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### Archives of Appalachia Newsletter (vol. 1, no. 3, 1979)

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### ETSU OPENS UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

With the arrival this summer of the papers of the first three presidents of East Tennessee State University, the establishment of a proper University Archives has begun. Like many other State Universities around the country, ETSU began as a Normal school in 1911 as a result of a national movement towards improved teacher education. ETSU operated as a Normal School until 1927 when it received State certification as a College. The school continued as ETSC until 1963 when it became a University. Throughout its history the University has been recognized as the center for teachers' education in Eastern Tennessee but it has also developed a number of outstanding research programs in geology and geography, environmental sciences, and public health, to name a few. Most recently, the University opened a fully accredited medical school.

During the school's formative years, three men held the office of President. Sidney G. Gilbreath (1869-1961) served as President between 1911 and 1925. Charles C. Sherrod (1883-1967) succeeded Gilbreath and served until 1949. He was followed by Burgin E. Dossett (1898- ) who served until 1968. The careers of these three gentlemen span the period of growth and development from East Tennessee Normal School to East Tennessee University. Their papers include materials relating to the intellectual and social climate of the times, detailed accounts of institutional projects and programs, personnel and financial matters, and important education issues confronted by the school during their respective terms of office. All three collections are currently being processed and should be opened for research use by early 1980.

Further information on the growth of the University Archives and progress in the processing of University collections will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### THE MAGNET HOSIERY MILLS COLLECTION

Thanks to the kind efforts of Ms. Cleo Hughes, Director, Division of Archives, Tennessee State Library and Archives, the papers of the Magnet Hosiery Mills of Clinton, Tennessee will come to the Archives of Appalachia this Fall. Calling itself the Magnet Knitting Mills, the company opened its doors in 1906 and quickly became one of the most important business operations in Clinton as well as one of the single largest employers of women in Tennessee. In 1929 the company was renamed Magnet Mills, Inc. and Mr. C. S. Kincaid became president of the firm. For over thirty years, the Mills operated under his family's direction until it was sold to Prestige, Inc. Under absentee ownership, labor troubles grew and after a prolonged strike, the factory closed permanently in 1967.

Fortunately, loyal Mill employees recognizing the historical value of the company's records moved them from the Mill offices to a storage building owned by the Anderson County (Tennessee) Court House, located in Clinton. Ms. G. D. Hoskins, a relation of several of the original Mill employees and a Mill worker herself for many years, serves as Anderson County historian and in that capacity brought the existence of these records to the attention of Cleo Hughes who in turn contacted our Archives. The collection is quite complete, containing labor records, management

reports and memoranda, financial and marketing records, and all sorts of ephemeral material related to the plant's operation. As a resource, these papers are rich in material relating to women's history, the labor movement in Tennessee and Tennessee economic and social history more generally. The collection totals approximately forty linear feet in size.

As important as this collection is in its own right, its arrival at the Archives has special significance for us. First and foremost, this set of papers falls within our specific collecting focus; that is, business and labor records related to activities in Southern Appalachia. Secondly, the effort that went into bringing these papers to the Archives clearly demonstrates the virtues of institutional cooperation. We have the State Archives to thank for alerting us to the existence of the collection and for putting us in contact with Ms. Hoskins and her colleagues for showing the foresight to preserve these valuable historical records. Finally, we thank the Mountain Heritage Center, located at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, for assisting us in the fumigation of these materials. Due to all of this help from our friends, a fine collection will soon be open for the use of our patrons.

### AASLH AWARDS GRANT TO ARCHIVES

We are proud to announce that the American Association for State and Local History has awarded the Archives of Appalachia a consultant grant so that we can bring on to the ETSU campus an expert in the field of photographic archives. As we reported in our last Newsletter, we have just begun to organize our photographic holdings. Before we expand our collecting program to include more photographic materials, we would like to establish indexing, retrieval and conservation procedures so as to insure satisfactory processing and preservation of these items. In this regard, the AASLH grant comes at a propitious moment in our development and we are most grateful to them for their help. The grant comes as a function of the AASLH Consultant Service which is supported by the National Museum Act as administered by the Smithsonian Institution.

### RECENTLY OPENED COLLECTIONS

#### East Tennessee State University Sherrod Library Collection (10 linear ft.)

This collection covers the years 1912-1977 (predominantly 1936-1977) and includes the papers of four Library directors: Olive Taylor (1914-1936), Archie McNeal (1936-1948), McBerney Burleson (1943-1946) and Hal Smith (1948-1977). The types of records found in the collection include: correspondence, library reports and studies, financial records, materials relating to the activities of librarians, inactive personnel files, and blueprints relating to the 1967 addition to the library.

Holston Baptist Collection (17 folders) 1826-1904, collection contains printed minutes of Holston Baptist Association, 1826-1904 and minutes of General Association, 1857. Holston Methodist Collection (29 folders) 1820-1843, collection includes published minutes of Holston Conference 1833-1840, copies of the Holston Conference Messenger, 1827, and several pamphlets and tracts, 1843. Blountville Circuit, Holston Conference, Methodist Church Collection (2 folders) 1841-1859 and 1873-1886, minutes of the Blountville Circuit for the periods 1841-1859 and 1873-1886.

Boon's Creek Male and Female Seminary Collection (1 folder) 1854-1881, collection contains minutes of Board of Trustees, 1854-1860, 1863 and 1881, constitution and

by laws, and student lists for 1855 and 1856, East Tennessee State Normal School Student Body Collection (1 folder) 1920-1921, minutes of the school's student body organization and the election of new officers.

David S. Burleson Collection (3 folders) 1917, 1944-1945, collection includes bible class lectures and speech manuscripts 1917, and diary 1944-1945. Caldwell Family Collection (1 folder) 1782-1892, collection contains deeds, wills and various legal documents pertaining to the Caldwell Family of Sullivan County, Tennessee. David Diehl Collection (1 folder) 1852-1882, account books of his farm and cooper's business in Breckinridge County, Virginia, and Washington County, Tennessee. Samuel Laughlin Collection (1 folder) 1845, collection contains autobiographical and genealogical information pertaining to Samuel H. Laughlin and genealogical material relating to the Argo family of Rutherford County, Tennessee.

## TENNESSEE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

On July 22, 1979, Prof. K. R. Thomson of Steed College and a Johnson City member of the Tennessee Society of Mayflower Descendants presented the Archives with the first two volumes of a projected twelve-volume set of books tracing all of the lineal descendants of the original Mayflower settlers through the first five generations. These works represent the culminations of eighty years of genealogical research, and ought to be of great interest and help to our many patrons actively engaged in genealogical studies of their own. Mildred Kozsuch, of the Archives staff, will catalog these volumes and add them to the Sherrod Memorial Genealogical Collection located in Room 301 of the Sherrod Library. This Collection and the extensive sets of microform records found on the Library's fourth floor provide genealogical researchers with many of the tools that they require in their research. The Watauga Association of Genealogists, whose office is located on the 3rd floor of the Sherrod Library, also offer assistance in this regard. Those of our readers who would like to know more about the Mayflower Society are urged to write the Mayflower Descendants, P. O. Box 3464, CRS, Johnson City, TN. 37601, and those interested in the WAGS should write Ms. Mildred Kozsuch, c/o the Archives.

## MUSEUM DISPLAYS AT THE ARCHIVES

In our last Newsletter, we announced the appointment of Dennis C. Pelletier as our photographic archivist and display coordinator. The development of a photographic archives will be a slow and laborious process. Upon his arrival at the Archives, Dennis's immediate responsibility has been to design a number of programs for the Archives's newly acquired exhibit cases. These cases are located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library, opposite the main Archives facility. Displays will rotate on a monthly basis and from now on will be publicized in our quarterly Newsletter.

August 1-31, 1979. Historical ETSU. A collection of early-1910 through circa-1925 photographs of the origins and formative years of the East Tennessee Normal School which eventually became East Tennessee State University.  
The Age of Steam Locomotives. One display cabinet will be set aside for artifacts and photographs relating to a much larger exhibit of steam-powered trains currently on display at the B. Carroll Reece Museum, located next door to the Sherrod Library. In the early stages of its development, Johnson City, where ETSU is located, served as a rail center.

- September 1-30, 1979 Rogersville Card and Label Company. A wide range of the artistic and varied labels produced in Rogersville, Tennessee on the world's first eight-color press as well as more recent Card and Label Company products and photographs of the plant's presses in operation.
- October 1-31, 1979. What is an Archives? A visit to the Archives of Appalachia and a survey of its services to the community, its publications and its facilities through photographs, models and displays.
- November 1-30, 1979 Appalachian Information. A collage of printed matter in the form of newsletters, periodicals, brochures, fliers, posters, and books relating to Appalachian history, art, culture, society and politics.
- December 1-31, 1979. ETSU Medical School Library. Two or three times each year, the Department of Learning Resources of the ETSU Medical School will use the Archives exhibition cases for displays of their own. The theme of their first show will appear in our next Newsletter.

### ETSU TO OFFER MINOR IN PUBLIC HISTORY

With the growing interest nationally and locally in personal history, historic sites, conservation, and community cultural development, "public history" has become a boom field. In response to these trends, the History Department at East Tennessee State University has decided to offer undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to both study and receive practical, on-the-job experience in public history through a series of new and innovative courses. These courses will draw upon the rich resources of the region and facilities on or near the main ETSU campus. Internships for students at the B. Carroll Reece Museum, the Archives of Appalachia and at local museums and historic preservation projects are anticipated. While this program is now only in its formative state, course offerings will eventually include: Oral History taught by Dale Royalty, Museum Administration taught by Harvey Dean, Historic Preservation taught by Eric Lacey, and Archival Administration taught by Richard M. Kesner. Some of these courses are already in the catalog for the 1979-80 academic year, and the entire program should be operational when the University switches over to a semester system in 1980-81. For more information, please contact Dr. Earl Wade, Chairman, History Department, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. 37601.

### CHANGES IN ARCHIVAL COURSE OFFERINGS

The Archives of Appalachia still plans to offer two courses Fall quarter, but the course on paper conservation has been rescheduled for a more convenient time. "Book Conservation and the Public or School Library" will now meet four consecutive Thursday evenings in October, beginning on October 4, 1979 at 7:00 p.m.. Otherwise the course remains unchanged; focusing on typical conservation problems faced by those working in public and school libraries. The course will feature evaluation and problem solving sessions where class participants will have an opportunity to analyze conservation problems within their own shops.

"Principles of Archival Administration" (History 4920/5921) will continue on Tuesday nights, beginning October 3, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. and will involve a systematic survey of the basic elements of archival programs, including: arrangement and description of manuscript materials, archival security, professional ethics, copyright law, oral history, computers and archives, and the conservation of historical objects. Both

courses meet in the Archives of Appalachia Reading and Research Room (Sherrod Library, Room 169) and are available for Continuing Education credit. The archival administration course is also available for undergraduate and graduate credit through the History Department. For more information, please call the Archives (615-929-4338 or 4365) or the Office of Continuing Education (615-929-4214 or 4223).

## PARKING FOR ARCHIVES PATRONS

The University has instituted a new set of parking arrangements, effective Fall quarter. Rather than assign individual parking spaces to students, faculty and staff, all campus parking has now been divided in "Blue Areas" (designated for faculty and staff) and "Yellow Areas" (designated for students). Visitors driving onto campus, and this includes all non-ETSU patrons of the Archives, may park in either the Blue or the Yellow areas. Official "visitors" spots have been eliminated. While these changes will make it easier for our patrons to find parking closer to the Sherrod Library, it will not eliminate the possibility of receiving a parking ticket. Any patron who receives a ticket should bring it into the Director's office or mail it to him and he will deal with it.

## STAFF NEWS AND NOTES

Mildred Kozsuch, fresh from her seminar at the National Archives, will be off again, this time for three weeks in Great Britain, where she plans to vacation and perhaps pursue a few genealogical inquiries.

Richard M. Kesner, delivered a paper at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, entitled: "Development and Dependency: The Financial Management of the Crown Colonies in the Age of Chamberlain," on July 10, 1979. He is presently engaged in preparing a monograph dealing with the economic development of the British Empire in the late-nineteenth century. Richard will also deliver a paper on September 27, 1979 at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, entitled: "Labor Union Grievance Records: An Appraisal Strategy and Its Ramifications."

## DON'T FORGET THE ASC PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

We would like to remind our readers that there is still time to submit your session and paper ideas to Martha McKinney for the upcoming Appalachian Studies Conference, to be held at ETSU next March. Please send your ideas to:

Ms. Martha McKinney, Program Coordinator  
Appalachian Studies Conference  
c/o Appalachian Consortium, Inc.  
202 Appalachian Street  
Boone, North Carolina 28607 (704-262-2064)

Also please keep in mind that we want to encourage the participation on non-academic speakers and panelists and with this in mind, the ASC programming committee will gladly assist people unfamiliar with the format employed by the ASC for papers.

