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Archaeologists and the Archival Record

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Archaeologists study the material record, bits of things that have been either intentionally or unintentionally modified by human beings to become artifacts. In a word, stuff. Practitioners are expected to become familiar with a vast range of stuff and the characteristics thereof: from the flowing ripple marks left on a fragment of stone after it has been hammered off of a larger piece to produce a flake, to the peculiar, stretched cross-section that indicates a square nail has been machine-cut rather than hand-forged. One particularly important subset of stuff is the archival record which, besides consisting itself of artifacts of paper and ink, conveys a great deal of information relating to much of the rest of the stuff in the world.

When archaeologists make use of the archival record, they usually are doing so for one of two reasons: pure research or cultural resource management (CRM). The first is familiar enough to anyone who has ever done historical or genealogical research, so I will not elaborate on it here. The second, while most people might not realize it, is increasingly the driving force behind most of the archaeology that is done in the United States. Laws are in place requiring that archaeological resources be "taken into account" whenever projects on federal land, or projects supported with federal funds, threaten those resources. Project examples include the federally-subsidized construction of highways, bridges, and dams, and logging on National Forests.

For archaeological resources to be taken into account, they must be found and evaluated for significance, as only those considered to be significant are important enough to warrant their avoidance or excavation (both potentially costly propositions). Determining the significance of archaeological sites is thus the CRM archaeologist's most important – and most intellectually challenging – task. How does one determine whether a particular assemblage of artifacts of a particular age in a particular locale is significant? Why is one handful of stuff more important than another handful? While a vast literature has been produced in an on-going effort to address the nuances of such questions, the essential aspects of the most useful responses can be encapsulated in a single word: context.

Context refers to the relationships existing between any one artifact and all other artifacts. Two pieces of a broken spear point at the same site would be contextually close, for example, while the relationship between that spear point and, say, the anchor of the Queen Mary, would be nil. In a more general but equally important sense, context also refers to the "degree of belonging" between any particular archaeological phenomenon and its natural, archaeological, or historical setting. For example, the types of prehistoric materials one typically finds on a terrace adjacent to a major stream might be quite different from what is found on a ridge top high in the uplands. The former might include an enormous number and variety of artifacts reflecting a multitude of tasks carried out over centuries at a long-term habitation site (e.g., pottery, projectile points, drills, grinding stones, hammer stones, animal bones, hearths and house remains, burials, etc.). The latter might have a much more limited array of artifacts reflecting the short-term, special-purpose nature of the upland site: for example, a few broken projectile points and a handful of resharpening flakes might be all that would be recovered at a 2,000 year old hunting camp. The geographical setting thus provides both a physical and an ideational context within which the archaeological record can be interpreted: long-term, sedentary settlements were located on well-drained terrace soils near permanent water, while short-term, special-purpose sites are located in the adjacent uplands. Within that contextual framework, hypotheses can be generated to test assumptions of site function, occupational duration, and expected artifact assemblage characteristics. Within that contextual framework, significance can be evaluated (e.g., "We think that upland sites had a special function within the prehistoric settlement system. To better model the system in its entirety, we need to

understand what that function was. Therefore, we need to preserve and investigate more upland sites. Therefore, intact upland sites are potentially significant").

What the archival record does for CRM archaeologists is to provide critically important context for understanding and evaluating the significance of Historic period archaeological remains (beginning with the time of initial European settlement and continuing up to the present day). Say that an archaeologist conducting a survey on a National Forest prior to a timber sale discovers a late 19th century house site. Is it important enough to worry about? How is that determined? What if five other house sites of similar age also were found? Which ones, if any, should be preserved or excavated? The path for answering such questions for the majority of Historic period sites leads, inevitably, to the archives.

What types of archival records are most useful to archaeologists? That depends on the level of significance that one tries to establish. There are several criteria that can be used to determine if a site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places via the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The one most often invoked for archaeological sites is criterion "d", which holds that a site "has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history." That is a broad statement, to say the least: any site may yield important information, since every site is unique. The question becomes, information important for what? If every site had to have national significance in order to be listed on the National Register, then many sites considered important by local communities might have no protection under the law. To avoid this problem, implementing regulations allow for site significance to be argued at any one or more of three levels: local, regional, and national. Some historical sites obviously have national significance (e.g., Monticello, the Gettysburg battlefield). Others obviously have great regional significance (e.g., a well preserved plantation complex). For more mundane sites, such as a Depression-era farmstead in the North Central Hills of Mississippi, significance is often argued for at the local level, with general reference to broad-scale regional or national events. A site also can be considered to be significant if it is associated with a person of historical note, again at any one or more of the three levels.

Let me give an example of a Historic period site I encountered when I worked as an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service and how I used the archival record to help establish its significance. In 1997, a cultural resource survey was carried out on the Trace Unit of the Tombigbee National Forest in Chickasaw County. The survey was conducted in preparation for a timber sale. Several prehistoric and Historic period sites were found, including one very unusual one. In the middle of the woods, on a lonely ridge top overlooking a deep valley was found a single, marble slab lying flush with the ground. The slab was inscribed as follows: "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Ivy, who departed this life at his residence in Chickasaw Co., MS, on the 21st of Sept. 1836, aged about 50 years."

Several things were unusual about this site. First of all, 1836 is a very early date for the area, as the county was only created in February, 1836, following cession of the land by the Chickasaw four years earlier. Second, there was no evidence of a house site or any other graves nearby. Third, there was no mention of a grave in any Forest Service records or maps that I had seen in my seven years on the job. Fourth, the slab had obviously cracked and been repaired at some point in the past. Was it in its original location, or had it been moved into the woods for some reason? Who was Thomas Ivy, and what was the significance of this peculiar site?

The answers lay in the archival record. Beginning with Atkinson's "A History of Chickasaw County, Mississippi to the Civil War" (1968) and following up with other local histories (e.g., the Chickasaw County Historical and Genealogical Society 1985), I found that Ivy was one of five commissioners appointed by the Mississippi legislature to organize the newly created county. The five men "assembled near present-day Old Houlka at the home of Mila [or Malcolm] McGee, a half-breed Indian. A large oak stump is said to have been used for a table in recording the proceedings of this conference" (Atkinson 1968:29). At the meeting, "the group ordered an election for the purpose of choosing a Board of Police which would serve in a capacity similar to that of today's Board of Supervisors. Their immediate duties were to hold an election to select other county officers and to select the site for a county seat" (Chickasaw County Historical and Genealogical Society 1985:3).

Thomas Ivy was thus seemingly a person of considerable local historical importance. I was unable to find out much about his earlier life. He was listed in the 1836 Assessment Returns of Chickasaw County as "Thomas Ivy (over 45 yrs of age)" (Springer n.d.:1). According to family history, he came originally from Georgia, moved first to Old Memphis, Alabama, then to "the rich Chickasaw lands" of Mississippi in 1832 (Ivy 1985). His great-grandson, Robert Ivy, writes that:

Thomas Ivy had built a log house near the old Natchez Trace in 1832 when he took up large holdings in that area. He later was listed as the largest landowner in Mississippi at that time. He was around forty-five years old when he came with his wife, Drucilla Pryor Gardner Ivy and his nine children to Chickasaw County (Ivy 1985:152).

The grave is listed in the Chickasaw County cemetery compendium, which states that Thomas Ivy actually was born in 1783 in Warren County, Georgia. It also states that "this is probably the oldest marked grave in Chickasaw County" (Chickasaw County Historical and Genealogical Society 1992:76).

Robert Ivy was so interested in his forebear that at some point, probably in the late 1960s, he organized an expedition to locate and refurbish the grave site. In a short piece entitled, "The Oldest Grave in Chickasaw County (Ivy 1985)," he recounts how he located the grave with the help of local county residents and how he and his family set out to repair the marble slab, which had broken. They carried spades, shovels, "bushwackers," saws, cement, and other items out into the woods on a Saturday morning. After a day of labor, they found they had not carried enough water with them to properly mix the concrete. After some thought, a young family member suggested using the canned Fresca brought along for refreshment: thus was "the oldest grave in Chickasaw County" repaired. I can testify that at the time of my survey in 1997, the unique mortar mix was still holding its own against the elements.

Another descendent provides this narrative:

This Thomas Ivy was the first of the name to come to Chickasaw County, Mississippi. He was born 1783-1786 in Warren County, Georgia; married first Margaret (Peggy) Gibson on 18 October 1810, Warren County. They had two children – Margaret and Byrd – both of whom were born in Warren County. Peggy died in 1814 in Warren County. Shortly after her death Thomas moved to Old Memphis in Pickens County, Alabama. He served in the War of 1812 from Warren County.

In 1818 he went back to Warren County and married Drucilla Pryor Gardner who was born ca. 1798 in Warren County, a daughter of Sterling Gardner and Mary (Polly) Neal. Drucilla must have been a remarkable woman of healthy, hardy stock as she rode horseback all the way across the states of Georgia and Alabama to reach Old Memphis. Here they lived until moving to Noxubee County, Mississippi, about 1833, where they lived about a year. They then moved about 1834 to the Pontotoc Ridge country of what was to become Chickasaw County and settled on land Thomas had just bought from the Chickasaw Indians. His land was just east of Old Houlika near the Natchez Trace. When he died 21 September 1836, he was the largest landowner and wealthiest person in northern Mississippi. His is a lonely grave near where his log cabin once stood. Thomas and his good friend, Thomas Gates, were two of the five commissioners appointed to map and organize Chickasaw County and locate its county seat, Houston (Humphrey 1985:379).

The reference to Thomas Ivy's log cabin is interesting, since no other evidence for such an early Historic period site was found during the survey. No fields or other improvements are shown in the near vicinity of the grave site on the original 1834 General Land Office survey map, but this is not surprising

since the field work for the map was conducted in 1833, prior to Ivy's moving to the area. At this point, the location of Thomas Ivy's cabin site remains unknown.

Cemeteries are usually not considered to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places due to the fact that "familial and cultural descendants of the interred often view graves and cemeteries with a sense of reverence and devout sentiment that can overshadow objective evaluation" (Potter and Boland 1992:1). Exceptions to this general direction can be made, however, if a cemetery or grave should have outstanding historical, aesthetic, stylistic, or architectural qualities. For example, one reason why a burial place might qualify for inclusion on the National Register is if it is a "grave...whose survival is a significant or the only reminder of an important person, settlement, or event" (Potter and Boland 1992:3). Specifically, this would fall under Criterion B of the National Register criteria, that "Properties may be eligible...if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past." Criterion D also might apply in the case of an isolated grave, if historical investigation revealed "information important in...history." Potter and Boland (1992:16) state that

To qualify [under Criterion D] for its age, a cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context. The age of a burial place might be considered early relative to the period for which we have information about human activity, or relative to the exploration, settlement, and development of an area by a particular group.

They go on to list several examples of cemeteries that "likely would meet Criteria Consideration D requirements if adequately documented" (1992:16). Two of the examples they list might pertain to the Ivy burial site:

A historic cemetery containing the graves of a number of persons of outstanding importance – those whose activities determined the course of events in local, state, or national history; or those whose activities were especially important in reflecting significant cultural events of the time.

A cemetery possessing important historic associations from a community's early period of settlement, or which reflects important aspects of community history (Potter and Boland 1992:16-17).

I considered the Ivy burial site to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places following these criteria, since Thomas Ivy obviously was a person of local historical importance and since we evidence from the archival records indicated that the site retained sufficient integrity. In short, a context for the site was built using a variety of archival sources: county histories, tax records, family histories, cemetery records, and old maps. I also talked to descendants of Thomas Ivy to find out what I could from them. Following submission of my report (Peacock 1999), the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History agreed with my assessment, and the Ivy burial site is now officially considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register.

I hope this brief example has shown what a valuable resource the archival record is for archaeologists. Especially at the local level, that record holds the context within which most Historic period sites can be evaluated for significance. Once that significance is established, sites important in the historical development of Mississippi can be preserved for the future. Such sites are a material link to the past that is strengthened through the use of archival records, which, metaphorically speaking, put flesh on the bones of our forebears and bring our history to life once again. Archaeologists, and all citizens concerned about historic preservation, owe a debt of thanks to all those who labor to preserve the archival record against the vagaries of time.

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The Genealogist and Archives

Sarah Hallum

President of the Mississippi Genealogical Society

Archival repositories are favorite destinations for those of us who are genealogists and can be very rewarding trips, but they can also be very disappointing if the researcher is not informed about archival situations. While the National Archives and its branches or state archives are many times the first archives in which we think of conducting research, there are many other repositories including university and college libraries, public libraries and other public repositories as well as private repositories that sometimes house archival materials. Just as there is a wide range in types of archival repositories, there is also a considerable difference in mission and in materials available, but regardless of the category and size of a particular archives, one broad aim of each is the preservation of the materials it holds. And with any repository the researcher can encounter a number of special situations. While I think that what will follow will be familiar to experienced researchers, it may serve as a reminder of points to consider about archives.

ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS

Of course, the first thing a genealogical researcher needs to do is determine if a particular archives is likely to have the type of material being sought. It comes as a shock to many people wishing actually to research in a library to find out that the terms archives and library are not synonymous and that some archives are not also research libraries. Some, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, for example, contain both archival material and reference books, but such is not universally the case. And, even if an archives does house reference materials, the scope of these reference books may be very restricted.

The mission of a particular archives determines to a very great extent what the holdings of that repository will be. Why was the archives created? By whom? What was it charged with acquiring and maintaining? Is it a state archives created by act of the legislature with its mission and scope defined and limited by law? Is it a county archives with holdings only on that particular county or a private repository with holdings only on a particular subject? Are there restrictions not only on the subject area, but also on the type of material the archives is allowed to acquire? These are but a few of the questions regarding mission that can affect the holdings of a particular repository. Many repositories provide a leaflet or guide stating mission and giving information on holdings as well as policies and procedures, and it certainly is time well spent for the genealogist to read any such material available. If the researcher desires information on the service record of a Union soldier, for example, a guide that states only service records of Confederate soldiers are available on microfilm in that particular repository can certainly save the genealogist valuable research time.

Other factors influence the holdings of a particular archives. How is the archives funded? Is it dependent solely on what is appropriated by the state legislature with perhaps also what fees it can itself generate through its services? Is it privately funded? Is it dependent on donations for its operation? Unfortunately, however they are funded, most archives operate on a very stringent budget which severely curtails both the acquisitions and the operation of the archives. Very seldom does any archives have the funds to acquire documents or collections it would like to purchase. Even if it does have the funds, it may have no statutory provision which allows it to spend money for such materials if it is a public repository such as a state archives. The unfortunate consequence of either of these situations is, of course, that many items are forever lost both to researchers and to the place where they truly belong, many going into the hands of private collectors.

Other than through purchases, however, archives also acquire materials through donations. Public figures--political leaders or authors, for example--may donate or will their papers to a repository, or someone having an individual diary, letters, or other types of documents may give them to an archives. Some archives have been the fortunate recipient of valuable genealogical papers and collections containing the research of well known professional genealogists.

GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN ARCHIVES

What types of materials do archives have that can benefit genealogists? It is impossible to give a specific answer to that question, because the possibilities can be unlimited. Broad categories can include original documents and records of many types, photographs, papers of various persons, manuscripts of all sorts as well as microfilm and possibly reference books and even photocopied materials, all obviously overlapping categories. Genealogists use an unlimited number of both likely and unlikely sources in their searches. Common sources include census, military and pension records, birth and death records, Bible records, diaries, letters, family papers of other types, cemetery records, church records, and all types of local, county, state, or federal records. But other valuable holdings can be far more obscure. The genealogist simply never knows what might provide the proof being sought. One researcher managed to prove the residence of an ancestor through a distinctive signature of this ancestor on a school petition found in a file of miscellaneous county papers.

ARCHIVAL SECURITY AND ACCESS

Whatever type of records an archives houses, one of the repository's main purposes is the preservation of those records. First of all, there are many security measures the archives can and should take. The genealogical researcher, far from resenting these measures, should be very grateful for them,

because these measures help insure the continued existence of documents he himself may need later. Various types of electronic systems can of course be installed if the archives has the funds for such. Restrictions on personal belongings including purses, briefcases, or carry-alls and notebooks and papers that can be taken into the research area and searches of materials upon leaving are simply common-sense additional precautions. In my years of teaching I saw far too much destruction and mutilation of materials ever to question any security measure a repository chooses to take, but rather to applaud them for doing so. Their measures may have saved something for me.

Other basic precautions can also be of tremendous value. Limiting access by patrons to one folder or box of papers at a time helps prevent documents being misfiled. I know only too well at first hand the problems misfiled material can create for another researcher. Many years ago a cousin and I frantically searched for clarification on a legal document which I knew simply had to contain a very serious error in view of everything else we had found on a particular person. She was in the process of publishing a genealogy and, after a lengthy search in several county repositories and two state archives during which we found nothing more, went to press making deductions based on what the document stated. Some several years later, her husband, visiting again one of the state archives where we had searched, asked at random for a folder on a totally unconnected family which had lived at one time in the same area of that state where the family his wife and I were researching had lived before moving to the place where we found the troublesome document. Much to his shock and amazement, mis-filed in that folder was the entire probate material on the estate she and I had tried so long to locate, and it did prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the suspicious document was in fact in error. But the find came much too late for the published genealogy, which contained the erroneous deductions made from the document. Based on this and other similar experiences, I would urge any researcher to be especially careful about handling and replacing papers in folders, and to report to the archivist in charge any suspicion of misfiling.

There are other security and preservation measures that can be taken. Prohibiting pens and requiring patrons to use only pencils saves damage to individual books and papers. So does the use of cotton gloves when handling papers. Some archives provide researchers with gloves to use when handling loose papers and documents. Photocopying may be prohibited or restricted also. Some repositories require use of microfilm or a photocopied "use copy" if such is available instead of allowing the handling of the original material.

POTENTIAL ACCESS DIFFICULTIES

Another matter about which the researcher should be aware is that any archives can have certain situations from time to time which make access to material difficult. One of the first that comes to mind is a repository in the process of renovation or in the process of moving to another location. During such conditions material ordinarily accessible may be boxed up and stored, and it may be unavailable for use or there may be a delay in retrieving it for the researcher. Several years ago I visited a large library/archives in the process of renovation and expansion and located in their holdings an original issue of a newspaper I wanted to see. But it was in storage in a building at some distance and was not something I had to see immediately, so, when the librarian told me it might take a day or so to locate it and offered to send a worker to retrieve it for me, I told her I could wait until it was back in the library. Some repositories also keep certain materials all the time in storage facilities, perhaps for very secure safe-keeping or because they are almost never used.

Changes in administration policy can also create changes in access to materials. In addition to general policy changes, many repositories have materials they have been given with restrictions on use stipulated by the donor. Sometimes the donor may specify that a certain number of years must pass after his death before anyone is allowed to have access to the material or may specify the qualifications of those who can have access to the material.

How material is catalogued also is sometimes a problem. This is not to say the archives has not correctly catalogued something, but rather that it is something that is perhaps catalogued in a way that does not occur to the researcher. An example might be a tax roll in a collection of material from a state office. The roll may be catalogued as part of the set of that state office's material, but not also listed under the heading of tax rolls. Also, sometimes for various reasons materials have to be recatalogued,

and this situation too can create a problem for the researcher who has used the material under its original catalogue listing and is unaware it has been recatalogued. I have, on several occasions, experienced both these problems.

The points mentioned certainly are not the only ones that affect research, but these reminders of policies and practices that affect the overall operation of a repository (from mission to special problems) will, I hope, make a genealogist's visit to an archives more profitable.

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Seeing the Elephant in Ann Arbor

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During the nineteenth century "seeing the elephant" meant doing something that was out of the ordinary. Today, we might refer to the same occurrence as "having peak experience." Whatever the case, I like the elephant metaphor because it captures the excitement I felt last May when I visited the William L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Clements Library is housed in an elegant building on the main campus of the University of Michigan. The main part of the building, the part you see from the street, contains the rare book room and is reserved for exhibits and receptions. The reading room is down a flight of stairs in the basement.

The staff who work with researchers at the Clements Library do three things that set their archives apart from other libraries I have visited over the past ten or twelve years. The first thing I noticed was that

there is one person whose only responsibility was to keep an eye on the reading room. His name was John Harriman, and, as far as I know, he did not spend his time processing, cataloging, or engaging in any other activities that librarians are typically expected to do. In fact, while I was there Mr. Harriman was rarely called away from his desk, interrupted by telephone calls, or diverted from his primary task of supervising the reading room. This arrangement worked well for both the library and for me. Mr. Harriman was able to provide excellent service while securing the library's collections at the same time.

Another thing that the Clements Library does very well is to foster a sense of collegiality among the researchers using its collections. When I signed in at the beginning of my visit, Mr. Harriman informed me that everyone is expected to stop work at ten o'clock for "tea." I was a bit surprised by what appeared to be an antiquated and even intrusive custom, but sure enough, all the researchers in the reading room set aside their pencils or stopped typing on their laptops at ten o'clock and adjourned to a nearby room for cokes or coffee. The break was not long, only fifteen or twenty minutes, but it provided the researchers an opportunity to discuss their interests and share information about their research. Breaking for coffee was a small touch, but it added congeniality to what otherwise would have been a solitary task.

A third thing that the Clements Library does especially well is to prepare their collections for researchers. Although most libraries devote a lot of time to their collections, the staff at the Clements Library has taken this preparation a step further. Each letter in the James S. Schoff Civil War Collection, for example, was filed in an individual, acid-free folder, with the date, identifying information, and excerpts of the most salient passages from the letter typed on the front of the folder. This detailed information allowed me to move quickly through the material Mr. Harriman brought to my desk. Like most researchers, the amount of time I could spend in Ann Arbor was limited, and this preliminary work by the staff allowed me to make the most of the short time I was there.

I am sure that it is evident by now that the Clements Library has ample resources. After all, it takes money to hire someone to supervise the reading room, to serve cokes and coffee to patrons, and to prepare materials for researchers. Nevertheless, it does not require deep pockets for a library to excel in any of the three areas I have just mentioned. It is not the amount money you have, but how you spend it.

I can illustrate the importance of setting priorities by telling you about my visit on the same trip to the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. The Indiana Historical Society is housed in a magnificent structure a block from the state capital. I was told that the new building cost more than 37 million dollars. It had everything an archivist would dream of having--enormous amounts of space, the latest technology, and an architecture that was both pleasing and functional. The furniture in the reading room, for example, was made of solid cherry handcrafted in Maine. Each armchair was appointed with leather cushions and had the Indiana Historical Society monogram wood-burned on the back. The archivist's kiosk was also constructed of solid cherry and cost more, I was told, than the house in which the Librarian who worked behind it lived.

Despite these extensive resources, one of the librarians who helped me at the Indiana Historical Society was getting ready to leave. She had accepted the position as the archivist at Butler University. One reason she was leaving was because she could work full-time at Butler. The Indiana Historical Society, she told me, could not afford to employ her for more than 20 hours a week. Although the librarians at the Indiana Historical Society were both friendly and attentive, the lack of funds to staff their remarkable facility reminded me that deciding how to allocate resources can make a big difference, even when those resources appear to be almost unlimited.

When it comes to priorities, the Clements Library has clearly put serving its patrons at the top of the list. Are patrons a high priority at your library? More specifically, when you hire a librarian to work with researchers, do you evaluate his or her interpersonal skills with the same rigor you use to judge his or her professional qualifications? And although you may not be able to offer cokes and coffee, what do you do to create a comfortable and congenial atmosphere for your patrons? And finally, are you able to balance the never-ending quest for more material with a commitment to make the collections you already have more accessible?

As a researcher, I can tell you what a thrill it is to go to a library that actually seems to enjoy working with its patrons. I have been in libraries where the staff give the impression that "You do not know just how fortunate you are to be sitting in this place, much less be allowed to actually hold that document, which, if you happen to deface by your inexcusable carelessness, will likely result in the total collapse of Western civilization as we know it." Libraries do not have to be that way. Archives are as much about serving people as they are about saving things. I learned that lesson in Ann Arbor.

The staff at William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan is known far and wide for their expertise as collectors of Americana. I was aware of their reputation before I went. What I did not know was that they had an elephant in the basement. Imagine my surprise.

(James G. Hollandsworth, Jr., is the Associate Provost, Professor of Psychology, and Lecturer in History at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has written two books on the Civil War *The Louisiana Native Guards: The Black Military Experience During the Civil War*, and *Pretense of Glory: The Life of General Nathaniel P. Banks*, both published by the LSU Press. His latest book, *An Absolute Massacre: The New Orleans Race Riot of July 30, 1866*, is due out this spring and will also be published by the LSU Press.)

A Genealogist in Special Collections Or Schizophrenia in Wonderland

Dr. Lynne Mueller
Mississippiana/Rare Books Librarian, Special Collections,
Mississippi State University Libraries

I have a confession to make: I am a professional schizophrenic (not especially paranoid and only occasionally delusional). My schizophrenia is based on the fact that I am a Special Collections librarian, and I am also a genealogist (horrors!). I understand when my genealogical researchers tell me they want more, more, more (time, resources, services, etc.), and I also understand when I go elsewhere and the librarian or archivist asks, "Aren't you *ever* going to go home?" In my delusional moments, I think genealogists and archivists, librarians, and court clerks can actually get along and help each other. Only occasionally do I encounter another genealogist who makes me wonder.

As a genealogist, I want every resource I can put my hands on, and as a librarian trained as a historian, I prefer my resources to be original. I want name indexes to everything—I don't have time to waste here! Get me to those documents quickly! Don't throw anything away; it might have some piece of minutia that I need to crack my currently greatest mystery.

As a librarian/archivist, I can't afford every resource. The budget's too limited to provide materials for all of the clients that I serve: university students, faculty, scholars, representatives of other state agencies, local businesses, individuals needing help finding their way through the bureaucratic maze, lawyers, the media, and the occasional 4th grader doing a class project. Even if I could afford the sources, I don't have room to put them all. And name indexes take time I don't have to produce, even if it were practical or useful in every case. Not everything in the world is worth keeping. Besides, not everything fits

my collecting policy (which, of course, was well thought-out in a series of long committee meetings that took up a lot of my time). It's my job to balance all of this stuff. Back off and let me do my job!

The genealogist in me wants lots of time to do my research. Give me long hours every day in the repository. Oh yes, I need a microfilm reader/printer, too, just for myself, instant photocopying of anything I find, a good parking space, and I do prefer a table turned just so in the room to take advantage of the light. The chair needs to be comfortably padded as well. How about a plug for my laptop and room to spread out all the materials I have called for? I promise I will use only pencils if I don't have to walk all the way to the other end of the room to find a pencil sharpener. And by the way, let me tell you about *my* family; I'm sure you have the time to listen.

The Special Collections staff in me is willing to put up with the genealogist during working hours, but when closing time comes, I want to go home (I may be going to another library to do my research, and you're cutting into *my* time). I can't afford another microfilm reader/printer. You have to get here early to get your preferred parking space and table. The chairs are the best we have (try not to lean back on two legs and break it, please). I can't move the wall plug any closer to your table, and I had better not catch you using a pen. I will get your photocopying as soon as I can. (Please see "budget" and "clientele" in paragraph three). I am happy to know about your many illustrious relatives, but could you get to the point of your question?

Actually, as a genealogist I have always gotten good service in libraries and archives, possibly because I know what the other side is thinking. Mutual understanding is the key to both sides getting along together. As a genealogist, I try to share resources; I try to be organized and state my questions succinctly. As a librarian, I have tried to give service because I understand what the genealogist needs. I teach workshops and give programs to local genealogical societies, trying to teach beginning genealogists how to make the best use of their research time.

Genealogists, like all researchers, need training. Most researchers are trained by their teachers, but it is usually the archivist or librarian who has to teach the genealogist. When I teach workshops, I try to share the following four useful rules for genealogists using archives, libraries, or courthouses, especially those at a distance. Maybe the rules should be posted for *all* researchers, not just genealogists.

Rule 1: Get organized. Everyone should organize research notes just to see how far they have gotten. Find the questions that need to be answered in a repository and put those in priority order. Sometimes you find out that you already have answers, and the questions have changed.

Identify the repository that is most likely to provide answers. A local library or repository may be able to help you do that. Ask.

Rule 2: A phone call is cheap insurance. Call ahead and make sure that the repository is the one you think it is (I have had genealogists looking for information about the University of Mississippi show up at Mississippi State University because they did not realize those were two different institutions, and that our resources on the University of Mississippi might be somewhat limited).

Find out when the repository is open (every institution has someone complain because they showed up after hours or on a holiday and the repository was closed).

If you need special services or facilities (an elevator, a computer plug, or whatever), ask if it is available. Many institutions will go the extra mile, if they know what you need in advance and can work on supplying it in their own time. If something is not available, think what can you do to remedy the problem (like bring extra, charged battery packs for the computer).

Ask about the rules, and go prepared. If you can't take in a notebook, make sure that you have your research notes in a form that is allowed; you won't have enough time to do research if you wait until you get to the repository door to sort everything out. If you need identification to register, don't leave it in the car; you will only have to go back and get it.

Rule 3: Don't waste time. If your questions from Rule 1 have a priority order, begin with the first and make sure that the most important facts are found while there is plenty of time. Save the peripheral questions for the end of the day if time is left.

Accept the rules of the institution and don't waste your time arguing about them with the staff. That's time you can use for research, and you are not likely to change the rules anyway.

Of course, you're excited when you find your fourteenth great-grandparent, but don't spend all of your time sharing it with everyone in the room. You might meet very nice people that way, but you may also aggravate a less-than-enthusiastic non-genealogist. The time you spend sharing your findings is time that could be used to find your fifteenth great-grandparent.

Photocopies may be expensive, but decide if they are cheaper than a trip back to the repository. If the answer is yes, copy what you can and leave the note-taking for what can't be copied (and know the difference).

Rule 4: Find out how to follow up on new discoveries. It may take some time after your trip to sort out the findings and to develop new questions. The new questions may need answers from the same repository. Ask before you leave about getting copies of documents by mail or how much research the staff can provide if a question needs to be followed up on. Ask if there is a list of local researchers willing to do work for someone from a distance.

Librarians and archivists have just one rule for dealing with genealogists: **Have patience!** Patience in dealing with a single genealogist can make that person an independent researcher, one who can help train beginners around them or serve as volunteers to do research for others at a distance—a great time-saver. Genealogists can be among the best supporters a repository or library can have. They have contacts, and they are not afraid to use them. They can provide you with new collections or leads to collections. At the very least, they will increase your use statistics which can have a good influence on your budget (which you can then use to provide more resources, services, and time for them).

(Dr. Lynne Mueller is the Mississippiana/Rare Books Librarian in Special Collections at Mississippi State University Libraries where she has worked for 21 years. She is a native of Alabama and earned her PhD in history as well as her MLS at the University of Alabama.)

Thanks to the superb design by Jason Catlin, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Society of Mississippi Archivists now has a beautiful website at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~smainfo>. The site is hosted by USM Libraries, University of Southern Mississippi and will be maintained by Peggy Price, Special Collections Librarian, McCain Library and Archives, with the assistance of Ron Peterson, Information Services Librarian at USM Libraries. SMA wishes to thank Dr. James Martin, Dean of University Libraries, for his generous support.

Spotlight on Mississippi Archives

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission is located in the Speed Library Building at Mississippi College, Clinton, MS. The Commission's collection was begun in 1888 when a society was formed to collect materials about our denomination's history. Among early members of the society were Mrs. Adelia Hillman and Rev. J. L. Boyd who began preserving materials in a central location so that would be available for future generation.

The collection consists mainly of the following materials:

- + Issues of **The Baptist Record** (our state Baptist paper), either bound volumes or on microfilm, from its beginning in 1877 to date. A selective index is available
- + Biographical information about pastors and other outstanding Mississippi Baptists
- + Information about each church in the state as provided by the churches
- + Vertical files on the departments, agencies, and other institutions of the Convention and other topics of interest to Mississippi Baptists
- + Annual Associational, Mississippi Baptist Convention and Mississippi Baptist Convention Minutes, including some from older and now extinct associations
- + A collection of books and periodicals relating to the history of the Baptist denomination, including the history of many local churches and associations
- + Church records from many Mississippi churches, including some no longer extant
- + Helpful indexes and guides to assist visitors with the use of various collection
- + The Mississippi College Room, containing both historical and current information about the college, is adjacent to the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

We also provide information, brochures and pamphlets regarding the collection and preservation of Baptist history in oral, filmed and written form. Other Commission publications include:

- (1) Highlights of Mississippi Baptist History, available free of charge.
- (2) A History of Mississippi Baptists by R. A. McLemore (\$7.00)
- (3) Mississippi Baptist Preachers: Current biographies (1986) by Jack W. Gunn (\$5.95)
- (4) Selective Index to Leavell and Bailey's Complete History of Mississippi Baptists, Vol. I and II, \$25 per set.

The Commission recognizes churches celebrating their Centennial anniversary and subsequent anniversaries of each 25-year period by presenting a framed plaque and a letter of commendation from the Executive Secretary. We also provide workshops and materials to assist in planning anniversary celebrations and preserving church records.

Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission
Box 4024

Clinton, Mississippi 39058

Telephone 601-925-3434

E-mail mbhc@mc.edu

Fax 601-925-3435

Do you have a person, project, or institution you would like to highlight in a future issue of the journal? Contact the editor at irmgard.wolfe@usm.edu

Reports

SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Reported by Mary Hamilton, Electronic Services Librarian,
The University of Southern Mississippi, and Diane DeCesare
Ross, Digitization Specialist, The University of Southern Mississippi

From October 11-13, 2000, the Southeastern Library Association held a joint conference with the Georgia Council of Media Organizations at the Jekyll Island Convention Center and Holiday Inn in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The conference theme was "Building Partnerships for the New Millennium". Several pre-conference workshops were offered, covering the topics of storytelling, Friends of Library groups, leadership, accreditation, and program planning. Joan Frye Williams, Dr. Elliott Engel, and Lorraine Johnson-Coleman gave entertaining keynote addresses.

SELECTED SESSION REPORTS

"ACRL STANDARDS 2000: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS"

Bill Nelson from Augusta State University and Bob Frenkes from Georgia Southern University co-presented a pre-conference workshop focusing on the new outcomes-based ACRL accreditation standards. The outcome assessment standards require a move from rote methods of instruction to "an emphasis on assessment of student performance" using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The presenters demonstrated the evaluation plan in practice at Augusta State University's Reese Library which incorporates the ACRL standards, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirements and the individual library's purpose, goals, evaluation procedures, and the use of the results from the evaluation procedures. The presentation also included discussion of the Reese Library mission statement and the goals. The library's document provided "linkages" (bolded and underlined text) to the university's mission statement and goals. These were highlighted within the library document to demonstrate the ways the library supported the overall mission of the university. This session provided attendees with specific ways to implement the new standards and examples of how to document the efforts.

"SO YOU HAVE TO PLAN A PROGRAM – NOW WHAT?"

SOLINET's Cal Shepard and Diane Brown presented a fun, fast-paced pre-conference workshop on planning workshops and other professional programs. In just three short hours, they laid out very useful guidelines for needs assessment, content planning, program design, evaluation, and implementation. The audience was able to practice freshly-learned skills through group exercises. *Program Planning: Tips for Librarians* was a highly recommended resource. (available from the web page <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/clene>)

"THEY'RE FROM MARS – WE'RE FROM REFERENCE: TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM"

Joan Frye Williams, a consultant for libraries in the areas of information technology planning, management and marketing, presented at the first general session. Through specific examples and much humor, Ms. Williams identified reasons why "partnering" between technology specialists and librarians is not always successful and offered suggestions for making these partnerships work. While most librarians prefer libraries to be run like a boutique, patrons want a "convenience store" type library. She suggested

using "techies" to make libraries a more convenient place for patrons. Tell them to bring technologies from other areas of business. Also, librarians want perfection. For example, librarians would hesitate to bring up a new automated system with even minor problems, but in the software industry if a product is 88% effective, it is considered to be a success. When implementing a new program or service, try it for three months. Then, determine if the problems librarians have encountered are really problems for the patron.

"STOP SEARCHING AND START FINDING –
CRISPEN'S GUIDE TO FINDING AND EVALUATING RESOURCES ON THE NET"

Patrick Crispen packed this hour-long presentation full of very useful internet searching techniques. He began by pointing out that many people are not using the right online tools for the task at hand, and then went on to outline simple search strategies that will improve results with almost any search engine. This was followed by more advanced strategies, like searches for titles, domain names, and URLs, and the use of operators such as "or" and "near". Crispen highly recommended google.com and dogpile.com as the best search engines.

THE INFINITE LIBRARY: OLD WORLDS AND NEW: MANUSCRIPTS, ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium 2000, held November 3-4, 2000 at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Reported by Peggy Price, Special Collections Librarian, McCain Library & Archives, University of Southern Mississippi

Artist and author Fleur Cowles edited the ground-breaking, yet short-lived, magazine "Flair" in the early 1950's. In the spirit of the magazine, and "the new, the controversial, the innovative and the creative," the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center holds "The Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium" every two years.

"THE INFINITE LIBRARY: Old Worlds and New: Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections in the 21st Century," brought together leaders in the world of books and libraries to share their thoughts on what the future holds for special collections. Two full days of panel presentations and discussions on such topics as institutional planning & funding, technology, authors & their archives, and the future of the library and scholarship, enlightened and entertained the audience and participants alike. Good news--special collections should be around for a long time, with digital surrogates playing an important role in both preservation and access.

President of Emory University, William Chace, established a theme with his opening keynote address that would resonate throughout the symposium when he lamented the loss of "reverie" surrounding books and study. On a brighter note, it was generally agreed that special collections are in the unique position to recover such a loss and celebrate the book in all its forms. Succeeding speakers talked about establishing communities of readers by "animating" texts and collaborating to build national and international collections. Digitization, preservation, and the commodification of cultural artifacts were some other topics considered.

Speakers represented prestigious institutions from the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Michael Ryan (Director, Special Collections, University of Pennsylvania Libraries), Ellen Dunlap (President, American Antiquarian Society), Jeane Ashton (Director, Rare book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University), Kris Kiesling (Head, Department of Manuscripts & Archives, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin) and Lisa Brower (Lilly Librarian, Indiana University)

were just a few of the moderators of the panel discussions. Featured speakers included Peter Hirtle (Co-Director, Cornell Institute for Digital Collections), Charles Henry (Vice Provost, University Librarian and Interim CIO, Rice University), Deanna Marcum (President, Council on Library and Information Resources), and Alice Prochaska (Director, Special Collections, The British Library).

A reading of Brian Friel's play "Give Me Your Answer Do!" dramatized the ethical considerations a writer encounters when selling his archives to a library and set the stage for the last program of the first day. Authors James Salter and Diane Johnson, along with playwright Arnold Wesker, spoke about their own experiences selling their papers to libraries, ending the evening with both insight and humor. Day two carried on with the panel presentations, which were capped off by a most upbeat and lively journalist, James Fallows, telling us that what we do is wonderful and valuable and will only increase in worth in the 21st century.

Fleur Cowle's closing remarks compared the relationship between books and digital technology with the horse and the automobile. Although one has replaced the other in most functional ways, we still enjoy the beauty and majesty of horses--as well we should with books.

RARE BOOK WORKSHOP

held at Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, November 8, 2000

Reported by Dr. Lynne Mueller, Mississippiana/Rare Books Librarian, Special Collections, Mississippi State University Libraries

On November 8, 2000, Elaine Smyth, Curator of Special Collections at Louisiana State University Libraries in Baton Rouge, gave a workshop entitled "Rare and Endangered: a Workshop on Selecting Material for Transfer to Special Collections." Around 30 librarians from Mississippi and Alabama academic and public libraries attended.

Ms. Smyth began with a PowerPoint lecture on the elements of rarity. She talked about the development of book technology from the hand press period through mechanization and what that means in terms of scarcity, value, and the ability of books to survive in circulating collections. Books have many kinds of value (monetary, informational, aesthetic, and associational), and all of these values must be considered when deciding to place a book in special collections. She talked about the role of the antiquarian book trade in establishing monetary value and listed several websites and other means of determining that value. In addition, she listed some of the currently "hot" collecting areas.

While it is relatively easy to establish monetary value, other values may depend on the individual institution. Special collections stacks are expensive due to conservation costs, security, and more intensive

service. Unless books fit the specific research emphases of the institution, or have elements associated with the institution's mission or history, they may not be worth placing in a special collections department. In fact, they can be detrimental to such a collection by taking resources away from more suitable material. Ms. Smyth recommended that each library have a clear collecting policy.

A related recommendation was that some books are better preserved in a limited circulation situation rather than in special collections. For instance, books that are in poor condition but in high demand for certain courses may need limited circulation or in-house use only, rather than being subjected to the usually limited hours of use found in special collections departments. Books in poor condition with nothing more than informational value to recommend them may need to be replaced in circulating collections with newer editions.

During the afternoon session, participants evaluated a group of books that Ms. Smyth had pulled from the MSU stacks. Some books were obvious candidates for transferring to Special Collections because of rarity, age, or special features. Some were simply old books with condition problems. Other were examples of books that had associations with MSU and might be transferred to Special Collections for that reason only. Once everyone had a chance to look through a few books, they compared

evaluations. Even those who do not regularly work with rare books learned that they can monitor circulating collections and recommend a more thorough evaluation of selected pieces by the special collections staff.

NEH DEEP SOUTH REGION MEETING:

Held at the Pine Hills Culture Program Office, Hattiesburg, MS

Reported by Preston Everett, Audiovisual Archivist, MDAH

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture has been chosen as the Deep South Humanities Center for the National Endowment for the Humanities Deep South Region. The NEH is in the process of designating 10 regional studies centers across the nation. The Center received a \$50,000 planning grant from NEH to prepare a grant proposal for a \$5 million endowment for this region. The Deep South Region includes the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas, and the Center created a separate staff for this NEH project. The endowment will be used to support regional humanities research, education, and preservation and public programs.

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture has planned regional meetings for the planning grant year. The meetings began on September 12, 2000 in Helena, Arkansas and will end in Lafayette, Louisiana. The second regional meeting, held on October 18, 2000, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, gathered together representatives from various libraries, universities, public schools, archives, museums and historical societies. Those in attendance suggested the need for public outreach in the form of various community programs. Also suggested was the need for collecting and preserving our past in every community throughout the state, which could be done through preservation workshops. The workshops would be designed to train volunteers in areas of outreach programs, preservation of manuscripts and photographic materials, oral history projects and any programs a community would want to accomplish.

The Year in Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

NEW ROUND OF SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSION PAPERS OPENED

On Monday, July 31, 2000, MDAH made available an additional 6,000 pages of Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission records in accordance with an order issued by U.S. District Court Judge William H. Barbour, Jr., on May 30, 2000. The release is the latest stage in the privacy review-and-disclosure procedure that was designed by the court to allow maximum access while accommodating the privacy rights of individuals named in the records. As part of this privacy review-and-disclosure process, the majority of the Commission's approximately 132,000 pages of records were opened to the public by MDAH on March 17, 1998.

These newly released records contain court-approved redactions (blacked out text) requested by a number of people named in the records who, exercising their court-established privacy rights, asked that certain personal information be expunged from the records. The newly released records also contain 146 pages of rebuttal information submitted by people named in the records.

Approximately 1,800 pages of the Sovereignty Commission records are still subject to litigation and remain sealed. For more information, contact the MDAH reference desk at (601) 359-6876 or write the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Archives and Library Division, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571.

FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON ELECTRONIC RECORDS GUIDELINES

Most state government records are now created on a computer of some kind, and many may never be printed out at all. How are they to be managed and preserved so that the citizens of the state can have the same kind of access to the workings of their government that they had when all its transactions took place on paper? This is the problem that the Electronic Records Initiative of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History was asked to solve.

The staff of the Department's Electronic Records Initiative carried out an initial survey of Mississippi state agencies, requesting information on the management of computer-based records. This survey revealed that four categories of electronic records were most common and difficult to manage: personal computer (PC) files, enterprise databases, email, and web pages. Electronic Records Initiative staff evaluated existing management procedures for paper records and investigated electronic records management projects in other states and countries. From these sources, and from a pilot project in the Department of Health, they distilled a set of practices best designed to facilitate the long-term retention, storage, maintenance, and continued public accessibility of permanently valuable computer-based records.

As a result of this work, the Department of Archives and History has released a draft of guidelines for the management of the computer-based records created by state government agencies. The guidelines apply to the four most common categories of records. They also include explanatory documents about electronic records in general and the Initiative's proposed metadata standard, as well as a glossary. The guidelines are available for public viewing at <http://archives3/arlib/erglnav.html>. The Department welcomes any and all comments and requests that you address them by email to elecres@mdah.state.ms.us or by regular mail to Electronic Records Initiative, Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571. For more information, call (601) 354-7612.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

CHARLES H. TEMPLETON RAGTIME SHEET MUSIC COLLECTION

For some forty years, Starkville, Mississippi, businessman Charles Templeton collected a wide range of music memorabilia. Included among his treasures is a collection of some 22,000 pieces of sheet music from late nineteenth and early twentieth century America.

The Charles H. Templeton Ragtime Sheet Music Collection is being digitized in an effort to preserve the collection as well as make it more accessible to researchers. Since a project of this magnitude can take months to complete, the MSU Library Administration made the decision to develop the Charles H. Templeton Ragtime Sheet Music Collection web site to give MSU Faculty, Students, Starkville townspeople and researchers a glimpse into the contents of this fabulous collection. The contents of this web site will be enhanced over the coming months. Visit the site at:
<http://library.msstate.edu/ragtime/index.html>

CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL RESEARCH CENTER

The Congressional and Political Research Center was officially established on November 12, 1999. Currently located in the Special Collections Department, Mitchell Memorial Library, the Center will be moved to a separate location within the Library during the year 2001. Until the move takes place, items in congressional records that are open to the public are available through the Special Collections Department.

The purpose of the Center is to provide research material and information on individual U. S. senators and representatives, the U. S. Congress, and politics at all levels of government. This is accomplished via in-house holdings and Internet links to pertinent sites. Dr. Michael Ballard, the coordinator of the Center, has been joined by assistant archivist Dr. Craig Piper. Until approximately six months ago, Dr. Piper worked at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

BOBS M. TUSA AND HERBERT RANDALL

Faces of Freedom Summer: The Photographs of Herbert Randall. University of Alabama Press, 2001. 160 pages, 102 black and white photographs ISBN 0-8173-1056-8, \$39.95.

These rare photographs re-create the exhilaration and danger of Freedom Summer in 1964 Mississippi. Throughout that exiting but dangerous summer, Randall took nearly 1800 photographs. Surprisingly, few of Randall's photographs were seen or even printed until 1998, when he donated the negatives to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The following year, more than 100 of the photographs were exhibited on that campus as part of a commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Freedom Summer. Those photographs now appear in this book, a remarkable visual record of a significant time in our history. Bobs Tusa's extensive introduction contextualizes Randall's photographs and provides the most extensive account to date of Freedom Summer in Hattiesburg, the largest Freedom Summer site. Bobs M. Tusa is University Archivist at the University of Southern Mississippi. Herbert Randall has exhibited photographs at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the International Center of Photography, the Corcoran Gallery, and other noted museums; his work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Randall currently lives on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, New York.

CIVIL RIGHTS ORAL HISTORIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

More than sixty oral histories documenting the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi are now available on the World Wide Web as a result of a cooperative effort by the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries and the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. The online collection contains the firsthand accounts of well-known African-American figures such as Charles Cobb, Lawrence Guyot, and Hollis Watkins, as well as individuals from the rank and file of civil rights workers who helped change America in the 1950s and 1960s. The collection also includes accounts by moderate whites and leaders of the white opposition. The oral history transcript collection is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/oh/>.

Each transcript contains a biography, a list of topics covered, and a complete textual record of oral history interviews conducted and transcribed by USM's Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. Transcripts also feature a navigation bar to provide a user-friendly interface, including a means to search for names or terms in the oral history collection.

In the past, researchers accessed these oral history transcripts at the McCain Library and Archives at The University of Southern Mississippi. Digital technology allows an international audience of

researchers and students to experience a firsthand perspective on the Civil Rights Movement from their own home or local library.

Judy Richardson, Associate Producer of the acclaimed civil rights documentary *Eyes on the Prize*, wrote of the collection, "I just wish we'd had it when we first started the 14-hour *Eyes* series back in 1978. What a truly wonderful resource this will be to all interested in the history of the Mississippi movement."

Preservin' the South

Preservation News by Christine Wiseman
Education Officer,
SOLINET Preservation Field Services

New Publication on Digital Projects from NEDCC

While the impact of digital technology on the preservation community is undeniable, the appropriate use of digital technology for preservation remains an open question. Learn how the experts are answering this pressing question when you read the Northeast Document Conservation Center's latest publication: *Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access*. For the past five years, the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) has explored the complex issues surrounding digital preservation through its successful School for Scanning conferences. This book will make up-to-date information on these issues available to a broad audience.

An easy-to-use primer, *Handbook for Digital Projects* is focused on meeting the information needs of libraries, museums, archives, and other collections holding institutions. It is intended to serve as a resource and response to the questions, conflicts, and unique preservation challenges produced by ever-evolving technologies. A compilation of experts' experiences and advice, the Handbook covers in detail, such topics as:

- * Rationale for Digitization and Preservation
- * Guidelines from Case Studies
- * Selection of Materials for Scanning
- * A Technical Primer
- * Digital Longevity
- * Project Management
- * Vendor Relations
- * Copyright Issues
- * Scholar Commentary: An End-User Speaks Up

Find more information about this publication on the NEDCC website, www.nedcc.org.

New CD-ROM from UNESCO

A new preservation tool, a CD-ROM entitled "*Safeguarding our Documentary Heritage*" is available on the UNESCO website as part of their "Memory of the World" Program. It was prepared on behalf of UNESCO by the IFLA/PAC with the assistance of the Mission on Research and Technology.

This searchable multi-media program provides information about the deterioration and preservation of cultural property by document type, visual, audiovisual, film, graphic, and photographic. It also categorizes disasters and gives guidelines for a stable collection environment. The program can be view on the UNESCO website, www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/, using Shockwave and by ordering the free CD-ROM from the website.

New Digital Publications

Many institutions are looking for guidance when it comes to creating, managing, and preserving digital collections. Two new publications attempt to provide practical advice and establish best practices for libraries and archives undertaking digital imaging projects and developing a strategy for long-term file management.

Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives, (Edited and principally written by Anne Kenney and Oya Y. Rieger. Mountain View, CA: Research Libraries Group, 2000. Softcover, \$80, \$72 for RLG members.) a primer on digital imaging projects, is the latest offering from Cornell University, who remain one of the leaders in imaging practice and research. Although fairly technical, the manual provides practical advise on selection, conversion, quality control, metadata creation, image processing, systems building, access, preservation and management. *Moving Theory into Practice* is a companion to the weeklong workshop of the same title, but stands on its own as a reference work.

There is also an online digital imaging tutorial <www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/> <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/>> that is intended for use in conjunction with the book and workshop; however, it also stands alone as introduction to key concepts of imaging.

Preserving Digital Information: A How-To-Do-It Manual (by Gregory S. Hunter, Neal-Shumann Publishers, softcover, \$64.95) discusses the challenges librarians and archivists face in preserving electronic information on disks, networks, CD-ROM's, and other electronic media. The manual shows how to apply best practices when managing long term storage of digital collections.

2000 Preservation Assistance Grant Awards are Announced

In the spring of 2000, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Division of Preservation and Access distributed guidelines for a new category of grants, Extending the Reach which includes Preservation Assistance Grants. These awards of up to \$5000 are designated to help libraries, archives, museums and historical organizations to preserve their collections. Though available to institutions nationwide, special consideration is given to applicants in areas considered underserved by NEH. These areas include Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Activities that are eligible for funding are general preservation assessments and long-range planning, consultations, preservation education, and the purchase of equipment and supplies.

In April, 179 institutions applied for \$748,000 for preservation efforts. Sixty-one percent of these institutions were funded; 54% were in the underserved regions. Eight institutions in the Southeast received awards this summer: The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL; The Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Birmingham, AL; The Historic Huntsville Foundation, Huntsville, AL; The University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; The Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL; Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA; Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY; and Milligan College, Milligan, TN.

The deadline for next year is April 3, 2001. Information, guidelines, and forms are located on the NEH website, www.neh.gov.

SOLINET Launches New Digital Library Curriculum

In response to increasing interest and demand, SOLINET is expanding its training on digital library topics. Three new workshops are under development, jointly sponsored by SOLINET's Preservation Services and Digital Library Services. Designed to provide practical training for small groups of

participants, these workshops will debut during this year's "workshop week", scheduled for November 13-17, 2000 in Atlanta.

The three workshops will be scheduled sequentially so that the topics build on one another for those who wish to obtain more comprehensive training on digital library issues. However, each workshop also functions as a stand-alone session. This arrangement allows for participants to choose workshops that best meet their needs, and to attend several related sessions in one week.

The series begins with a two-day workshop entitled *Digital Library Program Development* that covers the management issues associated with starting up and integrating a digital library program into existing library operations. The one-day, *Introduction to Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives* follows, and focuses on establishing and managing digital conversion projects. The final workshop of the series, *Digital Imaging of Photographic Collections*, specifically addresses selection, conversion, and providing access to image collections. This session features hands-on demonstration and practice of scanning techniques, lighting, applying metadata standards, and database development.

Workshop participants will be made aware that digitization is primarily an access tool, and not currently an acceptable preservation reformatting option. Preservation issues including long-term file maintenance and the use of standards and best practices as a means to ensure access to digital files into the future will be addressed in all sessions.

For full descriptions see: www.solinet.net/presvtn/events/event.htm.

See www.solinet.net/cet/reginfo.htm for registration information. These workshops are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access.

Accessions

2000-2001

Mississippi Department of Archives and History Manuscript Collection

BOECKMAN FAMILY PAPERS, ACCRETION. 1943-1956. 3.63 c.f.

This accretion to the Boeckman Family Papers consists of correspondence between Richard Joseph Boeckman and his wife, Frances Blissard Boeckman, of Jackson, Mississippi. Their correspondence discusses family news and events in Jackson, and documents the service of Richard Boeckman in the United States Army in North Africa and Italy during World War II, and during the Korean War. Presented by Frances Blissard Boeckman, Jackson, Mississippi.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (MISS.) NEWSLETTER COLLECTION. 1935-1938. 0.10 c.f.

This collection includes photocopies and typescript copies of guidelines for writing newsletters and newspapers, as well as thirteen newsletters produced by camps of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Mississippi. Among the camps represented in the collection are those at the following locations: Belzoni, Crosby, Leaf River, Lexington, Saucier, Utica, and Vicksburg. Transferred from the library, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

CONN (LOUISE WILKERSON) PAPERS. 1935-1984. 0.42 c.f.

The papers of Louise Wilkerson Conn of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, consist of correspondence, proclamations, and certificates concerning the Mississippi Poetry Society which she served as president. The collection contains two originals and one photocopy of Poetry Day proclamations signed by Mississippi governors Cliff Finch, William A. Allain, and William F. Winter. Also included is a 1935 school edition of the Jackson Daily Clarion Ledger. Presented by the Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library, Hazlehurst, Mississippi.

DAVIS (JEFFERSON) BOUNTY-LAND CERTIFICATE. 1855-1887. 0.10 c.f.

This collection consists of a certificate issued by the United States Department of the Interior on June 28, 1855, awarding Jefferson Davis 160 acres of bounty land for his service in the First Regiment of the Mississippi Rifles during the Mexican War. On the verso are statements by Jefferson Davis transferring the warrant to Varina Davis, and by Varina Davis granting power of attorney to James B. Metcalfe for the purpose of locating the warrant. Presented by Bertram Hayes-Davis, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ELLIOTT (JOHN KNOX) PAPERS. ca. 1841-1869. 0.94 c.f.

The papers of John Knox Elliott of Sumter County, Alabama, include financial records and day and account books. These document his daily activities as a cotton planter, and contain information concerning eastern Mississippi as well as Alabama. Presented by Knox Poole, Emelle, Alabama.

FERRISS (JAMES FURR) AND FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1936-1958. 0.57 c.f.

These papers include correspondence, memoranda, photographs, telegrams, certificates, financial papers, and newspaper clippings documenting the service of James Furr Ferriss of Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. The collection includes a number of items relating to the internment and death of Ferriss in a Japanese prison camp in 1945. Presented by Donn Taylor, The Woodlands, Texas.

GRENFELL (RAYMOND F.) FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1961-1994. 0.40 c.f.

The papers of the family of Raymond F. Grenfell of Jackson, Mississippi, include a scrapbook documenting the activities of the Jackson Symphony League from 1961 through 1968, and programs, invitations, and other memorabilia concerning the inaugurations of President Ronald Reagan and then Vice-President George Bush in 1981, and the inauguration of Kirk Fordice as governor of Mississippi in 1992. Presented by Raymond F. Grenfell, Jackson, Mississippi.

HOWELL (DAVID B.) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1918-1988. 0.50 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of David B. Howell of Aberdeen, Mississippi, and Thibodaux, Louisiana, includes correspondence, photographs, postcards, financial and social papers, programs, and memorabilia. These papers concern the activities of Howell and his family in churches, schools, clubs, and social organizations of north Mississippi towns such as Aberdeen, Cleveland, and Starkville. Presented by David B. Howell, Thibodaux, Louisiana.

HUMPHREYS (BENJAMIN GRUBB) MANUSCRIPT. ca. 1880. 0.66 c.f.

This collection consists of a handwritten manuscript by Benjamin Grubb Humphreys, general in the army of the Confederate States of America, and Mississippi governor. In this manuscript, Humphreys gives a detailed account of the Civil War and his role in it. The manuscript also contains material concerning his early life in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Presented by Douglas McL. More, Greenwich, Connecticut.

KEYS FAMILY PAPERS. 1854-1895. 0.17 c.f.

The papers of the Keys family of Itawamba County, Mississippi, consist of original correspondence, transcriptions, and photocopies. They include the letters of Joseph H. O. Keys documenting his service

in the First Regiment, Mississippi Infantry, of the Army of the Confederate States of America, and his imprisonment at Johnson's Island, Ohio. Presented by Jameson M. Jones, Memphis, Tennessee.

MANSHIP FAMILY PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1880-1930. 0.42 c.f.

This collection includes photographs, postcards, a letter, a certificate of military discharge, financial papers, and envelopes, and forms an accretion to the papers of the Manship family of Jackson, Mississippi. Presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. Ra24lph Wilson, Amarillo, Texas.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE RECORDS, ACCRETION. ca. 1990-1998. 1.25 c.f.

This accretion to the records of the Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare includes correspondence, minutes, membership information and lists, brochures, newsletters and newsclippings. The collection contains information on conferences, meetings, workshops, and programs sponsored by the organization. Presented by Margo Swain, Starkville, Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECORDS, ACCRETION. ca. 1964-1986. 4.57 c.f.

This accretion to the records of the Mississippi Historical Society, Jackson, Mississippi, consists of financial records containing information on accounts receivable and disbursements of the society. Some membership records are also included. Presented by the Mississippi Historical Society, Jackson, Mississippi.

PEMBERTON (JOHN C.) PAPERS. ca. 1874. 0.23 c.f.

This collection includes drafts of the manuscript written by John C. Pemberton, general in the army of the Confederate States of America, describing the Vicksburg campaign of 1863, and refuting arguments made by Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston concerning Pemberton's role in the campaign and the responsibility for the fall of Vicksburg to Union forces. Also included are manuscript copies of correspondence and papers concerning the campaign. Presented by Alan Hoeweler, Cincinnati, Ohio.

POLK (NOEL) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1966-1993. 0.76 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of Noel Polk contains original and photocopied materials relating to his book, *Eudora Welty -- A Bibliography Of Her Work*. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, newsletters, book reviews, magazine and newspaper articles, interviews, and course bibliographies. Presented by Noel Polk, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

SMITH (GEORGE K.) AND FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1870-1960. 0.88 c.f.

The papers of George K. Smith of Indianola, Mississippi, contain correspondence, photographs, telegrams, newsclippings, publications, and printed ephemera. The collection includes genealogical research materials concerning the Smith family and the allied families of Faison and Carter. Numerous items in the collection document George K. Smith's service as a lieutenant in the 114th Engineers, American Expeditionary Forces, during World War I. Presented by Marvin G. Smith, Ridgeland, Mississippi.

WINTER (WILLIAM F.) PAPERS, ACCRETION. ca. 1982-1987. 0.88 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of William F. Winter includes correspondence, memoranda, and reports. While some of the material is miscellaneous in nature, several files pertain to educational issues, including the Southern Regional Educational Board. Transferred from Official Records, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

WINTER (WILLIAM F.) PAPERS, ACCRETION. 1985-2000. 8.00 c.f.

This accretion to the papers of Mississippi governor William F. Winter consists of miscellaneous files containing correspondence, photographs, papers written by Winter, reports, minutes, publications, and newsclippings documenting Winter's involvement with numerous national, state, and local organizations. Presented by William F. Winter, Jackson, Mississippi.

WORLD WAR II COLLECTION. ca. 1942-1944. 1.10 c.f.

This collection contains memoranda, reports, newsletters, publications, press releases and posters documenting the activities of various organizations in Mississippi during the Second World War. Among these are the Mississippi Civilian Defense Council, the Office of Price Administration, the Community Chest of Jackson, and the American Red Cross. The papers include materials concerning defense activities in the state and the sale of war bonds. Transferred from Official Records, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

University of Mississippi. Archives and Special Collections

FAULKNER ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2000

The Record Vol. XLIX (1929) of Sigma Alpha Epsilon prints a photograph and profile of William Faulkner, Miss: Gamma. This early notice of Faulkner is not in any of the major private or institutional Faulkner collections.

Yoknapatawpha Drainage District. Printed bond. circa; 1912.

Faulkner may well have seen and handled such a bond when he worked at the First National Bank in Oxford. There are a number of entries in the bankledgers for the bond issue. Our copy may be the lone surviving example of a Yoknapatawpha Drainage District bond. The Yoknapatawpha bond precedes by a decade or so Faulkner's appropriation of the word for his mythical county.

Sometime in 1920, while attending the University of Mississippi as a special student, William Faulkner wrote a one-act play which he gave to his friend Ben Wasson to read. Wasson, who later acted briefly as Faulkner's literary agent in New York, thought the play mannered and derivative. Nonetheless, Wasson kept the untitled and unsigned manuscript. In 1977, Wasson sold the stage play typescript to Oxford businessman Howard Duvall. Another slightly longer version of the play with the title "Twixt Cup and Lip" was discovered recently among literary materials owned by Faulkner's daughter, Jill. The play remains unpublished and unstaged. Our typescript copy is a gift to the University of Mississippi from Howard Duvall's daughters Teresa Flautt, of Oxford, Mississippi and Ruth Ellen Kuhnle of Roanoke, Virginia. Three pages from the eighteen page typescript are displayed.

Light in August, New York: Harrison Smith & Robert Haas, 1932. First edition, first printing. Signed by Faulkner on the title page in black ink. Only a handful of copies of Light in August are known to have been signed by Faulkner.

Typed letter signed. 1 page. From William Faulkner to Harrison (Hal) Smith, n.d., n.p. Harrison Smith with Jonathan Cape and later with Robert Haas published several Faulkner titles between 1929 and 1935. Smith and Faulkner remained friends long after Smith had ceased to be Faulkner's publisher. The letter is signed "Bill". The additional words "Faulkner" and "Oxford, Miss." are not in William Faulkner's hand.

Printed birth announcement card for William C. Falkner. New Albany, Miss. 1897.

This rare, possibly unique, piece of Faulkner ephemera was owned originally by the Faulkner family. The card represents the first separately printed mention of William Faulkner. The Birth Announcement was purchased by Leilia Clark Wynn of Greenville, Mississippi who has donated the card to the University of Mississippi. The photograph of Maud Falkner with infant is putatively of her son William.

University of Southern Mississippi Archives

BRANCH (RAYLAWNI) COLLECTION, ca. 1960s, 1995. Family photographs and materials documenting the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, .30 cu.ft. Donated by Raylawni Branch.

GLASS (JINNY) MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SUMMER DIARY, 1964-1996.

Diary of Freedom Summer 1964 volunteer in Palmer's Crossing Community Center and 1996 article on Freedom Summer, 2 items.

GOODMAN (JILL WAKEMAN) CIVIL RIGHTS COLLECTION, 1964-1966. Materials relating to her activities with the Delta Ministry in Mississippi and the Civil Rights Movement in general, .20 cu.ft. Donated by Jill Wakeman Goodman.

GORDON (ALBERT F.) FREEDOM RIDER COLLECTION, 1961-2000. Lists of Freedom Riders, arrest records, investigative reports, correspondence, newspaper clippings, etc., .25 cu.ft. Donated by Albert F. Gordon.

STONER (PETER) PAPERS, 1964.

Two memoirs of his Civil Rights activities in Mississippi as a Freedom Rider in 1960 and assisting with voter registration in Hattiesburg in 1964, 2 items.

WADE (DAISY HARRIS) PAPERS, ca. 1939-1998.

Materials documenting the work of 1960s Forrest County N.A.A.C.P. leaders J.C. Fairley and Daisy Harris, .70 cu.ft.

BYRD (JESSE M.) COLLECTION, 1947, 1951.

Letters, campaign material, and speeches related to candidacy of Byrd for Governor of Mississippi in 1947 and 1951, 25 items.

EAST (P.D.) COLLECTION, 1957-1971.

Materials pertaining to East's career as a newspaper publisher in Mississippi and as an advocate for civil rights for African Americans in the 1960s. Includes issues of East's *The Petal Paper*, .25 cu.ft.

CIRCUS/MINSTREL/TRAVELING SHOW COLLECTION, 1894-1953.

Posters, route cards and book, annual, magazine, program of several circuses that performed in Mississippi, 25 items.

HATTIESBURG LITTLE THEATRE COLLECTION, 1975-1977.

Playbills, financial statements, membership roster, correspondence, 29 items.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL MUSIC SCORES, 1912, 1921.

Scores of *On the Mississippi* (1912) and *Mississippi Cradle* (1921), 2 items.

ZWERLING (MATTHEW) FREEDOM SUMMER COLLECTION, 1963-1965.

Correspondence, photographs, and other materials of a voter registration volunteer in Clarksdale, Mississippi; includes the probable last photograph taken of slain volunteer Andrew Goodman, .50 cu.ft.

Call for Papers

The editors of The Primary Source are seeking articles and reviews for upcoming issues of the journal. Submit articles etc. in hard copy and diskette form or as e-mail attachments in WordPerfect (5.0 +) or Microsoft Word (3.1 +).

Please address questions about submitting articles and other materials to be published to

either:

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or

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