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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. VII, NO. 1

FALL, 1985

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CASS

As this newsletter is being mailed, the archives is completing its first year as part of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Service (CASS), a component of Governor Lamar Alexander's program to improve education throughout the state of Tennessee. The benefits of participating in the center have been many, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank center director Dr. Richard Blaustein and his colleagues for their support of our programs.

In the short time since its inception the center has already become a catalyst for enhancing the understanding and improvement of our region. Research sponsored by the center has led to a video documentary examining the roots of violence in the South, a teaching project to improve the care of Appalachian patients with hypertension, a high school textbook on Appalachian literature, and better services for victims of child abuse and neglect. The center has also supported exhibits of regional paintings and of local photographers, a national radio series of "Down Home Music", the collection of photographs documenting the visit of Theodore Dreiser to eastern Kentucky in the 1930's, and two highly successful Home Folks festivals. The center's magazine, **NOW AND THEN**, reaches over 900 individuals and institutions throughout the region, and 24 students have enrolled in summer courses in archaeological field work and Appalachian traditions taught through the center.

The Archives of Appalachia has benefited both directly and indirectly from its association with CASS. Through the center we have received personnel and equipment to enable us to improve subject access to our collections and we have been given documentary materials collected by center fellows which enhance our collections. More important has been the increased use of our resources by scholars like Janine Bensasson and Harvey Young brought to campus by CASS and the growing awareness of our resources outside the region which these visitors have promoted.

Future objectives for the center include completion of our automated subject index, traveling exhibits, and experimentation with digital transmission of selected folklore holdings through center facilities. All of these are exciting opportunities for the archives to increase our service to the region, and we look forward to working as part of the center in the years ahead.

FAMILY REUNION

In 1939 Ida Lawrence Murray willed her family papers to East Tennessee State and in 1983 the papers were transferred to the Archives of Appalachia from the B. Carroll Reece Museum. Included were land plats drawn by Ephraim D. Murray, surveyor for Washington County, TN in the mid-nineteenth century; correspondence, 1832-1929, between family members in east Tennessee and southwest Virginia; account books and other family business papers including a 1795 land grant; and sermons and notes of Mrs. Murray's husband Reverend Issac G. Murray.

When family papers accumulated over several generations arrive at the archives much work is needed to make them usable for researchers. It is as if books arrived in a library unbound, with pages out of order (and occasionally ruffled or torn), and lacking any introduction, table of contents or index. Archives staff must repair damaged pages, provide an organization and arrangement, and write an inventory describing the organization, subjects, dates and creators of the papers. Because this work (known as processing) is labor-intensive and time-consuming there is always a backlog of papers awaiting handling, and the Murray Family Papers were no exception.

But on June 8, 1985, seven members of the Murray family from five states arrived in the archives to process the papers for us. Under the direction of technical services archivist Norma Thomas the family unfolded, flattened and cleaned the papers, organized them into personal, business, survey and religious series, and put each series in chronological order. As soon as the inventory can be written, the papers will be available to researchers, who will find them a wealth of information about nineteenth century land transactions, the development of the family store, shipping company and other businesses, and the Baptist church in Tennessee in the early twentieth century.



The next week one cousin wrote the archives, "Thank you again for what will always be a lovely memory". Another family member wrote of the experience, "It was a privilege to work with the Murray Papers at the archives--you could probably tell what pleasure we were feeling".

The archives' staff feel privileged to have the support and friendship of this unique family who made caring for family papers and cleaning the family cemetery near Jonesborough part of an unusual family reunion. Our thanks to Martha Alison, Springfield, Missouri; Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Firestone, Norfolk, Virginia; Martha M. Hall, Miami, Florida; Janie Loughrey, Liberty, Missouri; Suzanne Murray, Washington, D.C.; and Martha Wilkinson, Greeneville, South Carolina.

NEW LOCAL RECORDS PROGRAMS AT STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Tennessee State Library and Archives is initiating several exciting new local records programs as part of Tennessee Homecoming '86 activities, Robert B. Croneberger, state librarian and archivist announced. Of special interest is the program to microfilm local records.

Under the new program, bound volumes and selected unbound loose records will be prepared and filmed. Five new staff positions will be created, and volunteers to arrange loose records will be solicited in local communities. Microfilm projectors, storage cabinets and films will also be placed in selected public libraries across the state. The department also plans a project to locate and duplicate historical pictures throughout Tennessee and a series of genealogical workshops.

The goal, according to Homecoming '86 coordinator Jean B. Waggener, is to make the Tennessee State Library and Archives the leading research institution of its kind in the country. Persons interested in the above programs may contact her at 403 7th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219, telephone (615) 741-3308.

GREENE COUNTY RECORDS PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The Tennessee Historical Commission has awarded Certificates of Merit to the Greene County Historical Society and to Mrs. Ozelle R. Scruggs for their work with the records of Greene county. The commission cited the historical society for developing a program of restoring and preserving the early court records of Greene county while Mrs. Scruggs was recognized for her service as chairman of the Greene County Records Committee and as the coordinator of volunteers. The certificates were presented by the commission as part of its observance of Historic Preservation Week, May 12-18.

Volunteers from the Society have contributed over 2,000 hours in arranging and indexing early marriage records, court minutes, tax lists, and other records. In addition funds have been raised to laminate and rebind early volumes and to purchase archival supplies for storing and repairing other records.

Staff of the Archives of Appalachia have worked with Mrs. Scroggs and the Society volunteers (see **Newsletter, Winter, 1985**), and we congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

JOHNSON CITY BEGINS RECORDS PROGRAM

Johnson City will soon become one of the few municipalities in Tennessee with a formal program for the careful, cost-effective management of the city's information resources. Records managers estimate that only 3-5 percent of all records created have permanent value; the city's new program will identify those records and insure their preservation while facilitating the timely and appropriate disposition of other records.

The Tennessee public records act does not cover municipalities, but in spite of this exemption Johnson City has been concerned with better management of the city's records for a number of years. In 1980 Dr. Richard Kesner and two members of the archives' staff conducted a records management survey for the city, and in 1984 city recorder-treasurer Jim Crumley initiated plans for the development of retention schedules for city records and microfilming of the city's permanent records.

In January, 1985, newly-hired city records manager Vicky Hames began inventorying records held by various city departments. With assistance from the Systems and Records Management Division of the Tennessee Department of General Services and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, she and city department heads then developed a proposal for the retention and disposition of records created by the finance, police, personnel, risk management, planning and engineering, buildings and purchasing departments. A task force chaired by assistant city manager Charles Harmon has also begun developing specifications for purchase of microfilm equipment.

The retention schedule will be submitted to the city commission this fall, and the microfilm equipment purchased during this fiscal year. With these steps Johnson City will become one of the leaders in municipal records services not only in Tennessee but in the southeast.

COURT RECORDS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

Local court records are a valuable source for researchers interested in the history and development of the region. While these records offer lawyers, genealogists and local historians material on specific cases, individuals, family histories and particular businesses, the documents of the courts contain information on many other areas of interest. A researcher would find records relating to elections, maintenance of roads and public property and supervision of schools. The records also provide information on such topics in social history as divorce, care of the poor and education as well as economic development. Although the use of local court records may require extensive research in drawing together fragmented pieces of information, the results could make the effort well worthwhile.

County administrative offices must be commended on the care given to their records, especially since many are faced with the familiar problems of lack of personnel for servicing the material and of adequate space for storage. Although local court houses are the logical source for information from county records, state archives and other repositories may also have these records. The Archives of Appalachia holds two groups of court documents: the Washington County (TN) Court Records and the Watauga Historical Association Collection. Spanning from 1780 to 1960, the Washington County Court Records contain the administrative offices and governmental bodies. The second group resulted from the Watauga Historical Association's efforts to collect and preserve the records of the Carter County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Included in this collection are articles of agreement, bills of sale, depositions, bonds and indentures spanning from 1796 to 1866. These records offer insight into the settlement and early development of Carter County, Tennessee.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

On May 24, director Ellen Garrison joined Sidney Farr of Berea College and Eric Olson of Appalachian State University for a panel discussion on "Libraries and Appalachia". The panel was part of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's 1985 Library Day which focused on "Appalachia Heritage: The Library Role". On June 21, director Garrison served for the second year as a panelist for the roundtable on the future of the archival profession which concluded the annual archives institute sponsored by Emory University and the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Dr. Nelle Bellamy (right) archivist of the Episcopal church, visited the Archives on July 10. Dr. Bellamy, a member of the class of 1945, was the first woman graduate of East Tennessee State University to receive a doctorate. Dr. Bellamy, who organized the church archives in Austin, has taught church history at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest since 1959.



In July and August director Ellen Garrison made several visits to the Rose Center in Morristown, Tennessee, where she is serving as an advisor to the Center's project "Hamblen County at Ease". The Center, in cooperation with the Hamblen County Historical Society, will collect, organize and exhibit photographs and other materials documenting entertainment, arts and recreation in two centuries of community life. A series of public programs is also planned as part of the project, which is funded by the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities.

During the last three months 198 individuals have visited the archives for research or instruction. Among the visitors were members of Dr. Martha Bradley's class in curriculum and instruction, who used materials from the Archives to create model lesson plans for language arts instruction, and participants in a summer seminar, "Use of Local History in the Classroom", sponsored by the department of history and taught by Dr. Colin Baxter.

"Fire, Flood, Rats and Overzealous Housewives: Protecting Your Family Treasures" was the topic of director Ellen Garrison's presentation to the Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia on July 16.

Archives Outreach programs have been shown to several groups on campus and off. Among the groups are the Jonesborough Civic Trust, Bristol College, Adult Day Care Center of the Grandview Christian Church, and classes at David Crockett High School.

According to the May, 1985 issue of the **SAA NEWSLETTER**, Harold Handy, a former graduate assistant of the Archives of Appalachia, is leaving the Amistead Research Center in New Orleans to join the staff of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Greg Taylor, former student assistant, is employed with a CPA firm in Greeneville, TN. Also, Lee Burrow, former student assistant from Elizabethton, TN graduated in May with a degree in Elementary Education and Special Education.

Former staff member Susan Tannewitz-Karnes and her husband Lloyd are the proud parents of a son born April 14 in Orlando, Florida. Equally proud grandparents are Frank and Sara Tannewitz of Johnson City.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

AMERICAN BEMBERG RESEARCH DEPARTMENT REPORT, April 1952. 0.1 l.f. Research Departments report including photographs on spinning staple fiber and on quality control at the American Bemberg plant in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Donated by Mildred Kozsuch, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

CLEAR FORK BAPTIST CHURCH MINUTES, 1875-1893. 1 vol. Volume includes business meeting minutes, membership lists and financial records of Clear Fork Baptist Church in Greene County, Tennessee.

FERGUSON, HENRY PAPERS, 1827-1829. 1 vol. One mathematics copy book for a variety of mathematics exercises.

FLEMING, HAYES B. PAPERS, 1962-1982. 9 l.f. Architectural drawings of private residences and commercial buildings in upper East Tennessee, building specs, photographs, certificates and diplomas relating to Flemings career as an architect in Johnson City, Tennessee. Donated by Steven Sykes.

JOHNSON CITY-WASHINGTON COUNTY FAMILY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, INC. RECORDS, 1973. 6 l.f. Organizational records, correspondence, membership lists, pamphlets and brochures, slide-tape presentation and general office files relating to a variety of programs operated by the YMCA including athletics, photography and weight loss. Donated by Phillip M. Hankal, Johnson City, Tennessee.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AND SERVICES PHOTOGRAPHS, January-March 1985. 0.1 l.f. Proof sheets and negatives of photographs taken by Ronald Carr of scenes and events relating to ETSU and the surrounding area for the Center's publication, **NOW AND THEN.** Donated by Richard Blaustein on behalf of Ronald Carr and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT STUDENT REPORTS, March 1985. 0.1 l.f. Thirteen student reports on biographies of persons after whom the ETSU buildings were named. Jerry Hilliard assigned reports as an exercise in journalism class. Donated by Jerry Hilliard, Mass Communications Department, ETSU.

SHERROD, CHARLES C. SR. PERSONAL PAPERS, 1909-1962. 2 l.f. Correspondence, photographs, souvenir programs, essays and speeches, and newsclippings related to Sherrod's career including teaching at Peabody University and serving as president of East Tennessee State Normal College. Donated by Charles Sherrod, Jr., Johnson City, Tennessee.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

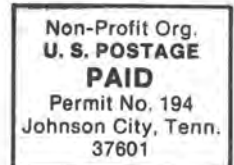
Hazel Scott Craft donated a copy of her latest book, **BEYOND THE STARS: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES AND VERSE.** In addition, **ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS: MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS** by Margaret L. Hedstrom was donated by Richard M. Kesner.

MISCELLANEOUS

The archives would also like to thank the following donors for a variety of items relating to Appalachian culture, local and university history:

Hugh G. Parris	Edith Keys
Daryl Nickels	Bonnie S. Ball
Chuck Joyce	Robert Patton
Duffie Jones	Robin Krawitz
Gene Parsons	Phillip Laws
McBerney Burlison	Kathy Knudsen

Archives of Appalachia
ETSU, The Sherrod Library
P.O. Box 22450A
Johnson City, TN 37614-0002



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