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# Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

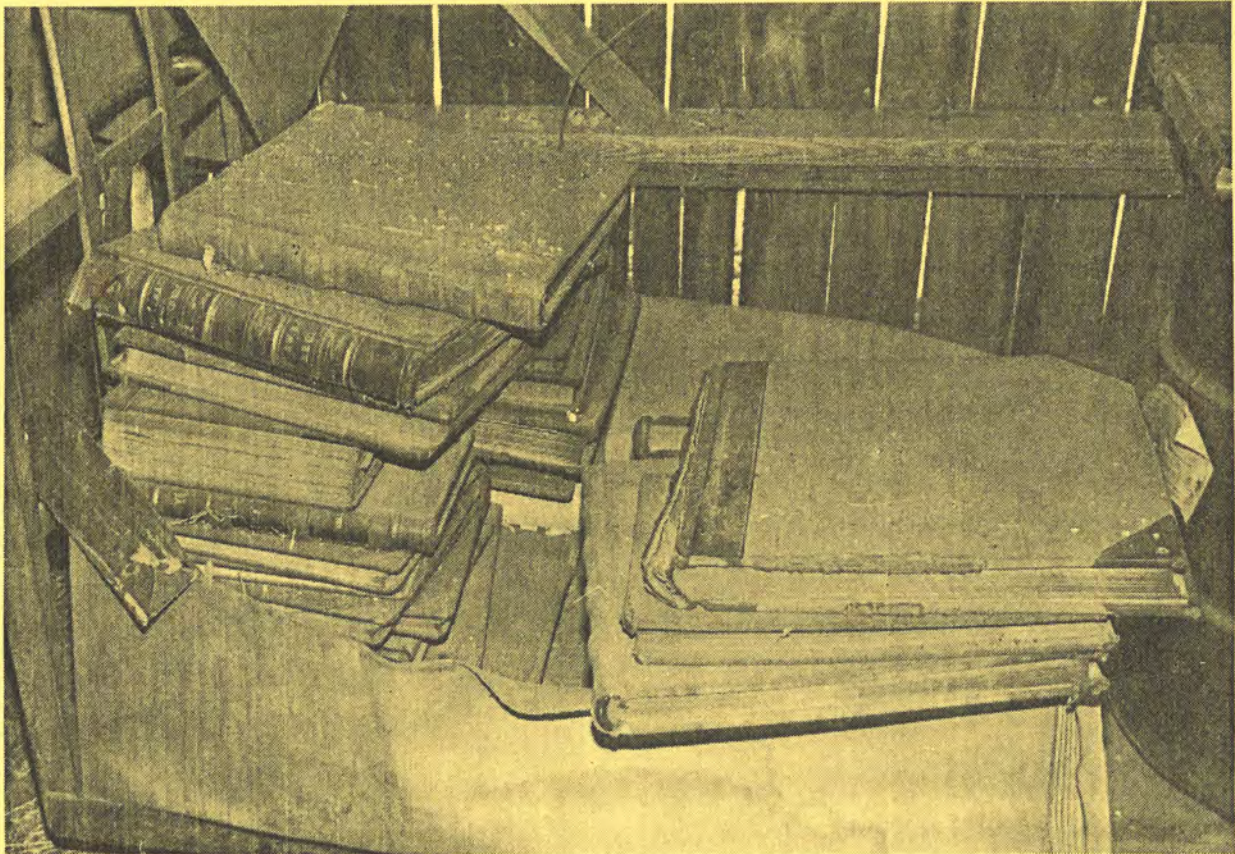


VOL. IX, No. 3

SPRING/SUMMER 1988

## ARCHIVES ACQUIRES EAST TENNESSEE AND WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD RECORDS

On Jan. 15, 1988, archives staff members Norma Thomas, Ed Speer and Marie Tedesco, together with Bruce Coleman, photographer for the B. Carroll Reece Museum, journeyed to Goose Hollow, Johnson County, Tenn. to retrieve the records of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina (ET&WNC) Railroad. The records consist of 150 cubic feet of journal vouchers, audit bills, operating statements, account books and maintenance records for ET&WNC Railroad and ET&WNC Motor Transportation Company, ca. 1880-1970. Included also are the records of Cranberry Iron, Coal and Coke Company (CICC), Cranberry, N.C.; the Cranberry Furnace Company (Johnson City, Tenn.), and the Linville River Railway (LRR), all owned by CICC. The newly-acquired ET&WNC records will be added to archives accession #91, an already existing collection of ET&WNC documents.



Some of the ET&WNC records in the Shoun barn, Goose Hollow, Tenn. Photo courtesy Bruce Coleman.



These valuable records would have been destroyed were it not for the intervention of George Shoun of Butler, Tenn. In May 1982 Shoun, owner of Shoun Lumber Company in Butler, saved these documents from certain destruction by Red Ball Trucking, Johnson City, the company which in 1974-75 had taken over ET&WNC Railroad and ET&WNC Motor Transportation. Shoun had gone to Red Ball to buy tools. Upon seeing that the company was going to discard the records, Shoun loaded them in his truck and took them to his barn in Goose Hollow. There they remained for five and one-half years until John Neth, retired librarian for Milligan College, Milligan, Tenn., and friend of Shoun's, learned of the existence of these documents. Neth contacted the Archives of Appalachia to inquire about the archives's interest in acquiring the records. Neth accompanied archivists Thomas and Tedesco to Butler to meet Shoun and to discuss the possibility of placing the ET&WNC records in the archives. Shoun agreed to have them placed in the Archives of Appalachia. With the help of the ETSU physical plant, which provided personnel and a truck to help transport the documents, the records were moved from the barn in Goose Hollow to the Archives of Appalachia in Johnson City. The archives thanks everyone involved with this venture. We are especially grateful to George Shoun, his son, Larry, and John Neth for their invaluable assistance in helping the archives obtain these records.



Archives staff and George Shoun at his barn. Left to right: Marie Tedesco, Norma Thomas, George Shoun and Ed Speer. Photo courtesy of Bruce Coleman.

### ABOUT THE "TWEETSIE"

East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad, also affectionately known as "Tweetsie," was chartered in 1866 for the purpose of building a railroad from the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, beginning at either Carter or Johnson depots, and ending near Cranberry Iron Works in North Carolina. The first stockholders' meeting was held on Feb. 17, 1868, and construction on the line began later that year. During the summer of 1869 grading from Johnson City to Hampton was completed. In 1871, however, the railroad ran into difficulties. Elijah Simerley, president of the line, was investigated in January for misuse of funds. Perhaps because of this investigation, a new president, John Hughes, was elected in February 1871. Later that year, in November, the ET&WNC defaulted on its indebtedness to the state of Tennessee. The line was then sold to Hughes and a group of investors.



ET&WNC Engine #3 at Cranberry, North Carolina, ca. late nineteenth-early twentieth century. Photo courtesy James Dowdy Collection, Archives of Appalachia.

Still, the railroad had financial problems. As of August 1876 ET&WNC became the property of Ario Pardee Sr. and Ario Pardee Jr., and five others who had an equal number of shares in the company. The Pardees not only had coal and iron interests in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but also owned

the Cranberry Iron, Coal and Coke Company (CICC). By June 1880, CICC owned controlling interest in the ET&WNC Railroad. Subsequently, in 1913 lumberman W.M. Ritter sold the Linville River Railroad (LRR) to CICC. The LRR ran from Pineola, N.C. to Cranberry, and during the heyday of Pineola lumbering primarily hauled Ritter's lumber from Pineola to Cranberry. The LRR remained operational until the August 13, 1940 flood washed away track and bridges. The LRR then requested from the Interstate Commerce Commission permission to abandon the line. The ICC granted this permission on March 22, 1941.

The "Tweetsie," meanwhile, hauled a substantial amount of freight during World War II. After the war, however, business declined, until on October 16, 1950, the narrow gauge line from Elizabethton, Tenn. to Cranberry was abandoned.

The ET&WNC remained alive, though. Standard gauge freight service from Johnson City to Elizabethton continued, as did the trucking operations of ET&WNC Motor Transportation Company, which had been organized in 1927. Red Ball Trucking, a subsidiary of Telecom Corporation of Dallas, bought ET&WNC Railroad and Motor Transportation in 1974-75. Red Ball Trucking went out of business in 1982, but on September 1, 1983, East Tennessee Railway Corporation completed purchase of the rail line, which today still runs freight service from Johnson City to Elizabethton.

#### STAFF NEWS

Norma Thomas, technical services archivist, and Marie Tedesco, public services archivist, attended the spring meeting of Tennessee Archivists, held at the Ramada Central Hotel, Nashville, Tenn., April 7-8, 1988. Thomas was elected vice-president/president elect of the Tennessee Archivists for 1988-89.

Thomas also attended the Appalachian Studies Conference at Radford University, Radford, Va., March 18-20, 1988, and the Appalachian Consortium meeting, held March 4, 1988, at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C.

#### LATEST EXHIBIT

The latest exhibit put up by the Archives of Appalachia in the Sherrod Library focuses on the geology and natural history of East Tennessee. The exhibit includes information on the geological history of the area, and on its mountains, mineral resources, rivers, and flora and fauna. Maps, charts, photographs and examples of minerals are used to illustrate the geological and natural history of a unique region.

#### RECENTLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

Among the collections recently processed by archives staff members are the Sapphonian Literary Society, Johnson City Press Newsclippings, Ambrose Manning Collection, Bernard Cantor Papers Addition, and the Buccaneer Photographs. **The East Tennessee Normal School Sapphonian Literary Society Minute Book, 1915-26**, consists of the constitution, by-laws, meeting minutes and membership lists of the organization. **The Johnson City Press Newsclippings, 1977-86**, consists of 24 linear feet of newsclippings collected from the

Johnson City Press. The clippings, maintained by the paper for background research, provide information on local business organizations and social issues. The **Ambrose Manning Collection** consists of six folders on the history and development of the Appalachian Consortium, 1970-78. The **Bernard C. Cantor Papers Addition** consists of .5 linear foot of labor contracts and arbitration awards which relate to Cantor's work as a labor arbitrator, 1973-78.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

#### **JONES AND WAGNER FAMILIES PAPERS, 1860-1926, 0.5 linear foot.**

Consists of correspondence, legal documents, receipts, account book and pension certificate of the Jones and Wagner families in upper East Tennessee. The papers relate to Lafayette Jones' service in the Union army during the Civil War, routine interactions among family members, and mental illness.

#### **MORRIS, DAVID COLLECTION, 1966-1969, 3.5 linear feet.**

Contains newsclippings, pamphlets, correspondence, student publications and mailing lists collected by Morris relating to student activism during the late 1960s at colleges and universities in southern Appalachia. Subjects covered include demonstrations against the Vietnam War, draft evasion, conscientious objection, civil rights and university reform. The collection reflects the links between local student groups and national organizations. Donated by Dr. George Stevenson, Emory & Henry College, Emory, Va.

#### **MURRAY, KENNETH PHOTOGRAPHS, 1970-1985, 0.5 linear foot.**

##### **ADDITION**

Consists of 179 black and white 8" x 10" prints of photographs taken by Murray for his book, **Portraits of Appalachia**. Photographs depict rural scenes, agricultural work, recreation, religious activities, and individual portraits reflecting mountain life in upper East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and western North Carolina. Donated by Kenneth Murray, Kingsport, Tenn.

### UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

#### **EDITH KEYS PAPERS, 1961-1963, 0.5 linear foot.**

Contains correspondence, scrapbook, study materials on the use of the library and bibliographies concerning Keys' work as reference librarian at Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University. Donated by Edith Keys, Johnson City, Tenn.

#### **NICHOLSON, DOUG G. PHOTOGRAPHS, c. 1975-1977, 89 items.**

Consists of 89 color photographs (2½" x 2½") of the site and construction of the Memorial Center (Mini-dome) at East Tennessee State University. The photographs were taken by Dr. Doug G. Nicholson, professor of chemistry, ETSU. Donated by Mrs. Helen Nicholson, Johnson City, Tenn.

**UNIVERSITY CENTER OFFICE RECORDS, 1964-1982, 7.5 linear feet.**

Includes correspondence, requisitions, budgets, contracts, committee minutes and annual reports reflecting the daily operation of the university student center, food services at the center, use of facilities for student and departmental activities and student publications. Transferred by Jackie Hamilton, on behalf of the university center office.

**GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL TO BE HELD AT ETSU**

The School for Tennessee Studies, one of the five Governor's Schools of Tennessee, will be held on the campus of ETSU, June 19-July 15, 1988. For the second consecutive year, the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) will organize and coordinate the Tennessee Studies program. The curriculum will focus on Tennessee's unique past, its government, and its literary heritage.

The Governor's Schools are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education and are designed to allow 10th and 11th graders who are in the top ten percent of their classes the opportunity to study on an advanced level. The other programs center on the sciences, arts, humanities, and international studies, respectively. These programs are being held on campuses across the state.

**THE APPALACHIAN-SCOTTISH CONNECTION**

The Scots comprise one ethnic group which has had a significant influence on Appalachia's culture and history. Although mention frequently is made of the impact of Scots' settlement in Appalachia, there is lacking in-depth study of the overall significance of the Scots on the southern highlands.

To help remedy this neglect, ETSU's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) is instituting a summer program which focuses on the influence of Scotland upon southern Appalachian culture - including social and intellectual history, creative arts, folklore, language and literature. The program is comprised of two classes which run concurrently for five weeks, July 11 - August 12. One course, "Appalachian-Scottish Tradition," consists of lectures, discussions and presentation of traditional lore. The lecturers are prestigious scholars from the University of Edinburgh and from North American institutions, while the tradition bearers hail from both Scotland and southern Appalachia. The other course, "Ethnographic Field Work," centers on topics which relate to Appalachian-Scottish studies.

Each course provides either undergraduate or graduate credit in English or sociology. Each course also may be audited. For additional information contact CASS at (615) 929-5348.

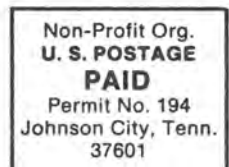
**MISCELLANEOUS**

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

McBerney Burlison	Rita Scher	Ed Speer
Charles Gunter	Fred P. Borchuck	Richard Kesner
Robert Patton	Helen Lowe	Charlotte Wilson
Willene Paxton	Harryet S. Blackwell	Edith Keys
		Mildred Kozsuch



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