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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. X, No. 1

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ON VETERANS AND WAR

On November 11, 1918, the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France and the United States) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey) signed an armistice which called for a cessation to the hostilities which contemporaries referred to as the "Great War." Originally known in the United States, Great Britain and France as Armistice Day, November 11 was set aside as a day of remembrance for those who had lost their lives in the war. Shortly after the Korean War ended, President Eisenhower signed a bill designating November 11 as Veterans Day, and proclaiming it a day to honor veterans of all wars.

To understand war and its effect, it is imperative to understand the impact of such conflict and struggle not only on the soldier, but also on his loved ones. Although the methods of warfare change over generations, the strains of the exposure to death and of the long separation from family and friends are apparent in the letters of soldiers in the wars of both the 19th and 20th centuries. In a letter dated July 24, 1861, Confederate soldier J. H. Hamilton wrote to his fiancée of his experience in Charlottesville:

There we met the wounded, the sick, and dead from the battlefield of Manassas. I saw one poor fellow who was shot through the head. He was lying in a box, all bloody, just as he came from the field of battle.

In the same letter, he told his fiancée that he had dreamed of "being at home" and "of seeing you." He stated, "Oh, I was so disappointed when I awakened and found it all a dream." A collection of letters from William Brewer to his wife Gladys during World War II express similar desires to return home and concern over the well-being of family members when news from home was not forthcoming.

The Archives of Appalachia holds several collections of papers containing information on the Civil War, World War I and World War II. Of special interest are photocopied transcripts of four Civil War diaries: Finley Patterson Curtis, Rufus A. Spainhour, Theodore A. Honour and Mary L. Pearre Hamilton. The diaries, some of which include correspondence, offer insight into the writers' reflections on war, descriptions of military activity and the stress created by the long separation from family members. The archives also has a small collection of letters written to Col. John H. Crawford of Jonesborough, Tenn. which relate to the recruitment of men and mustering into service of the Confederate Tennessee 60th Mounted Infantry. The Burton-Manning audio collection of audio tapes includes oral renditions of stories relating to events of the Civil War and World War I.

In addition to the Burton-Manning audio tapes, the papers of U.S. Congressman B. Carroll Reece and Le Roy Reeves include materials reflecting each man's participation in World War I. From a different perspective, the Thomas Highley Morris papers contain a series of files created from

the attorney's efforts to assist World War I veterans in receiving their disability claims. The archives also holds a set of photographs collected by Harry Range which depict gruesome battlefield scenes.



Column of U.S. cavalry troops on maneuvers in the American Southwest, ca. 1917.

The archives' materials on World War II largely consist of Clifford Maxwell's negatives resulting from his service as a photographer for the U.S. Navy; photographs collected and taken by Tom Daniels, formerly the photographer for East Tennessee State University; and pictures William Brewer sent his wife during his tour of duty in North Africa. The Gladys Addington Brewer Papers also include a collection of letters from her husband during the war and materials reflecting her work as an army camp hostess.

At present, the Archives of Appalachia does not hold any material on either the Korean or Vietnam wars. Many may not recognize the value to future research of letters written during World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars. It is important that every effort be made to preserve letters, certificates, diaries and memorabilia documenting these more recent periods while the material is still in existence. Any information on Korean or Vietnam war materials will be appreciated. Please contact the Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, Box 22450A, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614-002, 615/929-4338.

LATEST EXHIBIT

The archives latest exhibit "Mountain Home- 'For Him Who Has Borne the Battle'" focuses on the history and development of the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Mountain Home, Tenn. Established in 1903 as a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Mountain Home owes its location in Johnson City to the lobbying efforts of Congressman

Walter Preston Brownlow (1851-1910). The home has served veterans from the Civil War through Vietnam. Among the services provided at the home are domiciliary care, medical care, and recreation. With the passage of the Teague-Cranston Act in 1972, the VA was empowered to provide assistance in setting up new medical schools. This act was the basis for establishing the ETSU College of Medicine which is located on the grounds of the VA Medical Center.

STAFF NEWS

Norma Thomas attended the Tennessee Archivists/Kentucky Council on Archives fall meeting at Tennessee's Paris Landing State Park on September 17-18.

Marie Tedesco attended a workshop on the identification and deterioration of photographs which was held on October 22-23 at the Presbyterian Historical Foundation, Montreat, N.C.

Graduate assistant Bettye Davis recently completed the processing of the papers of Judge John L. Kiener, which were donated to the archives in December 1986. A native of Iowa, Judge Kiener is currently a General Sessions judge for Washington County, Tenn.

Two new members of the archives staff are Dolly Papuga, Secretary I, and Ed Speer, Library Assistant I. A resident of Kingsport, Dolly worked as an administrative assistant for Pierce Business Archives, Somerset, N.J. A native and life-long resident of Carter County, Tenn., Ed is a graduate of ETSU who formerly worked at Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, Greeneville, Tenn.

The five student assistants who are working in the archives during the fall semester include Tausha Fisher, Chris Hardin, Karen House, Mark Strong, and Bob Thomas.

RECENTLY OPENED FOR RESEARCH

JOHN FAIN ANDERSON COLLECTION, 1861-1925, 16 volumes.

John Fain Anderson was a farmer in Washington County, Tennessee and a feature writer on upper East Tennessee History for the Knoxville Journal and Tribune. His interest in local history led Fain to create 16 scrapbooks featuring collected materials and handwritten sketches on prominent individuals and families, major historical and political events and educational institutions in the region. Some subjects covered in the collection are: Washington College Academy, the Civil War, the battle of King's Mountain, railroads, the Republican party, Andrew Johnson, Samuel Doak, the Brownlow family, Fain family and Blackburn family. The volumes (some of which are indexed) would be useful for research on upper East Tennessee during the 19th Century.

THE MURRAY FAMILY PAPERS, 1795-1937, 2.5 linear feet.

The Murray family owned property and resided in Washington County, Tennessee since the early 19th century. The two family members most featured in the collection are: Ephraim Murray (d. 1891) a physician and surveyor and Isaac Gartrell Murray (1865-c 1937) a Baptist minister. The papers reflect the personal and business activities of three generations of the Murray family. Included are a personal diary of Mrs. Isaac Murray; sermon notes and homiletics notebook of Reverend Isaac Murray; survey appointments,

land grants and lists of state money in relation to Ephraim Murray's work as a surveyor; and correspondence, photo album, inventories of estates, deeds and receipts concerning family properties and activities. The surveying papers are a good source for information on land transfers in Washington County, Tennessee.



Johnson City train station, 1930s. From the Murray Family Papers.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TAYLOR FAMILY PAPERS, 1833-1977, 1.0 linear foot

The Taylor family papers include correspondence, a scrapbook, biographical material, and memorabilia concerning the community and political activities of Benjamin Harrison Taylor (1888-1930) a lawyer practicing in Johnson City, Tennessee; his father Alfred Alexander Taylor (1848-1931) United States congressman, 1889-1895 and Tennessee's governor, 1929-1923; and his uncle Robert Love Taylor (1850-1912) Tennessee's governor 1886-1891. Collected election materials of Alfred A. Taylor including broadsides, newsclippings, and typed scripts of speeches bulk largest in the papers. Many of the speeches are not identified by title or date.

VIRGINIA IRON, COAL AND COKE COMPANY RECORDS, 1790-1966 (predominantly 1835-1895), 3.5 linear feet. TYPED TRANSCRIPTS

Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company was incorporated in Virginia in 1899. By 1969 the company owned 253,000 acres of land or mineral rights in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky. The records held by the Archives of Appalachia concern the lands, mineral (iron ore and manganese) and timber rights owned by the company in Johnson and Carter Counties, Tennessee. The records include typed abstracts of deeds, correspondence, transcripts of court cases concerning lands of the company and

its associated companies, Doe Mountain Mining and Improvement Company and the Doe Valley Mining Association. The records are an excellent source of information on mineral and timber lands in Carter and Johnson Counties during the 19th and 20th centuries.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

ALFONSO, MARTHA COLLECTION, July 17-19, 1987 1 video tape and 1 audio tape. One cassette audio and one cassette video tape of a Central Georgia Camp Meeting for the Congregational Holiness Church held in Griffin, Georgia on July 17 and 19, 1987. Donated by Martha Alfonso, Johnson City, Tennessee.

CITY OF JOHNSON CITY RECORDS, 1890-1973, 104 volumes.

On June 9, 1987 the archives received on deposit 104 volumes of records from the city of Johnson City. These volumes date from 1890 to 1973.

Included among the volumes are bond registers (1890), minute books (1890-1968), tax books (1920s-1940s); tax rolls, (1960s-1970s) and Ordinance books, (1909-1968). These volumes are a valuable addition to the archives' holdings and will be extremely useful for anyone doing research in the social, economic or political history of Johnson City. The archives thanks Mayor Thomas McKee and Vicki Hames, City Records Manager, for their help and cooperation in transferring their records.

NAVE, DAVID L. VIDEOTAPES, 24 video tapes and 1 folder.

Contains 13 independently produced 3/4 inch cassette videotapes concerning folk and gospel musicians E. C. and Orna Ball of Rugby, Virginia and toymaker Willard Watson of Deep Gap, North Carolina. Also included are seven open reel videotapes of interviews and performances by old time musician Uncle Dave Sturgill. The Sturgill tapes were produced in conjunction with the Southern Appalachian Video Ethnography Series (SAVES) project at East Tennessee State University. One folder of supporting materials are included. Donated by David L. Nave, Mountain City, Tennessee.

NELSON, WILLIAM HENLEY (1837-1935) PAPERS, 1864-1935. 1.0 linear foot.

Consists of biographical sketches, correspondence, photographs, newsclippings, political announcements, muster rolls and memorabilia concerning Nelson's service with the 5th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, USA during the Civil War; 7th U.S. Cavalry in the trans-Mississippi West; and his election and term as Tennessee state senator, 1903-1905. Donated by Elinor Farina, Johnson City, Tennessee.

PIKE HARDWOOD LUMBER COMPANY RECORDS, 1905-1911, 1 volume.

Consists of a single record book of the company. The volume includes articles of incorporation, stock subscription lists, minutes of the first meetings of stockholders and board of directors, by-laws, and an expense account ledger for E. R. Miller, one of the stockholders of the company. Financial records of the operations of the company are not included. Donated by William P. Bailey, Jr., Johnson City, Tennessee.

WATAUGA SPINNERETTES, 1929-1953, 49 volumes.

Recently, through the generosity of CASS, the archives acquired 49 back issues of the Watauga Spinnerette, the house organ of American Glanzstoff/ North American Rayon and American Bemberg. The Spinnerettes, dated from

1929 to 1953, contain information not only about the rayon plants and their activities and employees, but also about community social, educational and religious life. The archives is interested in acquiring additional issues of the Spinnerette, and will appreciate any information about available issues of this journal. Information-or donations of issues-can be directed to the Archives of Appalachia Newsletter, Box 22450A, Johnson City, TN 37614-0002

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI RECORDS, 1978-1986. 2.0 linear feet. Contains meeting minutes, correspondence, membership lists, financial records, proceedings of national meetings, and directories relating to the activities of the chapter and its interaction with the national scientific research society. Deposited in the archives by Dr. John Herd, Department of Pediatrics and Dr. Scott Champney, Department of Biochemistry on behalf of the chapter.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS OFFICE RECORDS, 1977-1984. 12 linear feet. ADDITION. Contains new releases, 1977-1983; Newsclippings, 1982-1984; Departmental requisitions, 1977-1983 regarding activities of ETSU faculty and staff, special campus events and student activities. Photographs taken by the university photographer were also included. Transferred by Karen Crevelt on behalf of the University Relations office.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A copy of On the Ground Floor of Heaven by Reuel B. Pritchett with Dale Aukerman has been donated by Reuel Pritchett Museum, Bridgewater College and Margaret Sherfey Holley.

The Life and Times of Tusculum College by Joseph T. Fuhrmann was given by Executive Park Bank in Kingsport, Tennessee.

John W. Thomas donated the 16th, 17th and 18th editions of Who's Who in Railroading and Rail Transit and a General Manager's Notebook, Carolina, Clinchfield, & Ohio Railroad.

A copy of A Treasury of Tennessee Churches was donated to the archives by its author Masyme Hart Johnson.

Expert Reports on the Mineral Properties of the East Tennessee Land Company by Dr. George A. Koenig, Dr. James M. Safford, and Joseph C. Guild was purchased for special collections.

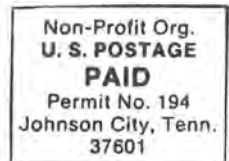
Mildred Kozsuch has given a copy of Jonathon Blevins Sr. of Virginia and His Descendants by Laccie W. Blevins and Ray E. Blevins.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Archives of Appalachia thanks the following donors for a variety of items relating to Appalachian culture, local and university history.

John L. Kiener
Mary Manning
Robert Patton
Wilsie Bishop
Fleeta Bowman
Harryet Blackwell
Ed Speer
Charles C. Sherrod, Jr.
Betty Jane Hylton
John W. Thomas
Phyllis Brown
Wayland Crouch
Ann Wilder Stratton

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