

East Tennessee State University

Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University

Archives of Appalachia Newsletter

Magazines & Newsletters

1984

Archives of Appalachia Newsletter (vol. 5, no. 4, 1984)

East Tennessee State University. Archives of Appalachia.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.etsu.edu/archives-newsletter>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

East Tennessee State University. Archives of Appalachia., "Archives of Appalachia Newsletter (vol. 5, no. 4, 1984)" (1984). *Archives of Appalachia Newsletter*. 21.

<https://dc.etsu.edu/archives-newsletter/21>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Magazines & Newsletters at Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archives of Appalachia Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. For more information, please contact digilib@etsu.edu.

Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. V., NO. 4

SPRING, 1984

ARCHIVES
OF
APPALACHIA



SALUTE TO STUDENT WORKERS

This issue of the Archives of Appalachia Newsletter is dedicated to our student workers. Eight students are employed part-time carrying out activities ranging from typing and filing to the processing, preservation and classification of record groups to the devising of a computer program for records retrieval. They perform many of these duties in the Sherrod Library "annex," which one student described as "a dim and dusty corner of the library, where old and dirty records lie on dusty shelves waiting for us."

Within this student preserve, there has developed an esprit de corps that transforms the sometimes dull and routine work into fun and games. Practical jokes abound, such as mythical duty rosters calling for gargantuan work loads to be performed immediately signed - "Mrs. Wilson" or "Dr. Garrison." Every spring the official "bee killer" comes off the dusty shelf to ward off the errant bees which also call the Annex home.

To try and capture what the archives means to these students, we used a word association game. For example, when asked, "What immediately comes to your mind when you hear 'Archives of Appalachia'?" some of the responses were:

- "Organizing records to be used by researchers"
- "Relaxed, comfortable place to work"
- "Appalachian culture"
- "Local and family history"
- "Dr. Frank Williams stories"
- "Preservation of the past"
- "Old photographs"
- "Rare books and documents"
- "People who work here, students and staff"

That isn't a bad picture of what we are: a group of people engaged in the attempt to capture and preserve the culture of the Appalachian region by acquiring and preserving documents, photographs and books so they will be available to researchers.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Student assistant help at some colleges and universities is more of a curse than a blessing, but not at ETSU. Performance and attitude of students here stand head and shoulders above the crowd. The list of projects completed by our students since the Archives began in 1978 is truly astounding.

Working under the supervision of our able graduate assistants, students have processed the vast majority of our collections, designed and executed many of our exhibits, maintained photographic and audio-visual collections, and assembled and mailed all issues of this newsletter. About four years ago students donned rubber boots and waded through a flooded basement to rescue the records of the Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio Railway.

Today an undergraduate student is helping design a computer-based indexing system which will, for the first time, draw together all of our materials on a specific subject regardless of format.

The attitude of our students, who are always willing to go the second mile to help the archives, is as remarkable as the professional quality of their work. During Richard Chase's visit we relied on students to help with transportation and entertainment. Graduate assistant Norma Thomas has made two trips to Greene County to assist local volunteers with county records, climbing ladders and boxing records. Last year, with the help of the University physical plant staff, the students renovated and re-decorated their formerly dreary quarters in the "annex," turning it into an efficient and liveable work space.

After more than two years service, Norma Thomas will be leaving us this summer as will student assistants Tona Burks, Sylvia Lewis and Gregory Taylor. We wish them well in their future endeavors and hope that their experience in our department will remain a pleasant memory. And we hope that we will be as lucky in their successors as we have been in them.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Students working in the Archives of Appalachia have benefitted academically as well as financially by their work experience. Dr. Earl Wade, chairman of the department of history, notes that this is especially true for students majoring in history. Although some faculty have utilized the resources of the archives for personal research more than others, most instructors in the history department have invited staff members in the archives to speak to students and have used the slide-tape shows in classes. Graduate students especially have been encouraged to use the archives for the study of regional history, including church, political or economic affairs.

Students majoring in business also have found their academic endeavors enhanced by the skills learned working in the archives. Lewis Cox related the experience of writing a paper in a technical writing class, in which he chose to do a presentation on the archives. Not only was his paper supported by his personal experience, but he said he learned more about the archives as a result. Several student workers noted that their work in the archives enabled them to learn more about library resources. Other benefits mentioned included learning filing procedures and how to work in an office with many different people. Students said they also gained a better understanding of local and area history through their work. Another student took a course in typing to help in her job at the archives, and found she was better able to type her own term papers.

It is these symbiotic relationships among employment, school and friends which makes work at the archives special for our students. We would like to introduce these students to you.

PRESENT STUDENT WORKERS

TONA BURKS is a senior from Johnson City majoring in business management. She has worked in the archives for two years, plus one summer term.

Tona considers her work with the Washington County Court records her most valuable experience here. She says she not only learned legal procedures, but how the judicial system is organized and how it has changed.

Her career goal is not just to get a job that will make her independent, but to be able to feel that she is contributing to the community.

LEE BURROW is a junior elementary and special education major from Elizabethton, TN. Growing up as an "army brat," his career goal is to teach on a military base in Switzerland or Germany. Although still a pre-schooler when his family returned to the United States, Lee has lived on military bases in Japan, England, France and Germany.

Lee became interested in history while working as a tour guide at Carter Mansion in Elizabethton, and as an adjunct guide at Rocky Mount. Former Archives Director Richard Kesner encouraged him to work in the archives, but by the time he enrolled at ETSU Dr. Kesner was gone. Lee feels Dr. Garrison also has influenced him, adding, "She is someone you can get to know without towering over you."

A major benefit of working in the archives, according to Lee, is the experience gained of dealing with all different kinds of people - from the most sophisticated and highly educated to "just plain folks." He finds this experience useful for a special education major, who must work with children from all social class levels.

The most enjoyable work he has done has been working on the exhibits on the first floor of Sherrod Library. He has assisted with the last five displays, including the current one.

LEWIS COX is the senior student worker in terms of years of service. He is completing his fifth year of work in the archives, and will be here for another year in order to add another major in computer science to his business program.

Lewis feels his work in the archives has been an important adjunct to his classroom learning. Not only has his knowledge of computer programming helped in his work at the archives, but he has found that his archives duties helped in his computer science courses. "Both require you to approach problems in a logical, structured way" he said. He has also enjoyed his work with photographs, since photography is a hobby of his, and has come to appreciate the importance of photography in preserving local and area history.

Lewis hopes to stay in the area, and is already building up a small business by doing computer programming for local businesses. In the future, he hopes to design custom software for a computer sales company, or free-lance computer software.

BRENT HARRIS is a senior psychology major from Johnson City, TN who will graduate at the end of fall semester. He was employed in the archives for the past year.

Brent's major is less directly connected to his work in the archives than that of other students. He says he has found his work with the people here the most rewarding aspect of the job and he also enjoyed learning how power companies were run in the 1920s and 1930s, and how the amount of energy used as well as the cost has changed.

SYLVIS LEWIS is an education major who has worked four years in the archives. She says that when she entered college she requested work in the library because she had previously worked in the library at Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport, TN, her home town. When she was assigned to work in the archives, she said she had to consult a dictionary to find out what an archives is. Until her job here, she thought all a library involved was circulation, since that was all they had at Dobyns-Bennett. Since working here for the past four years, she says that working in archives would now be her first preference.

Sylvia has especially enjoyed Dr. Frank Williams' stories, and tries to be in the archives when he comes to do his research for the history of East Tennessee State University.

After graduation, Sylvia plans to teach.

DAVID MARSHALL is a chemistry major from Greeneville, TN who has worked in the archives for three years. He has worked on the Washington County Court records and is particularly interested in the Civil War period. He has become a member of the Greeneville Historical Society, and is now working on a speech on the history of T.V.A. which he will present to the Historical Society this summer.

TIM SEATON, completing his first year at ETSU, comes from Greeneville, TN. Tim has worked this year on the East Tennessee Light and Power records. His major is in marketing, and he hopes to enter technical sales, purchasing or advertising when he graduates. Tim and director Ellen Garrison share a devotion to Atlanta Braves baseball.

GREGORY TAYLOR is a senior accounting major from Kingsport, TN. He has worked in the archives for the past year and a half.

Gregory would like to work as an accountant in a business when he graduates and eventually have his own accounting firm. His avocation is music, and he plays drums in a local band.

NORMA THOMAS is a graduate assistant in the library who has worked in the archives for the past three years. She has found her major in history to be very compatible with her employment.

"Working here has made me aware of opportunities for research as well as thesis topics which have not been researched at this university. There is a wealth of social history about the area: divorce records, widows' settlements and surveys on electrical equipment in use, as well as the cost going back to the 1930s", she said.

Professionally, Norma would like to move into archival administration. After she receives her M.A. in the summer semester (1984), she hopes to obtain employment in an archives and take workshops to gain additional competence in archival administration.

PAST STUDENT WORKERS UPDATE

It is not possible to follow the progress of all the student workers who have toiled in the vineyards of the Archives of Appalachia, but we have sought out several, from the first student worker employed in the archives, to a recent alumnus.

KAY ANDERS was one of the first graduate assistants to work in the archives. Upon completion of the M.A. program in history, Kay taught in the department of history at East Tennessee University. She is now working toward the Ph.D. in history at the University of Tennessee and is employed as a teaching assistant.

Kay credits her work in the archives with the decision to pursue an academic career in history, and extends her special thanks to former Director Richard Kesner for his encouragement. "Working at the Archives of Appalachia helped me to perceive forces influencing history of which I had previously been unaware," she said.

DENNIS PELLETIER is now art director for a busy commercial graphics firm in Forestville, Connecticut. He says that "working at the Archives of Appalachia afforded me the opportunity to acquire management/coordination skills I still utilize in my current position." Through work in the archives he was first introduced to audio-visual techniques. With additional study and application, he has gone on to develop a successful free-lance business providing audio-visual services to area corporations.

HAROLD HANDY was working in a small archives in New Orleans, LA the last time we heard from him.

ANNE SIMS used research material from the archives as a basis for her M.A. thesis at ETSU. She is currently working in the Special Collections at the Morris Library at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

DAVID GOODIN AND MIKE SHANDOR were continuing their education in history at last report. Mike had entered a Ph.D. program in one of the Florida universities.

SUSAN TENNEWITZ-KARNES, who has been involved with records management and automation at ETSU, recently coordinated the task force implementing a new on-line payroll personnel listing for the university. In July, Susan will join her husband in the Orlando, Florida area where she hopes to obtain further employment in the field of information systems.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

On April 6 and 7 state archivist Jean Waggener visited Greene and Washington counties to work with local officials and volunteers interested in preserving the public records of the two counties. The Archives of Appalachia, which houses some of the Washington county court records, is serving as a local resource for both groups.

Pat Alderman continues to be a good friend of the archives. Recently he donated a Kodak carousel custom slide projector and carrying case and a Wallensak cassette tape recorder and player.

In March elementary students in the Johnson City schools' humanities program enjoyed a visit from director Ellen Garrison. She shared letters, diaries, account books, photographs and other materials from the archives and demonstrated document preservation techniques for the students. The program was repeated for students at Southside Elementary School.

If you eat at Bennigan's Restaurant in Johnson City, you will see photographs of Johnson City in the "good old days." Representatives of Bennigan's acquired copies of photographs from the university and Appalachian Photographic Archives to give their restaurant that home-town atmosphere.

Director Ellen Garrison appeared on February 29 in a program, "The Lost State of Franklin," which was presented to local chapters of the D.A.R. She represented the position of North Carolina and Colonel John Tipton in a debate with Dr. Eric Lacy of the ETSU History Department, who spoke for the state of Franklin and Colonel John Sevier. We hear that it developed into a bitter fight and that Dr. Lacy was taken by armed guard to Morganton, North Carolina, to stand trial. We do hope that there will not be another skirmish at the Tipton-Haynes farm when Dr. Lacy returns from North Carolina.

Recently the staff made a count of the users of the archives since 1978 and found that 50 percent have been undergraduate students from ETSU and elsewhere, 14 percent faculty and graduate students and 36 percent non-academic users.

We were glad to see Benjamin Heinmann of Huntsville, Alabama in the archives in March. This is his second visit to use the Burton-Manning Collection of folk ballads, folk tales and folklore. Mr. Heinmann, who is well known for telling Jack tales to young people in Northern Alabama, has also been borrowing Burton-Manning audio tapes by mail using the archives' Guide to Audio and Video Recordings.

The archives' slide tape programs continue to be shown as far away as Oak Ridge, Tennessee. From January through March, 242 people on campus and in the local community viewed the programs.

During July director Ellen Garrison will teach a unit, "Using the Resources of Archives, Museums and Historic Sites," at four sessions of the Southern Highlands Institute for Educators, sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium. During June, she will also serve as a faculty member of the Archives Institute sponsored by the Emory University School of Information and Library Science in Atlanta.

Jack Williams, the scholar-in-residence at ETSU and Tusculum College for the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities, has been assisting with various community heritage projects in Upper East Tennessee. Sevier countians are recording interviews with people displaced by the Smoky Mountain National Park; the Greene County Heritage Trust will open the Nathaniel Greene Museum in May, and several proposals have been submitted to the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities in preliminary of final form. These projects, if funded, will include a slide/tape presentation on the contributions of women to Unicoi County, a series of oral history workshops in Cocke County, a debate on the State of Franklin issues at Tipton-Haynes Museum, a conference on the history of maternal care sponsored by the Appalachian History of Medicine Society, an oral history of Swift College (a black college in Rogersville which closed in the 1960s), a traveling exhibit on the history of printing in upper east Tennessee and a Hancock County folklore sampler.

TCH has sponsored workshops in community heritage at Tusculum College and Cleveland State where Jack discussed oral history techniques with representatives from east Tennessee heritage committees. He also attended the Appalachian Studies Conference, in Helen, Georgia, where he presented a paper entitled, "Nostalgic Narratives and Crime Stories: The Role of Personal Experience Narratives in Urban Appalachian Identity." He will discuss oral history as a therapeutic technique at the Second Annual Southwest Virginia seminar on older persons on June 14 and 15 at the United Coal Humanities Center in Bristol, Virginia.

PROGRESS NOTE FROM OUR MOST DEDICATED RESEARCHER

In response to our request for a progress note on Dr. Frank Williams' History of ETSU, we received the following communication:

"Just a note while I am in the middle of the first draft of the story of ETSU to say that I have been surprised and pleased to find that you all have the records from the normal daze [sic] to the riotious '70s. Of course, the archival material is that of the presidents; it does however, include a lot of information about students and the professoriate....."

I appreciate your listening to the stories of presidents, students, and professors that I have found amusing, confusing, and useful - even when you were tired, bored, and ready to lock up the joint. Thanks!"

WELCOME TO KATHY WHELOCK

The Archives of Appalachia extends a warm welcome to Kathy Wheelock, project coordinator for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission year-long study of archives and manuscripts repositories in south central Appalachia.

Kathy comes to the archives from the university office of contracts and grants. She will receive the M.A. in sociology in May, 1984. Her previous experience has been as archaeological assistant on the Landon-Carter House in Elizabethton, TN and the Davy Crockett birthplace in Limetsone, TN.

Kathy is married to Sam Wheelock, and they live in Johnson City, TN.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

APPALACHIAN PREACHING MISSION RECORDS, 1956-1980. 318 audio tapes; one 16 mm. 3½ mm movie; correspondence; programs and newsclippings of the Appalachian Preaching Mission held in Johnson City, TN, and area towns, 1956-1980. Deposited by Mrs. George Myers, Sr., secretary, First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, TN.

BEESON, DANIEL R. SR. PAPERS. ADDITION. Maps, grade book, books, ledger, photograph album and pamphlets. Donated by D. R. Beeson, Jr. and family.

FOSTER, CHARLES (1802-1889) DIARY, 1835-1853. Xerox copy of 1973 ETSU thesis by Howard Thomas Sleigh, Jr., based on diary of Charles Foster. Includes twenty 3" x 5" B&W photographs. Concerns Foster's travels, agricultural journals, land speculation, farming endeavors and career as amateur artist in Middle and East Tennessee. RESTRICTED. Copy donated by Mrs. Martha B. Hammer, Johnson City, TN.

JOHNSON CITY, TN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECORDS, 1914-1982. 12 scrapbooks of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce with newsclippings of publicity and projects. Also one Paige box of historical booklets, brochures, maps, programs, annual reports of the Chamber and B&W photographs. RESTRICTED. Deposited by Treasa Stout, secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Johnson City, TN.

PHILADELPHIA CONGREGATION MINUTES: SESSION MINUTES, 1906-1954. 239p. (xerox copy) Annual presbytery and church reports; register of pastors, elders, communicants and infant baptisms of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Washington County, TN. Loaned for copying by Mr. Clyde Walters, Johnson City, TN.

WETS-FM RECORDS, 1978-1983. Audio tapes, logs of tapes and community calendar notes. Deposited by Tom Christy, Johnson City, TN.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE COLLEGE May Festival Program, dated May 3, 1952. From Martha Byles Leonard, 2340 Jenkins Road, Chattanooga, class of '54.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ALLEN, JOHN AUDIO TAPES. 2 audio cassette tapes. Discussion and readings by ETSU English professor, Dr. John Allen. Donated by Dr. Thomas Burton.

CULP, DELOS P. PAPERS. ADDITION. 32 Paige boxes of correspondence, reports, memos, programs and booklets. Transferred to the Archives from the president's office.

GARDEN CLUB COLLECTION. ADDITION. 2 scrapbooks, 1 folder, 1 yearbook and "1947-1963 History of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc." Deposited by Mrs. Doris Dean, Jonesborough, TN.

HOME MANAGEMENT HOUSE SCRAPBOOK, 1934-1944. 12½" x 10". B&W photographs of Home Economics Department students, ETS professors and the babies they studied and attended. Birth announcements, marriage invitations and announcements. Donated by Mrs. Dorothy P. Madding and deposited by Ms. Edith Keys.

TCH/NEH OUTREACH TAPES, 1979. Master and duplicates. 19 audio tapes. Fourteen 7" reel to reel tapes; one 5" reel to reel; 4 audio cassette tapes. Programs of "The Making of a Local Historian," "Long Steel Rail," "Country Music in the Tri-Cities," "Holston Country Houses," "Harvesting the Hardwood," "Embreeville," "Johnson City Album," "Hands All Around," "Archives Introduction Program." Also interviews on which the programs were based. Deposited from Archives of Appalachia.

TENNESSEE'S MOUNTAIN HERITAGE RADIO SERIES, 1983. 3 audio cassette tapes and 1 reel to reel working audio tape with voice by Dick Ellis. Programs of "Living on the Tennessee Line," "Rolling Down the Track," and "Down in Johnson City." Deposited by Archives of Appalachia.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

The ETSU Research Advisory Council has donated its publications which include the following: COLLECTION OF FOLKLORE: FOLKSONGS edited by Thomas G. Burton and Ambrose N. Manning; MEASUREMENTS OF POVERTY IN EAST TENNESSEE by Louie A. Brown; THIS DAY AND TIME by Anne W. Armstrong; HOME IN MADISON COUNTY by Lean Penland Purkey; POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS edited by Stephen White; A COLLECTION OF FOLKLORE by undergraduate students of ETSU and edited by Thomas G. Burton and Ambrose Manning; PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE TARDIGRADA: August 3-6, 1980, edited by Diane R. Nelson; SELECTED PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MOUNTAIN INTERSTATE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE edited by M. Laurentino Suarez and Eduardo Zayas-Bazan; THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENT - PROBLEMS AND ACTION: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, papers of a forum at ETSU; DEMOCRATS CHALLENGE TRADITIONAL REPUBLICANISM IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE by Shirley Chapman; WILLIAM TATHAM, 1752-1819 by G. Melvin Herndon; and PHILIP PENDLETON COOKE edited by Dr. John D. Allen.

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE by Nancy Dammann and BUILDING THE CLINCHFIELD by James A. Goforth were recently donated by director Ellen Garrison. This last book will supplement the C.C. & O. Railroad records in the Archives. LIVING WITH MEMORIES BY Janette Carter has been given by staff member, Mildred Kozsuch. If you are acquainted with the musical Carter family of Southwest Virginia, you will enjoy reading this book.

Clarence Hopson of Johnson City, TN has recently given THE FAMILIES OF CADES COVE, 1821-1936, by A. Randolph Shields, and Edward R. Walker of Newport has donated THE HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, NEWPORT, TENNESSEE, by Mrs. Cora Lee Mims, Pollyanna Creekmore and Edward R. Walker.

CURRENT EXHIBIT

The current exhibit on the first floor of the Sherrod Library is a tribute to Appalachian women, entitled "Appalachian Women are Unique." It explores source materials for regional women's studies, the publications of Appalachian women authors, Pioneer aviator Jane Hilbert and Johnson City's "dynamic duo": Ella Ross and May Ross McDowell.

As a result of an article on the exhibit appearing in the Johnson City Press Chronicle the archives has received several phone calls from interested people, one of whom donated a book written by her sister, who was a graduate of East Tennessee State Teachers College.

Archives of Appalachia
ETSU, The Sherrod Library
P. O. Box 22450A
Johnson City, TN 37614

Non-Profit Org. U. S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 194 Johnson City, Tenn. 37601
--