E. Painton.

Almost 650 children's librarians, teachers and others interested in children's literature attended the 17th Annual Children's Book Festival on

NEWS NOTES

March 22 and 23, 1984. Some of the speakers were medallion winner Peter Spier, author/illustrator Molly Bang, young adult novelist Paul Zindel and Morton Schindel, founder of Weston Woods. Among other guests were author/illustrator Esphyr Slobodkina and Mary Anderson Pickard, daughter of the late Gulf Coast artist, Walter Anderson.

On May 10, 1984, Dr. Lena Y. deGrummond, founder of the deGrummond Collection, received the Golden Deeds Award from the Hattiesburg Exchange Club. This award honors a community leader, acknowledging his or her continuing community service over a lifetime. Dr. deGrummond received a golden statuette at the Awards Luncheon. Her photograph and a list of her accomplishments will be listed in the Book of Golden Deeds which is on permanent display at the Hattiesburg Public Library. (Juvenile Miscellany, Spring 1984)

SMA MEMBERS MAKE ARCHIVAL MARKS

Terry Latour, archivist at the McCain Graduate Library, and Julia Marks Young, assistant professor of the School of Library Service, of the University of Southern Mississippi were the recipients of 1984 Mellon Fellowships at the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan....Julia will also become the new editor of the *American Archivist*, beginning with the January 1986 issue....Madel Morgan, director of the Archives and Library Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators (NASARA).

BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY NAMES FELLOWS FOR RESERACH PROGRAM

The Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, announces the award of eight fellowships to suport research on problems relating to the administration of modern documentation. The third year of the fellowship program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New York, and the Earhart Foundation, Ann Arbor. The recipients are Roland Bauman,, Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission; Paul Conway, Gerald R. Ford Library, NARS; Richard J. Cox, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Larry J. Hackman, New York State Archives; Eleanor McKay, Library of Congress; Frederic M. Miller, Urban Archives, Anglican Church of Canada; and Joan Nelson Warnow, American Institute of Physics.

The range of proposed studies includes development and analyses of documentation strategies and collection management procedures; preparation of model guidelines governing access to restricted public records in state archives; an analysis of the concept of professionalism in the archives field; development of procedures for the systematic gathering of data about users and reference services; and a citation study of the use of primary sources for the writing of social history.

Fellows were selected upon the recommendation of an advisory committee composed of Dr. Margaret Child, assistant director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries; Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson, executive secretary, Organization of American Historians; Dr. Philip P. Mason, director, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University; and Dr. Robert M. Warner, Archivist of the

NEWS NOTES

United States, National Archives and Records Service. Project directors for the Research Fellowship Program for Study of Modern Archives are Dr. Francis X. Blouin, director, and William K. Wallach, assistant director of the Bentley Library.

Further information about the 1985 program and application forms for the 1986 program can be obtained from the Assistant Director, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2113.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

The staff of the California State Archives, using data gathered by the California State Archives ASsessment Project, has published **Archival and Manuscript Repositories in California**. This guide contains information on 410 repositories including federal and state agencies, college and university collections, local historical societies, town, city and county archives, public libraries, religious and corporate archives, and more. It is an expansion of a 1975 directory. Each entry includes an identification of the repository, the characteristics of the collections, and administrative policies (including operating hours, copying fees, and restrictions on access). There is also a listing of relevant articles or finding aids that describe the holdings of each repository.

According to the April-May 1984 issue of the **Alabama Librarian**, Glenn House, an assistant professor of library service at the University of Alabama, has identified a variety of mulberry tree common in the area of the University as a rare type used in the Japanese manufacture of handmade papers. The plant seems to be growing well throughout central Alabama. Perhaps, someday there may be a new southern industry in the creation of fine, archivally-safe papers.

The Center for History of Chemistry is a joint endeavor of the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the University of Pennsylvania. It was established in 1982 to discover and disseminate information about historical resources and to encourage research and writing in the history of chemistry, chemical engineering and the chemical process industries. The center has an active oral history program, and it attempts to locate relevant manuscript and archival records. The Center encourages the preservation of these records in any appropriate archival repository. It offers aid in the appraisal, arrangement and description of these records, and is developing a comprehensive database describing the records. The Center is based at the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection of the University of Pennsylvania.

MISSISSIPPI NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION PLANNING PROJECT LAUNCHED

Newspapers are an unmatched source of information about Mississippi politics and social development and the day-to-day lives of her citizens. Several Mississippi journalists have won the Pulitzer Prize; others have held high political office. Unfortunately, however, many issues of our newspapers are in danger because of rapidly deteriorating newsprint and poor storage conditions; they are scattered throughout the state, both in private hands and repositories.

The Mississippi Newspaper Preservation Planning Project is the first part of a long-term program to locate, catalog, and preserve our state's rich journalistic heritage. The Project is a cooperative endeavor of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Press Association, the Mississippi Library Association, and scholars and libraries of the state's major universities and colleges. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this is part of a national program whose aim is a published guide to newspapers in every state and eventually the microfilming of selected newspapers to ensure their preservation and access by researchers.

The goal of the first part of Mississippi's project is to identify all newspapers ever published in Mississippi and to locate all existing issues of newspapers in the state. Questionnaires have been mailed to 890 Mississippi libraries, archives and manuscript repositories, historical and genealogical societies, newspaper offices, and chancery and city clerks. Selected out-of-state repositories will also be surveyed. The Project is particularly interested in identifying newspapers, even single issues, not published by the traditional press, including those issued by ethnic, labor, foreign-language, or other specific groups. Special efforts will also be made to inventory the newspapers housed in Mississippi courthouse and city halls.

Based upon this survey information, the Project will compile the first comprehensive list of newspapers published in and/or housed in Mississippi. Plans also will be formulated and funding sought for future parts of the program: the cataloging of all titles into a national database, identification of copies most in danger, and microfilming of selected titles. The success of these future activities depends upon the completeness of this current survey.

When you receive a copy of the questionnaire, please take time to complete and return it to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History by April 1. For additional information about the Project or if you know of existing private collections of Mississippi newspapers, contact Julia Marks Young, Project Director, Mississippi Newspaper Preservation Planning Project, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P. O. Box 571, Jackson MS 39205-0571, or call her in Hattiesburg (1-266-4345).

Remember, our newspapers are a documentary heritage we cannot afford to lose.

SOLINET RECEIVES NEH COOPERATIVE PRESERVATION GRANT

The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) has been awarded a grant of \$168,401 by the National Endowment for the Humanities to establish a cooperative preservation program. With this NEH funding, SOLINET will help libraries and archives develop, strengthen, and coordinate their local conservation/preservation programs. The initial, two-year project will begin in October 1984 and be directed by a Preservation Administrator at SOLINET. It will serve institutions in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

SOLINET's cooperative preservation program is designed to address the growing problem of deteriorating historical materials. It has become increasingly clear that simply storing documents in libraries and archives is not enough, for they remain susceptible to gradual but constant decay. Since the mid-1800s, most paper has been acid-based and inevitably becomes yellow and brittle. Improper storage and handling accelerates this natural deterioration, and disasters such as fire and flood pose further problems. Preservation programs offer ways of preventing or slowing this break-down and of restoring books and documents that have already begun to deteriorate.

To help Society retain its records in the best possible condition, the SOLINET preservation program has two primary objectives, according to Frank Grisham, SOLINET Executive Director. First, it will promote the development or enhancement of local preservation efforts by providing information, training, field service and disaster assistance. Second, SOLINET will cooperate with other regional and national organizations in preservation activities. These preservation services will be available to all SOLINET members and to other organizations such as archives, historical societies, and museums through regular or Associate membership. Planning the future directions of the program will be an important activity during the grant period. The SOLINET staff will study the feasibility of coordinating existing treatment services, will monitor new technologies such as mass deacidification and optical disk, and will seek additional funding sources for subsequent phases of the program. In these activities, SOLINET is being assisted by a Conservation Advisory Committee, whose members now include Dr. Lewis Bellardo (Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives), Dr. Margaret Child (Smithsonian Institution Libraries), Ms. Pamela Darling (Columbia University and the Library of Congress), and Ms. Ann Russell (Northeast Document Conservation Center). Two additional appointments will be made soon.

The establishment of this new program indicates SOLINET's expanding sense of mission, says Grisham: "Up to now, most people have thought of SOLINET only as a provider of library automation services. But we realize it is just as important to preserve collections as to catalog them; if we neglect either of those responsibilities, information - and therefore knowledge - will be lost."

The Crowning
Glory of SMA's Year:

A classic annual
meeting jointly
with the Society of
Alabama Archivists

April 18-19, 1985

Tuscaloosa

See next page
for details

**GOING TO ALABAMA WITH A HOLLINGER BOX ON OUR KNEES:
1985 SMA ANNUAL MEETING PLANS REVEALED**

The Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Society of Alabama Archivists will hold a joint meeting, April 18-19, 1985, at the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. A committee from both organizations has been working since November to make this a worthwhile and memorable occasion. Committee members from the Society of Mississippi Archivists are Linda Overman (chair), Bill Hanna, Cynthia Lewis and Anne Wells. Committee members from the Society of Alabama Archivists are Juli Rutledge (chair), Tim Cary, Lyn Minor, Theresa Preuit and Joe Moudry.

Accommodations are available at the College of Continuing Studies on campus, and at the Days Inn and La Quinta Inn in Tuscaloosa. Blocks of rooms are being held until March 31. When making reservations, inform them that you are going to be attending the Society of Alabama Archivists meeting and you will get a special rate. Additional information will be furnished in a separate mailout containing a registration form.

The Society of Mississippi Archivists will hold their annual business meeting following lunch at a restaurant off campus, April 18 between 11:30-1:30. The Society of Alabama Archivists will hold their business meeting after the afternoon session, Thursday, April 18, 1985.

A swap table will be available for attendees to exchange information concerning their institutions, programs, etc. Please bring brochures and other information you may wish to share with others.

In honor of International Archives Week, a wine and cheese reception, featuring international wines, will be held in the Chancellor's guest house. A disaster bibliography will be available to all attendees.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, April 18

Audiovisuals and the Archivist - Lisa Buechele (Newsfilm Preservation Project

Archivist, Mississippi Department of Archives and History)

Grants in Mississippi and Alabama - Status Reports

Appraisal - Julia Young and Terry Latour (Mellon Fellows for appraisal research) and Lawrence McCrank (Dean, Auburn University at Montgomery

Library

and Resource Center)

Friday, April 19

Career Development - Ann Campbell (Society of American Archivists Executive Director) and Juli Rutledge (Records Manager, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa)

Legal Issues - Linda Matthews (Special Collections, Emory University)

Automating the Archives? - Penny Mattern (OCLC), Patricia Cloud (RLIN), and status reports from Mississippi and Alabama repositories

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE STUDY

With a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators is carrying out a study of the information clearinghouse needs of the nation's archival community and public records administrators. The project will explore means of exchanging information on products of archival and records programs that have potential usefulness and application beyond the program that produces them. These include manuals, procedures, reports, studies, and research and development efforts. Exchange of this information now takes place mainly through newsletters and journals, professional meetings, and informal contacts. The need for a better system of information "switching points" has been demonstrated by the state historical records assessment and reporting reports and by Documenting America, a summary of many of these reports. The 1984 draft report of the Society of American Archivists' Task Force on Goals and Priorities also calls for more systematic sharing of information. An information clearinghouse system would make it easier to keep up with new developments and to draw on established and tested procedures and approaches instead of developing new ones.

The Archival Information Clearinghouse Study will: (A) explore information-sharing needs, and potential approaches to clearinghouse operations, with the Society of American Archivists and other professional organizations; (B) ascertain how work could be facilitated through operation of an information clearinghouse mechanism or mechanisms; and (C) produce a report and recommendations that can serve as an "action document" for initiating clearinghouse activities.

The Archival Information Clearinghouse Study will be carried out on a consultative basis by Victoria Irons Walch, formerly with the National Archives and Records Service and now an independent archival consultant. She will work at the direction of the Society of American Archivists and other professional archival, historical, and records organizations concerned with improving the interchange of information. It is expected to proceed as follows: (A) investigation of clearinghouses in related fields to determine their effectiveness; (B) preparation of a "white paper" on the need for a clearinghouse system; (C) organization of a conference early in 1985 to discuss clearinghouse needs and means of meeting them; (D) after professional groups have had an opportunity to discuss the report of this conference, organization of a second conference to further discuss needs and derive tentative recommendations; (E) drafting of a report and recommendations for review and approval by the NASARA Board of Directors; and (F) preparation and distribution of a final report. The project began in January 1985 and will conclude with publication of the final report early in 1986.

More information on the Archival Information Clearinghouse Study is available from the Project Consultant: Victoria Irons Walch, Archival Consultant, 9927 Capperton Drive, Oakton, Virginia 22124, (703) 281-2294.

STATE ARCHIVES PRESERVATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

With a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, NASARA - the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators - is carrying out a nationwide study of the preservation needs of state archival programs. The preservation problem is one of the most serious and important ones facing administrators of state archival and records programs today. Records are disintegrating through natural processes and through use, and failure to confront and solve the problem could result in the loss of significant portions of our documentary heritage.

Most of the nation's state archival programs recognize the seriousness of the need but lack plans and resources to meet it. While all historical records are beset by preservation problems, state archives are an appropriate group to begin development of a national solution to the problem. They represent a finite number of programs (50) with a measurable amount of record holdings, providing a basis for calculation of needs and costs. They hold some of the nation's most valuable records. They have a growing interest in attacking common problems in a cooperative way. And state archival agencies are in a key position to provide leadership, guidance, and service in meeting statewide preservation needs within their respective states.

The State Archives Preservation Needs Assessment Project has two general goals: (1) to undertake and carry out a systematic study of the preservation needs of the nation's state archival programs; and (2) to prepare a report on these needs that will serve as a basis for further planning and nationwide action.

This project is being carried out on a consultative basis by Howard P. Lowell, Administrator of Oklahoma's state archives and records program, under the direction of NASARA's Board of Directors and Executive Director. The project includes four main components: (1) an analysis of existing studies and reports, including the state assessment reports, for an overview of programs and needs; (2) consultation with professional groups and agencies that have concerns and programs in the preservation field; (3) a detailed survey questionnaire on preservation needs and programs that is being sent to each state archival program; and (4) site visits by the Project Consultant to a number of state archives to discuss their preservation programs and plans.

The project began in November 1984 and is expected to be completed by mid-1985. The project's report will discuss and document the nature and dimensions of the need and provide an estimate of resources that will be required to address them on a national basis. It will serve as a basis for further discussion, planning and action.

For more information on the State Archives Preservation Needs Assessment Project, please contact: Howard P. Lowell, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 200 N.E. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, (405) 521-2502.

REPORT ON ANNUAL NASARA MEETING

By Madel Morgan

Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

National Archives in Washington was the site of the Summer 1984 meeting of the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators, July 26-28. The State Historical Records Coordinators met on July 25 and 26 at the same location. Program participants included Dr. Robert Warner, Archivist of the United States, Dr. Frank Burke, Executive Director, and George Vogt, Director of the National Historical Records Program.

There were two main topics for discussion by the State Coordinators: the value and use of the assessment projects and goals and priorities for the archival profession. Four "first round" states reported on assessment projects - New Jersey, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Mississippi. The consensus was that the projects have been a useful tool to determine the strengths and weaknesses of archival and record keeping practices at all levels of government.

An "initial discussion draft" of the Goals and Priorities task force of the Society of American Archivists served as the basis for the State Coordinators' deliberations on Thursday morning. Known as the GAP report, this draft identified three goals to be achieved in planning:

- (1) The Identification and Retention of Information of Enduring Value.
- (2) The Administration of Archival Programs to Ensure the Preservation of all Records of Enduring Value, and
- (3) The Availability and Use of All Records and Enduring Value.

Planning is the key word of the Society of American Archivists Committee and the GAP report was presented as a planning and development aid for the archival community.

At one point during the Coordinators' meeting there was a lively discussion about the Coordinators Steering Committee putting pressure on the NHPRC to develop a better coordinated and more aggressive program to support the development of long-term records preservation systems. The discussion was initiated by Ed Bridges, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, a member of the Steering Committee. Dr. Warner and Dr. Burke responded with warmth and conviction that with its more favorable budget position and the strengthening of staff, the National Publications and Records Commission can and will provide greater support for records programs.

The opening session of NASARA on Thursday consisted of discussions with various staff members of the National Archives and Records Service staff. I missed this session because I joined a number of our group on Capitol Hill contacting members of our respective congressional delegations about the NARS Independence Bill which was scheduled to come up for discussion in the House the following Monday and to be voted on Wednesday. The Independence Bill would sever the connection between NARS and the General Service Administration. A supporter of the General Services Administration had prepared amendments that would weaken the bill and our mission was to be certain that our congressional representatives knew how the archival community felt about these amendments.

REPORT ON SMA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

By Linda Overman
SMA Vice-President

The sixth annual business meeting of the Society of Mississippi Archivists was called to order by President William Hanna at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus, Long Beach, Mississippi on May 1, 1984. Eighteen members were in attendance.

President Hanna announced that the minutes from the 1983 annual meeting cannot be found, thus dispensing with them.

Alice Cox, Treasurer, handed out copies of the current treasurer's report. Ron Tomlin questioned the amount in savings. President Hanna reminded him that council had the prerogative of transferring money to the endowment fund at the end of the year and that they did not do so. Julia Young questioned the expenditure of money to the post office. H. T. Holmes explained that it was for stamps, bulk mail rate, rental of the post office box and for mailing The Primary Source. Julia moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Ron seconded it. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee Reports

Membership - President Hanna, in Ana Gordon's absence, reported that the Society currently has between 125 - 130 members. The committee is in the process of mailing renewal notices to all former members of the society.

Archival Education - Julia Young reported on the committee's plan to produce a videotape, the focus of which would be archives in Mississippi and the work of archivists. Julia is writing the script. The committee will be taking photographs. They are also soliciting photographs from members of the society. The projected date for completion of the videotape is January 1985. Estimated cost of the project is between \$700.00 and \$800.00. Julia also stated that the organizations identified in the committee's recent survey of members would be approached as potential viewers of the videotape.

The Primary Source - President Hanna announced that Dr. Lynne Mueller has accepted the editorship of said publication. Bill thanked H. T. Holmes for making The Primary Source one of the premier examples of newsletters in the United States. Lynne thanked H. T. for staying on as assistant editor. She then solicited papers for The Primary Source from members.

History of Paper - H. T. Holmes reported on the status of the History of Paper Committee appointed by council. Members of the committee are Mr. Holmes, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham, Dr. C. Eugene Cain, Dr. Patricia Galloway and Mr. Howard Lowell. Three of the members meet April 29 to discuss their goals and objectives. Mr. Holmes mentioned that the National Historical Publications and Records Commission is looking at the history of the mechanization of record keeping - how records are created and stored. The History of Paper committee is working toward the creation of a national symposium in approximately two years. It is hoped that a publication will

result from the symposium.

Ways and Means - Mr. Holmes announced that the committee has approached the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities in regard to their scholar-in-residence program. It is hoped that the society could get a one year grant with institutional support from Jackson State University. It is also hoped that the individual hired would serve as a public relations archivist and director of a conservation grant, if one is forthcoming. It is also possible that LSCA funds could be used as matching funds. Members of the society would have to donate a lot of in-kind services.

Possible duties of this individual could include: preparing articles for weekly newspapers on the value of archives to society, attending chancery and circuit clerk workshops sponsored by Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi, acting as go-between with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and University archives, being the project director of a conservation grant of workshops, doing public relations appearances on radio and television. This individual could bring the value of archives and humanities to the general public and also free members of the society for other activities.

In the ensuing discussion, Julia questioned whether a year was sufficient time to achieve the above goals, H. T. commented that the executive council of the society would have to lay the groundwork, making contacts, etc. Ron suggested that a committee be appointed to lay the groundwork, identify the duties of said individual and the direction that they should take. President Hanna said that a decision had to be made now, in one regard, as the grant deadline is July 1, 1984. Julia moved that a committee be appointed to hold H. T. draft a proposal to be submitted to the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities for comment. Ron seconded it and the motion carried. President Hanna appointed H. T., Anne Wells, Carol West and Frank Walker to serve on said committee.

Conservation - Linda Overman reported that the committee continues to publish leaflets in *The Primary Source*. Linda and Terry Latour will present a one-half day disaster preparedness workshop at the joint meeting of the Mississippi Library Association and the Southeastern Library Association in Biloxi, October 16, 1984. The committee continues to work closely with the MLA Conservation Committee.

Program - Linda Overman thanked Julia Young, Bill Hanna, H. T. Holmes and Terry Latour for their suggestions for program topics and speakers. (A special thank you should have gone to Terry for keeping such excellent records from the 1983 annual meeting. They made my job a lot easier.)

Nominating - H. T. Holmes presented the slate of officers and council members for 1984-85. They are: Bernice Bell, president; Linda Overman - vice-president and president-elect; Alice Cox - treasurer; Dr. Onva K. Boshears - council member; and Helen Crawford - council member. Gloria Atkinson and Terry Latour are outgoing council members, Ron Tomlin moved acceptance of the slate of officers and council members by acclamation. Julia seconded it. The motion carried.

Bill Hanna handed the gavel over to Bernice. Bernice called for old business.

and Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, director of Research Consultants of Seville, as well as Dr. Henry Bartholomew Cox, historian, attorney, and senior member of the American Society of Appraisers. Dr. Cummins is the co-editor of A Guide to the History of Louisiana, and Dr. Inglis has presented numerous papers on related subjects. As Dr. Cummins points out, in Spanish Louisiana "scribes routinely produced multiple copies of a document," each of which was considered to be a "duplicate original." "Documents not from this provenance as 'duplicate originals' were routinely certified in writing at the bottom of the text as being copies. Most of the WRHS papers carry such certification." It seems likely that most of these documents were not originals, but were certified copies of originals, possibly used by the surveyors themselves by notaries, by lawyers, by landowners, or by land speculators.

In July 1983, the Attorney General determined that the Louisiana State Archives and Records Service, rather than the Louisiana State Museum, was the proper repository of the state to lay claim to the survey documents. A report by the State Archivist claimed the documents, but did not prove that these particular documents, rather than similar ones, had ever been the legal property of the state. Similar documents are owned by a number of outstanding institutions. The University of Michigan, Tulane University, the New Orleans Public Library, Yale University, and Louisiana State University hold exactly similar Louisiana/Mississippi documents: originating from the same surveyors during the same time period, marked with the same docketing, and covering the same geographical area. To date, none of these institutions has been approached with a demand for the return of these documents. Yale won a similar case, among other reasons because it was proved that knowledge of the existence of the documents in that suit had been publicly available for many years.

An attempt was made in November 1983 to conclude the matter through litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States. Assistant Attorney General Eavelyn T. Brooks filed a proceeding on behalf of the State of Louisiana in the Supreme Court of the United States asking that Court to assume original jurisdiction of the case. The Court declined, without comment, to consider the case. In order to continue its efforts to clear title to the survey materials, the State would have had to file suit in the courts of Ohio against WRHS. The prospect of costly litigation and of continued public controversy led state officials and members of the board of the Historic New Orleans Collection to effect a compromise considered to be in the best interest of all parties. The compromise was worked out at a series of meetings between members of THNOC's board and Assistant Attorney General Brooks; Secretary of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Noelle LeBlanc; Dr. E. Ralph Lupin, chairman of LSM's board; and attorney Henry B. Alsobrook, acting for the state museum.

By the terms of the compromise, the State of Louisiana waived all claims of ownership to these documents and requested THNOC to complete its purchase from Western Reserve Historical Society. The Collection complied with the request and purchased the documents. The Collection then donated the documents to the State, retaining for a period of thirty years the exclusive right to possess, use, process, exhibit, publish, and make the documents available for research. It presented a microfilm copy (previously made by WRHS) to Dr. Donald J. Lemieux, State Archivist, for deposit in the Louisiana State Archives. The original documents are now housed at the Collection and are available to researchers.

1984-1985 PATRONS
THE SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVISTS

Dr. Onva K. Boshears, Jr., Hattiesburg

Mr. and Mrs. Hardin McClendon, Hattiesburg

Mrs. Linda L. Overman, Jackson

Ms. Anne S. Wells, Mississippi State

Ms. Carol C. West, Jackson

Mr. Fred Varbrough, Natchez

Membership Committee Chairman Micky Hennen would like to enroll you on the SMA membership scroll. Dues are \$7.50 (regular), \$15.00 (institution); and \$25.00 or more (patron). Please make check payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists and submit to Membership Chairman, Society of Mississippi Archivists, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

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