The Primary Source

Volume 8 | Issue 4

Article 1

1986

Entire Issue Volume 8, Number 4

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Recommended Citation

(1986) "Entire Issue Volume 8, Number 4," *The Primary Source*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 4 , Article 1.

DOI: 10.18785/ps.0804.01

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/theprimarysource/vol8/iss4/1>

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The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

Volume Eight

November 1986

Number Four

NEWS NOTES

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

MISSISSIPPI NEWSPAPER PROJECT: PHASE TWO BEGINS

The Mississippi Newspaper Project, administered by the Department of Archives and History, has entered phase II of the three phase project. Over 2100 newspaper titles were located in the statewide survey of newspapers conducted during phase I. In the next two years these newspapers will be cataloged. The title, bibliographic information, and location of every existing newspaper in the state will be entered into a national computer database. Once entered, this information will be available online or in book form to libraries throughout the state and the country. Phase III of the project will involve a massive preservation effort to microfilm the state's most important newspapers.

A part of the United States Newspaper Project, the Mississippi Newspaper Project is funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is a cooperative effort of the Mississippi Newspaper Consortium, a group of libraries and other interested institutions. The project's staff includes Dale Foster, project coordinator, Kathleen Hutchison, project cataloger, and Terie Ellison, project assistant. It is headquartered at the Department of Archives and History, which houses over 1000 newspaper titles, the largest collection in the state.

GRANT AWARDED TO STATE ARCHIVES

The Department of Archives and History has been awarded a grant of \$30,450 from the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities for a project entitled "Mississippi Mindscape Extended: The Spanish Tradition." Scheduled to begin October 1, the project is designed to interest the public in Mississippi's colorful colonial beginnings, a topic that has received little attention. During the first phase of the project scholars will present programs at the Eudora Welty Library on the French, English, and Spanish occupation of the state. This first phase will give an overall view of the colonial period.

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

Editor.....Vacant Assistant Editor.....Suzanne Steel

The project's second phase will concentrate on the influence of Spain on Mississippi's development. Dr. Jack D.L. Holmes will serve as the scholar-in-residence. This fall he began translating nine volumes of Spanish provincial records held by the Archives and selecting material suitable for program presentation. In the spring about twenty groups will be selected to receive the program.

Dr. Holmes is a graduate of Florida State University. He received his M.A. degree in Latin American history from the University of Florida and his doctorate in Latin American studies from the Institute of Latin American Studies of the University of Texas at Austin. He has written twelve books and collaborated on twenty-four others, in addition to publishing 204 articles and over eighty book reviews. He has traveled extensively in Spain and Mexico and speaks Spanish fluently. Among his many honors, he has received a knighthood conferred upon him by His Majesty Juan Carlos I of Spain for his revisionist scholarship concerning the role of Spain in the history of the Americas.

"Mississippi Mindscape Extended: The Spanish Tradition" is sponsored by the Department of Archives and History with funding from the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities. For more information about the program call (601) 359-1424.

DIVISION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT REPORTS ACTIVE YEAR

The State Records Committee, at its first three quarterly meetings during 1986, approved 179 records control schedules for eleven agencies. During fiscal year 1986, a total of 5732 boxes of temporary state records were transferred to the State Records Center and 6264 boxes of obsolete state records were destroyed. This represents a cost avoidance of \$63,244.20 in office space, storage equipment, and storage space. This figure does not include agency savings realized when records were destroyed from their offices in accordance with approved records control schedules.

Computer output microfilm work at the State Records Center was up 49% during fiscal year 1986 over the previous fiscal year. COM frames produced during the year totaled 1,688,153. This increase is largely due to additional efforts to schedule state agency COM work at the records center.

The Division of Records Management is happy to announce the addition of a new records systems specialist to the staff. Effective August 11, 1986, Mrs. Cindy Balentine joined Brenda Young in the Records Systems Section.

Ron Tomlin, director of the Division of Records Management, and Brenda Young, records systems specialist, attended an information management seminar entitled "Bridging the Information Gap," presented by the Jackson chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators on March 20, 1986, at Primos Northgate. Tomlin also attended an intensive eight-week management training course offered by the State Personnel Board and led by Morris and McDaniel, Management Consultants, at the Universities Center, April 24 - June 12, 1986.

SMA CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON THE EXHIBITION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History hosted a one-day workshop sponsored by the Society of Mississippi Archivists on October 24, 1986. The workshop, chaired by SMA Vice President E.M. Hennen, Jr., addressed the basic concerns that archives, libraries, and museums face in the exhibition of archival materials in their custody. Elbert R. Hilliard, Archives director, welcomed workshop leaders and participants. Workshop leaders included Elaine Kirkland, associate curator of costumes and textiles and visual arts archivist, Atlanta Historical Society; Linda Overman, documents conservator, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Cavett Taff, curator of exhibits, Mississippi State Historical Museum. The workshop focused on the interpretation, planning, and design of exhibits, and the conservation of items selected for exhibit.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI - MCCAIN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Sandra E. Boyd has joined the staff of the McCain Library and Archives as an assistant archivist. A native of Mount Olive, Mississippi, Ms. Boyd received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Mississippi College and an M.L.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi. She taught English for seventeen years at Hinds Junior College before studying library science and archives at USM and gained archival experience at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. She will be working with both the University Archives and Historical Manuscripts programs and will spend a portion of her time adding the manuscript holdings of the McCain Library and Archives to the Online Computer Library System.

MLA SPONSORS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DISCUSSION

Mary Chrestman of the J.D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi and Madel Morgan of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History led a discussion group on special problems of special collections at the October meeting of the Mississippi Library Association. Librarians from public and academic libraries joined for the discussion of four topics: technical processing and intellectual control; the integration of special collections into general library service, especially as it pertains to reference service and research use; collection development and cooperative collecting; and

security problems. Handouts from the session, including introductory information and a bibliography on special collections problems, are available from Mary Chrestman, J.D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677.

SAA TO OFFER WORKSHOPS ON MARC AMC FORMAT

The Society of American Archivists will sponsor or cosponsor a series of workshops on the MARC AMC format (machine readable cataloging for archives and manuscripts control). Workshops are scheduled in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 20-21, 1987 (cosponsored by the New England Area Archivists); in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 22-23, 1987 (cosponsored by the Conference of Intermountain Archivists); in New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 19-20, 1987 (cosponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists); in Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 10-11, 1987; and in New York City on August 31 - September 1, 1987.

The two-day workshops will provide an understanding of the MARC AMC format and an introduction to the descriptive standards used in conjunction with the format. Participants will receive hands-on experience in tagging archival descriptions. Workshop materials include Nancy Sahli's MARC for Archives and Manuscripts: The AMC Format and Max Evans and Lisa Weber's MARC for Archives and Manuscripts: A Compendium of Practice.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$150 which includes workshop materials. Workshop enrollment is limited. SAA will admit applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. Qualified applicants are those in responsible positions involving archival description. Applicants are expected to be computer literate. Due to demand, initial admission is limited to one person per institution. The admission of additional people from the same institution will be determined at a later date. Send application letter to Lisa Weber, Society of American Archivists, 600 South Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605. For additional information call Lisa Weber at (312) 922-0140.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The National Archives and Records Administration Annual Report for the Year Ended September 30, 1985 offers a brief history of legislative events leading to independence for the National Archives and covers preservation, conservation, and automation initiatives and services to Congress, federal agencies, and the public. Free while supplies last. Order from the Public Affairs Office (NSI), National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

Preservation of Historical Records, a study prepared by the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Preservation of Historical Records for the National Archives evaluates the options and risks of copying paper records or maintaining them in original form. The report covers environmental criteria for paper, film, and magnetic and optical media and provides recommendations on mass preservation treatments, environmental controls, archival copying, and preservation strategies. The report is available for \$17.95 from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20418.

The Federal Population and Mortality Schedules, 1790-1910, in the National Archives and the States (Special List 24) is now available on microfiche in an updated form. The 1900 and 1910 census records have been added to the publication, which lists institutions in the United States with copies of federal census population schedules and gives the holdings of each institution. Free publication. Order from the Publication Sales Branch (NEPS), National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

PRESERVATION NOTES

Paper Permanence by Lewis H. Brown is available free from the S.D. Warren Company, 225 Franklin St., Boston, MA 02101.

Preservation Guidelines, two leaflets containing general information and bibliographies are available from the National Preservation Office, The British Library, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, England.

The Brigham Young University Library has compiled a training program for users of the 3-M Theft Detection System. Entitled Library Security, the program includes an eight-minute videotape, a workbook, and a test instrument and can be ordered for \$60 from the Exit Control Training Program, 3080 HBLL, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

The Chemical Manufacturers Association has established the Chemical Referral Center to provide non-emergency health and safety information about the products of member companies. Over 100 companies have provided the center with the names of employees who are experts on their products. The center's toll-free number is 800-CMA-8200.

ACCESSIONS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY DIVISION SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SECTION

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Esty, John H. Papers. 1822, 1824, 1825, 1827. 5 items.

Four letters written by John H. Esty, a lawyer practicing in Claiborne County, primarily to family members living in Cayuga County, New York, and a fifth letter concerning the genealogy of the Esty family. This collection provides interesting accounts of yellow fever epidemics in the Claiborne County area and documentation about the legal career of Esty. Collection is unprocessed.

Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, Valley Stream, New York.

Hester, William (and Family). Papers. 1756-1923. .33 cu. ft.

Letters, slave documents, land records, wills, financial papers, and tax receipts, pertaining to William Hester, a cotton planter and businessman active in Hinds and Wilkinson counties during the 1830s-1870s. Also included are commissions, land records, and masonic documents pertaining to Carl Fredrick Slyhart (formerly Carl Frederick Schleichhardt), a descendant of Hester.

Given by Carl F. Andre.

Collection is unprocessed.

Hough, Joseph W. Home. Records. ca. 1920s-1980s. 6 cu. ft.

Financial records and photographs documenting the history of the Jackson home founded by Dr. Joseph W. Hough, a prominent homeopathic physician, to be used for the benefit of businesswomen in the community. The home, located on 228 North Congress Street, served as an inexpensive boarding house for working women. Of particular interest is a large portrait photograph of Dr. Hough.

Given by the Joseph W. Hough Home.

Collection is unprocessed.

Morris, Marbury. Papers. 1840-1841. .33 cu. ft.

Reports and statements issued by the New Orleans cotton factor, Reynolds, Byrne, and Company, accounting for cotton sales of Marbury Morris (died 1840), a Wilkinson County planter.

Made available for copying by Holmes Sturgeon.

Collection is unprocessed.

The Elms Papers. ca. 1840s-1940s. exact cubic footage undetermined at present.

Large volume of correspondence, advertising material, photographs, financial records, newspapers, books, etc. removed from The Elms, Natchez. The collection, in many ways, represents a time capsule of nineteenth and twentieth century social history in Mississippi, and surrounding states. The collection of advertising material, the bulk of which dates from ca. 1880-1910, is unusually large and diverse.

Given by Alma Carpenter.

Collection is in process.

Welty, Eudora. Accretion. Photographs. 1939; n.d. 2 items.

Two captioned photographs: "Hog Killing Time" and "Potter," by Eudora Welty, Jackson.

Transferred from MDAH graphic records collection.

Accretion is unprocessed.

GRAPHIC RECORDS COLLECTION

St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral. Photographs. n.d. 15 items.

Fifteen black and white original prints of various sizes.

These prints depict interior scenes of the cathedral and group scenes inside and outside the building.

Provenance unknown.

Collection is unprocessed.

CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS COLLECTION

Big Sunflower, Little Sunflower, and Quiver rivers, and Deer Creek, Steele Bayou, and Bogue Phalia, Mississippi, recommended improvements / Mississippi River Commission. 1944. 1 item.

Transferred from the MDAH library.

Uncataloged.

Diagram of the surveying district south of Tennessee / C.A. Bradford, surveyor south of Tenn. 1845. 1 item.

Purchased from Art Source International, Boulder Colorado.

Uncataloged.

Diagram of the surveying district south of Tennessee / W.J. Stone, sc. [ca. 1839]. 1 item.

Purchased from Art Source International, Boulder, Colorado.

Uncataloged.

Diagram of the surveying district south of Tennessee / W.J. Stone, sc. 1840. 1 item.

Purchased from Art Source International, Boulder, Colorado.

Uncataloged.

Diagram of the surveying district south of Tennessee / W.J. Stone, sc. 1841. 1 item.

Purchased from Art Source International, Boulder, Colorado.

Uncataloged.

Gulfport Harbor, Miss., survey to determine the cost and advisability of further improvement / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1926. 1 item.

Transferred from the MDAH library.

Uncataloged.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI - MCCAIN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Breckinridge, John Campbell. Dispatch. March 25, 1862. 1 item.

Copy of a dispatch sent to Colonel H.P. Brewster, assistant adjutant general on the staff of Albert Sidney Johnston, informing Brewster of Union movements in northeastern Mississippi, and warning of a possible attack on the railroad trestle at Glen Dale.

Collection is open.

Charles, Thomas C. and Ellen (McRaven). Letters. 1851-1867. .2 cu. ft.

Transcribed letters written to and from Ellen and Thomas Charles. Letters written from California, 1852-1860, discuss California's pre-Civil War mining economy. Correspondence, 1854-1855, from Vicksburg concerns typhoid and yellow fever epidemics. Letters following the Civil War summarize wartime experiences and give accounts of runaway slaves and property stolen or damaged by Union forces. Also included in the collection are biographical statements about individuals mentioned in the letters, a McRaven family history, and several chapters of a history of Clinton, Mississippi, as published in the Hinds County Gazette in 1875. Given by Fred Charles and William H. McRaven. Collection is open.

Cole, James O. Letter. [April 3, 1907]. 1 item.

One letter from Cole, apparently a student in New Orleans, to Miss Eula H. Ellis of Florence, Mississippi, expressing concern about his upcoming final examinations and giving them as his reason for not writing more often. He also expresses concern that Miss Ellis might have other beaux. Collection is open.

Committee on the Public Lands Report. May 29, 1812. 1 item.

Establishes that Spanish warrant of survey entitles settlers farming land in the Mississippi Territory to keep their lands. Collection is open.

Committee on the Public Lands Report. February 3 and 12, 1816. 2 items.

The first report (February 3, 1816) recommends the denial of claims of residents of the Mississippi Territory arising from depredations by Creek Indians and American troops. The second report (February 12, 1816) establishes the superiority of British grants and titles over those from Spain and recommends a tribunal to settle claims. Collection is open.

Committee on the Public Lands Report. December 1, 1818. 1 item.

Recommends that the Choctaw Indians be forced to live and hunt on the east bank of the Mississippi River, with the intention that they would eventually relinquish their claim granted under the Hopewell Treaty (1786) to the unsuitable east bank lands, which the government wished to use to facilitate water traffic to New Orleans. Collection is open.

Confederate Medical Records. 1861-1863, 1865. 1 volume.

Two journals (in one volume) kept by Confederate surgeons on board naval vessels during the Civil War. The "Journal of Medical and Surgical Practice on Board of C.S. Steamer Gen'l Polk" covers November 10, 1861, to May 28, 1862, while the steamer was operating on the Mississippi River. The "Savannah, Georgia, Station: Journal of Medical and Surgical Practice on C.S. Steamer Atlanta" covers December 1, 1862, to June 17, 1863, while that vessel operated along the Savannah River. Given by Ernest A. Walen. Collection is open.

Cropwell Baptist Church (Alabama). Records. 1881-1923. 2 items.

Record book containing minutes (1889-1908, 1920) and an alphabetical list of members (1889-1923), together with published minutes (1881) of the 48th Annual Session of the Coosa River Baptist Association.

Given by Mary Harmon.

Collection is open.

Davis, Reuben. Speech. February 17, 1859. 1 item.

Typescript of a partisan speech delivered to the U.S. House of Representatives by Reuben Davis, representative from Mississippi, 1857-1861. Davis defends the spending record of the Democratic Party and attacks the tariff as protective and harmful to the South.

Collection is open.

Ewing, Hugh Boyle. Letter. July 14, 1863. 1 item.

Letter from Ewing, a Union brigadier general, to his wife, discussing the shelling of Jackson, the discovery of papers belonging to Jefferson Davis, the murder of a Union officer by the 3rd Texas Cavalry, and the unit's capture by General Sherman.

Collection is open.

Gholson, Samuel Jameson. Letter. April 13, 1863. 1 item.

Letter to General Daniel Ruggles, commander of the First Military District (Confederate) in northern Mississippi, recommending Captain J.F. White for a command in the district in preference to Major William M. Inge.

Collection is open.

Grimke, Thomas S. Address. March 29, 1831. 1 item.

Address by Grimke, a South Carolina state senator, 1826-1832, at a religious meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, concerning a resolution of the American Sunday School Union to establish Sunday schools in the Mississippi valley. Grimke's theories of education are also given.

Collection is open.

Harper, William E. Muster Out Record. December 1898. 1 item.

Harper served in the 2nd Mississippi Infantry during the Spanish-American War. His muster out record includes information about him, and his date of enrollment, period of service, and reason for discharge.

Collection is open.

Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Records. 1906-1982. 5.5 cu. ft.

Minutes, membership and financial records documenting the activities of the organization and its predecessor, the Commercial Club of Hattiesburg, to promote the economic and industrial development of Hattiesburg and its surrounding trade area. There is a gap in the minutes from 1911-1930.

Given by the Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Collection is open.

Indian Claims in Mississippi Petition. February 1, 1836. 1 item.

A petition containing 91 signatures of persons from Mississippi, and other states requesting that the U.S. Congress pass a law to set up tribunals near land offices to "scrutinize" Indian land claims, so that claimants would be assured of their rights and fraud would be exposed and defeated. The petition also asks for an extension of the privileges of the pre-emption law.

Collection is open.

Johnston, Albert Sidney. Letter. December 2, 1849. 1 item.

Letter to General R. Jones concerning Johnston's appointment as paymaster in the U.S. Army.

Given by Ernest A. Walen.

Collection is open.

Loomis, John Mason. Letter. July 20, 1863. 1 item.

Letter from Loomis, a Union colonel commanding the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 16th Corps near Jackson, Mississippi, to Assistant Adjutant General T.J. London. Loomis reports the movements of the brigade (July 4-16, 1863) between Oak Ridge and Jackson, and includes lists of recommended promotions and casualties.

Collection is open.

Lowrey, Mark Perrin. Autobiographical Essay. September 30, 1867. 1 item.

Autobiographical memoir of Lowrey sent to Colonel Calhoun Benham for use in a book. It includes a brief sketch of Lowrey's life before the Civil War and tells of his service with the 2nd Mississippi Infantry during the Mexican War. The bulk of the document concerns his command of the 32nd Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War.

Given by Rosewell G. Lowrey.

Collection is open.

Mott, Louisa Dunmore. Civil War Memoirs. August 24-25, 1861. 1 item.

These memoirs begin with the author's arrival in "Washington City" whereupon she describes the fortifications of the city, especially the Chain Bridge on the Potomac River (perhaps the best and only description of the Chain Bridge.) She comments on Union soldiery, including the observance of the aftermath of the First Battle of Bull Run and President Lincoln's review of the troops.

Given by Ernest A. Walen.

Collection is open.

Spight, Thomas. Letters. 1858-1887. 16 items.

Spight served in the 34th Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War. The collection contains personal letters written prior to and during the Civil War to his cousin, Virginia Barnett, whom he later married. Several letters (1858-1887) from Virginia's family relate family news.

Given by Rosewell G. Lowrey.

Collection is open.

Whitehead, P.F. Letters. February-December 1864. 77 items.

Letters to Miss Irene Cowan in Eufala, Alabama. Whitehead was a surgeon attached to Loring's Division, Army of Tennessee. He informs her about the health of various members of her family who are also serving with the division, and discusses army life, including battles and skirmishes that he witnesses. Also included is a letter to "Mrs. Hicks" (March 2, 1864) and an undated map showing troop positions on the Chattahoochee River. Given by Mr. and Mrs. Travis Beckham.
Collection is open.

TOUGALOO COLLEGE - COLEMAN LIBRARY

Hamer, Fannie Lou. Papers. 1965-1977. 103 items.

Plaques, certificates, citations, and black and white and color photographs documenting honors and activities of Mrs. Hamer's life, including the founding of Freedom Farms Corporation on June 25, 1970. Also included are typescripts of three of her speeches and academic regalia for three honorary doctorates.
Given by Perry Hamer via Rev. Michael W. Freeman and Charles McLaurin.
Collection is open.

Henry, Aaron. Accretion. 20 cu. ft.

Correspondence and documents concerning Aaron's activities with the NAACP and other organizations and the state legislature.
Collection is open.

Staples, Robert. Accretion. 10 in.

Original manuscripts of published papers, speeches, etc. of this eminent black sociologist.
Collection is open.

Ward, Jerry. Accretion. 8 in.

Correspondence to and from black writers, Robert Hemenway, and scholars and personnel in organizations devoted to the humanities.
Collection is open. Permission to copy is required.

The Tom Dent Mississippi Civil Rights Oral History Collection. 1976-1983. 47 cassette tapes.

Interviews with key figures of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement of the sixties, providing a unique assessment of black progress in the state. Those interviewed include Annie Devine, Winston Hudson, Harry Bowie, June Johnson, Owen Brooks, and C.O. Chinn. Also present are Jessie Morris on SNCC and the Poor People's Corporation and Mayor Unita Blackwell on Issaquena County.
Given by Tom Dent.
Collection is open. Permission to copy is required.

The Jessie Morris Collection of Civil Rights Tapes. 1963-1966. 184 7-inch and 5-inch reel-to-reel tapes.

Tapes of civil rights rallies with local leaders and speakers, and also interviews with key people of the Civil Rights Movement.
Given by Jessie Morris.
Collection is open. Permission to copy is required.

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