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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. X, NO. I

FALL 1988

ARCHIVES TEN YEARS OLD

On September 1, 1988, the archives celebrated its tenth birthday. Established by East Tennessee State University in conjunction with the Institute for Appalachian Affairs, the Archives of Appalachia represents one aspect of the university's commitment to the larger southern Appalachian community. The establishment of the archives also represents the culmination of the efforts and activities of many persons who were concerned with preserving the heritage of southern Appalachia. Foremost among these persons were Professors Thomas Burton and Ambrose Manning, English department, East Tennessee State University. Burton and Manning's audio and video tapes on folklore, manners and customs in southern Appalachia constitute the archives' earliest, and most important, folklife collection. These tapes formed the core of East Tennessee State University's Oral History Archives founded in 1968. A decade after the establishment of the Oral History Archives, but prior to the opening of the Archives of Appalachia, the tapes were placed in the Appalachian Room, Sherrod Library.

East Tennessee State University

Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 No. 1

MARCH 1, 1979

Masthead, archives' first newsletter

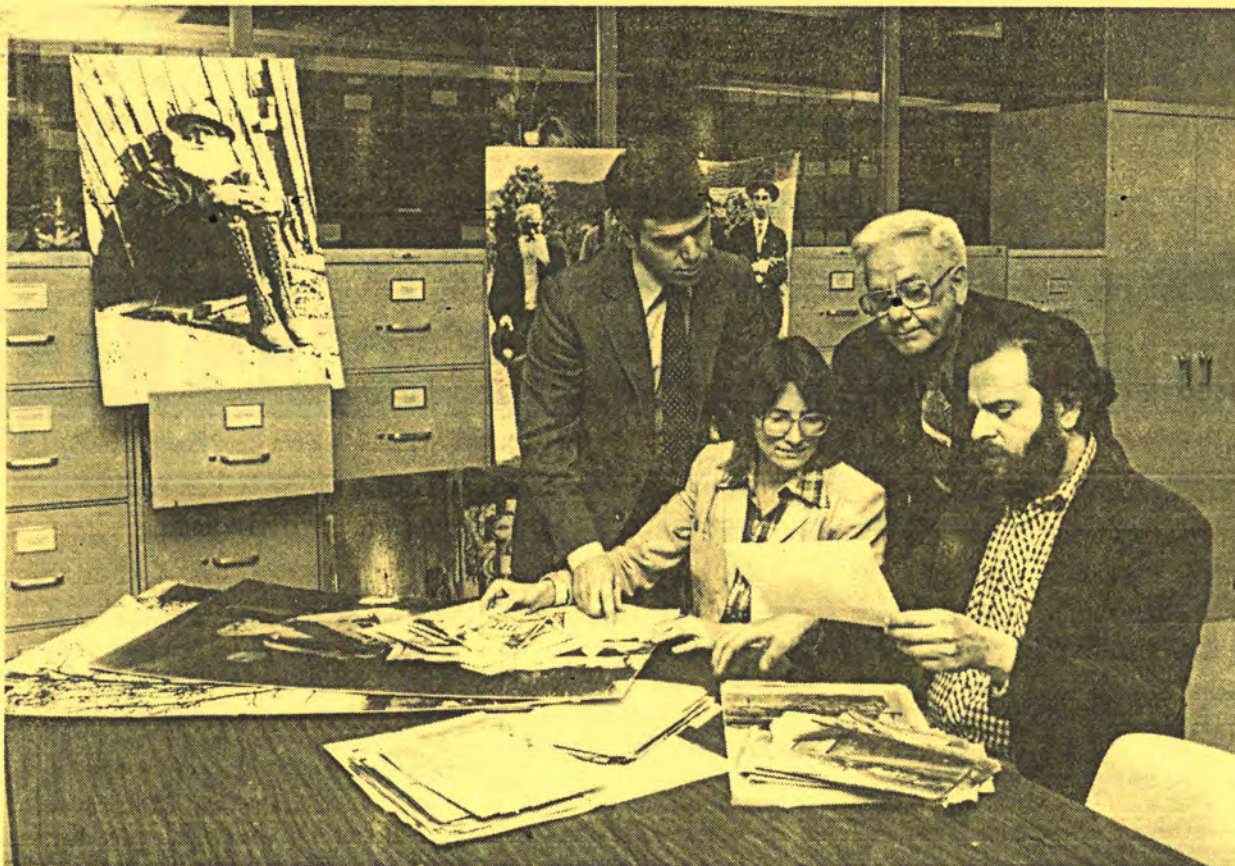
Concurrent with the founding of the Archives of Appalachia was the establishing of the University Archives. The origin of the University Archives goes back to an October 1977 recommendation from the Committee on Archives and Manuscripts to establish an archives to house university records. The head of the Archives of Appalachia also serves as head of the University Archives.

When the Archives of Appalachia opened on September 1, 1978, it already had before it the task of processing collections which the Sherrod Library had acquired over the years. Among these collections were the Washington County Court Records, the East Tennessee Education Association Papers, the LeRoy Reeves Papers, and the B. Carroll Reece Papers. Not only were these collections processed during the archives' early years, but many

other valuable collections were acquired under the leadership of the archives' first head, Richard M. Kesner. These collections, among them Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad, Magnet (Hosiery) Mills and Broadside Television, focused on the social, economic and political history and development of southern Appalachia.

During the early years of the archives' existence its organizational structure was established. The Appalachian Photographic Archives, University Photographic Archives, Special Collections and Appalachian and university vertical files were set up. In addition, a grant from Tennessee Endowment for the Humanities supported the development of slide-tape programs on various aspects of Appalachian life. These programs remain invaluable educational tools for students and community members alike.

With the departure of Kesner in 1981, the archives acquired a new head, Ellen B. Garrison, who built upon the work of her predecessor. Garrison continued the outreach work Kesner had started and refined the collecting policy so that the archives acquired more documentation from upper East Tennessee. During Garrison's tenure the archives acquired the valuable East Tennessee Light and Power Company records, and developed ACSAS, the archives' computerized in-house index system.



Archives staff members and friends, 1980.

Left to right: Richard M. Kesner, first head of the archives; Laurel Horton, archives; Ted Coburn, consultant for slide tape project; and Richard Blaustein, director of Institute for Appalachian Affairs.

The archives begins its second decade with a new head, Norma M. Thomas. Thomas assumed her new duties on July 1, 1988. Former Technical Services Archivist at the Archives of Appalachia, Thomas has extensive experience not only in processing collections, but in supervising processing work. She holds a master's degree in history and has a continuing interest in Appalachian studies. Everyone at the archives welcomes Thomas and wishes her well in her new endeavor.

EARLY WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT RECORDS ACQUIRED FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY

The archives recently acquired additional Washington County Court records which previously had been housed at Duke University. The archives acquired these records through the cooperation of Thomas A. Turley, local records coordinator, Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) and Robert L. Byrd, curator of manuscripts, Duke University. While working on a project to microfilm county records, Turley discovered that Duke had approximately 3000 Washington County documents, some of which dated from the 1770s. Byrd agreed that after microfilming by TSLA, the original documents could be transferred to the Archives of Appalachia. Subsequently, in June of this year Turley transferred both the documents and their descriptive inventory to the archives. The archives appreciates the cooperation of Turley and Byrd in transferring these documents to upper East Tennessee.

ARCHIVES FUNDS

Shortly after its establishment in 1978, the archives set up two funds within the East Tennessee State University Foundation: the Archives of Appalachia Fund and the Tom Daniel Fund. During the past ten years the funds have enabled the archives to complete special projects and to purchase additional supplies necessary for the preservation of documents in its care. The Daniel Fund, named in memory of the university's chief photographer from 1964-77, is concerned with the photographic collections, while the Archives of Appalachia Fund is concerned with non-photographic collections. The archives needs the support of others throughout the region who share our interests in documenting the history and cultural heritage of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated, and will help the archives maintain its program. Checks should be made payable to the East Tennessee State Foundation, with a designation for either the Tom Daniel Fund or the Archives of Appalachia Fund. Contributions are tax deductible.

STAFF NEWS

Norma Thomas, head of the archives and Marie Tedesco, archivist, attended the Society of American Archivists meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, September 28-October 1, 1988.

Thomas and Tedesco participated in a panel presentation on the ethics of restricting collections at the Tennessee Archivists fall meeting held at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, November 4, 1988. Thomas provided an overview

of the problem of restricting collections, while Tedesco spoke on restricting collections in academic archives.

On August 4, 1988, Tedesco presented a paper, "'Batter Up': A Brief History of Professional Baseball in Johnson City, 1900-Present," at the annual Sport Literature Association meeting held at East Tennessee State University.

NEW STUDENT WORKERS

This semester the archives has a new graduate assistant, Kathleen Workman. A master's degree student in the Department of History, Workman will supervise the processing work of five student assistants. Three of the assistants are new to the archives. They are Alice Marie Cunningham, an elementary education major; Cheryl Roseberry, a speech and hearing major; and Rebecca Tuthill, a major in mass communication.

CONVERSION OF SLIDE TAPE PROGRAMS

The slide-tape outreach programs for the Archives of Appalachia are to be converted to 3/4 inch and VHS video format. The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services is funding this project which is being completed by World Class Productions, Johnson City. The video tape format will allow the archives to make more extensive use, on and off campus, of its outreach programs.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

APPALACHIAN-SCOTTISH STUDIES COLLECTION, 1988, 34 audio tapes, 2 folders. Consists of 1 cassette audio tape, "The Thistle and Pitcher Plant," which is a recording Margaret and Martyn Bennett made of songs and music from Scotland and Newfoundland. Also included are the following: course announcements and a calendar of speakers for the Appalachian-Scottish Connection courses taught at East Tennessee State University during summer 1988; 25 reel to reel audio tapes of lectures and performances; 8 33 r.p.m. recordings of traditional Scottish music, with liner notes and song transcriptions for albums 2 through 7, given to Thomas Burton by J. MacQueen, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland; 8 audio cassette tapes and written reports which resulted from student interviews of local persons who have Scottish ancestry. Donated by Thomas Burton, East Tennessee State University.

BURTON-HEADLEY PAPERS, ADDITION.

Video Tapes, "Following the Signs: A Way of Conflict," and "Traditional Springs: Violence in the South."

BURTON-MANNING COLLECTION, ADDITION.

Seven reel to reel audio tapes: Ray Hicks and Buna Hicks telling stories and singing. Donated by Thomas Burton.

CHRISTY FAMILY PAPERS, 1939-1947, 3.0 l.f. ADDITION.

Consists of sermons, with related church bulletins, of Rev. Allen T. Christy; family members' memorabilia; and essays written as assignments by Allen Christy while he was attending seminary. Donated by Thomas Christy, Hoonah, Alaska.

EAST TENNESSEE AND WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY RECORDS, 1884-1948, 0.5 l.f. ADDITION. Consists of 4 financial volumes of the Cranberry Iron and Coal Company, a company owned by the ET&WNC Railroad. Included are an account book, receipt book for rents, furnace reports, and time reports for labor. The volumes were donated by Ed Speer, Carter County, Tennessee.

KIENER, JOHN L. PAPERS, 1986-1988, 2.4 l.f., 89 audio tapes, ADDITION. Contains correspondence, pamphlets, newsclippings and photocopied court documents relating to Kiener's service as judge for juvenile and general sessions court. The collection also includes audio tapes of pre-trial hearings heard by Kiener. The papers reflect his involvement in community groups and local politics. Donated by Judge John L. Kiener, Johnson City, Tennessee.

LEWIS FAMILY PAPERS, 1890-1973, 0.2 l.f. PARTIAL PHOTOCOPIES.

Consists of a general store ledger dating from the 1890s in the Stoney Creek section of Carter County; an enumeration of the school population (1916-18) in the 10th district of Carter County; and photographs of the Lewis family and Lewis home in Stoney Creek. Of special interest is a photograph of James F. M. Lewis performing before a group of children, c. 1890. Donated by Richard Lewis, Carter County, Tennessee.

KENNETH MURRAY PHOTOGRAPHS, 1984-1988, 0.5 l.f., ADDITION.

Contains 452 8x10, black and white photographic prints taken by Murray in Western North Carolina, Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee and Eastern Kentucky. The photographs depict scenic views in the mountains, rural scenes, recreation, handicrafts, coal mining and other activities which reflect life in southern Appalachia. Many of these photographs were published in Murray's latest book, Highland Trails of Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Donated by Kenneth Murray, Center for Appalachian Studies and Services fellow, East Tennessee State University.

ROBERT ORR MUSIC COLLECTION, 1843-c.1885, 0.2 l.f. PHOTOCOPIES.

Consists of 3 photocopied music books (2 instrumental and 1 songbook). Howe's School for the Flute published in 1843 contains a collection of marches, quick steps, waltzes, hornpipes, contradances, songs and six set cotillions. The volume includes many traditional fiddle tunes such as "The Irish Washerwoman," "Soldiers Joy," "Fisher's Hornpipe," "Money Musk," and "Devil's Dream." Also includes notations by James A. Galbreath dating 1852. The second volume, Coe's Album of Music, contains traditional and composed dance music. Song titles included in this volume are: "Pacific Hornpipe," "Vermont Hornpipe," "Arkansas Traveller," "Shepp's Jig," "Mechanics Hall Jig," "Dougherty's Jig," and "Nantansket Reel." Among the composers or arrangers are: Emmett, Zeke Backus, George H. Coes, Hirschel Fenton, J. Sharpe and Clem Titus. The songbook of which the title page was missing

was published CA. 1885. This volume includes traditional ballads and songs used in minstrel shows during the late 1800s. Donated by Robert Orr, Chuckey, Tennessee.

OXFORD, CHERYL COLLECTION, 1981, 2 video tapes.

Consists of 1 VHS and 1 3/4" U-Matic video tape of storyteller Marshall Ward telling the tale, "Jack and the Lions' Den." The tape recording is 24 minutes long and was recorded by Oxford at Ward's home near Banner Elk, North Carolina on July 11, 1981. Donated by Cheryl Oxford, Western Piedmont Community College, Morganton, North Carolina.

SEVIER, JOHN DOCUMENT, SIGNED, 1779, 1 item.

Warrant signed by John Sevier as court clerk to the sheriff of Washington County ordering that Morton Maulding, Valentine Sevier and Aron(?) Lewis appear at the next session of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. The case to be heard was listed as Commissioners vs. Morton Maulding; complaintants were listed as Todd Lewis and (?) Parker. Document added to Miscellaneous Papers, Acc. #179. Donated by Walter C. Diehl, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT RECORDS, 1777-1928, 3.75 l.f. ADDITION.

Consists of various legal documents, correspondence, and receipts regarding both civil and criminal cases heard in the County, Superior, Circuit and Chancery Courts of Washington County, Tennessee. While the majority of cases involved persons in Washington County, several other of the surrounding counties are represented. Records were transferred from Duke University to the Tennessee State Library and Archives; Tom Turley placed the records at the Archives of Appalachia on behalf of the State Archives. A microfilmed copy is located at both Duke University and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

DUNCAN WILLIAMSON PERFORMANCES VIDEO TAPES, 1987, 6 tapes.

Consists of 6 3/4" U-matic video tapes of Scottish storyteller Duncan Williamson's performance at the B. Carroll Reece Museum on October 6 and 8, 1988. Subjects covered include Williamson's recounting of his traditional music. Donated by Thomas G. Burton, English Department, East Tennessee State University.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS OFFICE RECORDS, 1967-1986, 22.5 l.f. ADDITION.

Consists of general administrative files and files relating to the office's review of the various university departments publications. The files were transferred to the University Archives by the University Relations Office.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Below is a list of persons who donated books to the Special Collections. The title of the volume is given after the donor's name. The archives thanks these individuals or groups for their donations.

Ambrose and Mary Manning: donated issues of Goldenseal, Summer 1987-Summer 1988 and the Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin, 1983-1986.

Irene Smith: donated copies of Centennial History of the Holston Valley Baptist Association, 1884-1983 by Glenn A. Toomey and McPheeters Bend Baptist Church.

Arlene Burgin Izlar: donated a copy of The Season of Dorland-Bell: an Appalachian Mission School by Jacqueline Burgin Painter.

Kenneth Murray: donated a copy of Highland Trails for Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

Charles Walter: donated a copy of God and Luther Wilkinson by Luther Wilkinson.

Richard M. Kesner: donated a copy of his book Information Systems: A Strategic Approach to Planning and Implementation, for the archives professional library.

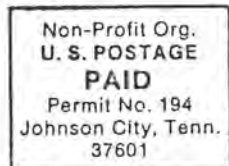
MISCELLANEOUS

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

Robert Patton
Mildred Kozsuch
McBerney Burlson
Ellen Garrison
George Stevenson
Richard M. Kesner
Charles Gunter

Ruth Harris
Helen Hollingsworth
Pollyanna Creekmore
Edith Keys
Frank Tannewitz
Margaret W. Hougland
Dawn Peters

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