

ANNUAL MEETING ON THE BORDER, MAY 25-27, 2006

Submitted by Claudia Rivers, UTEP, Local Arrangements Chair

We hope you've made plans to spend Memorial Day weekend on the border in El Paso, Texas. The Local Arrangements Committee for the 2006 SSA Annual Meeting has prepared a fun-filled calendar of activities to complement the plenaries and sessions.

To emphasize the international setting of this meeting, the opening reception on Thursday will be in Cd. Juárez at the beautiful Museo Histórico de Ciudad Juárez (at the Ex-Aduana, or old Customs House). Although you'll need some form of photo identification, a passport isn't necessary for re-entry. A local historic property will be available for those who don't want to venture across the border.

On Friday, we will enjoy a progressive dinner reception at a number of beautiful venues in downtown El Paso. Sites include the renovated main branch of the El Paso Public Library as well as the newly renovated Plaza Theatre.

Sessions include "Case Studies in Cross Border Documentary Initiatives (U.S./Mexico): The Durango/Sombbrero Microfilming Project, 1992-2006," "From New Orleans to Baton Rouge", "Partners Without Borders: Archives, Collections and Museums Unite For Education", "Boundaries and Beyond! From the Rio Grande to Mars: National Archives Regional and Presidential Discoveries," "Call Us When All Hell Breaks Loose," "The Lone Arranger Develops a Website," "Behind the Scenes: Performing Arts Collections in Archives," "Wayfinding in the (Digital) Wilderness," "When to Say "Whoa!": Developing Collections, Maintaining Focus and Staying on Track," "Getting Personal with the Ugly Sisters, Katrina & Rita: Personal Trials, Tragedies and Triumphs," "Have Pencil Will Travel: Challenges and Rewards of Archival Research on Borderlands History," and "No Man's Land: Personal and Private Information in the Archival Record." For more detailed program information on speakers and their presentations, see the on-line program for details: <<http://southwestarchivists.utep.edu/2005Program.htm>>.

This year's annual meeting also features three historically important and entertaining tours: one to Cd. Juárez on Thursday prior to the opening reception; and on Saturday afternoon, one to the Mission Trail of El Paso's Lower Valley; and the other to the Mesilla Valley south of Las Cruces, New Mexico. See <<http://southwestarchivists.utep.edu/2005Tours.htm>> for more information.

DON'T FORGET
TO BRING ITEMS
FOR
SLOTTO !!

Contact Gracie Galvez
for more information:
ggraciela@utep.edu

INSIDE: UNM exhibit celebrates Albuquerque's Tricentennial
Hurricane season preparations and reflections
In memoriam: Dr. John L. Ferguson of Arkansas

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THE SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS

The Society of Southwest Archivists is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded knowledge.

The *Southwestern Archivist* is free with membership in the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Membership is \$10 per year for individuals with institutional subscriptions available for \$25.

We invite you to join or extend your membership.

A membership form is near the end of every issue, and can also be found on-line at <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Membership.htm>.

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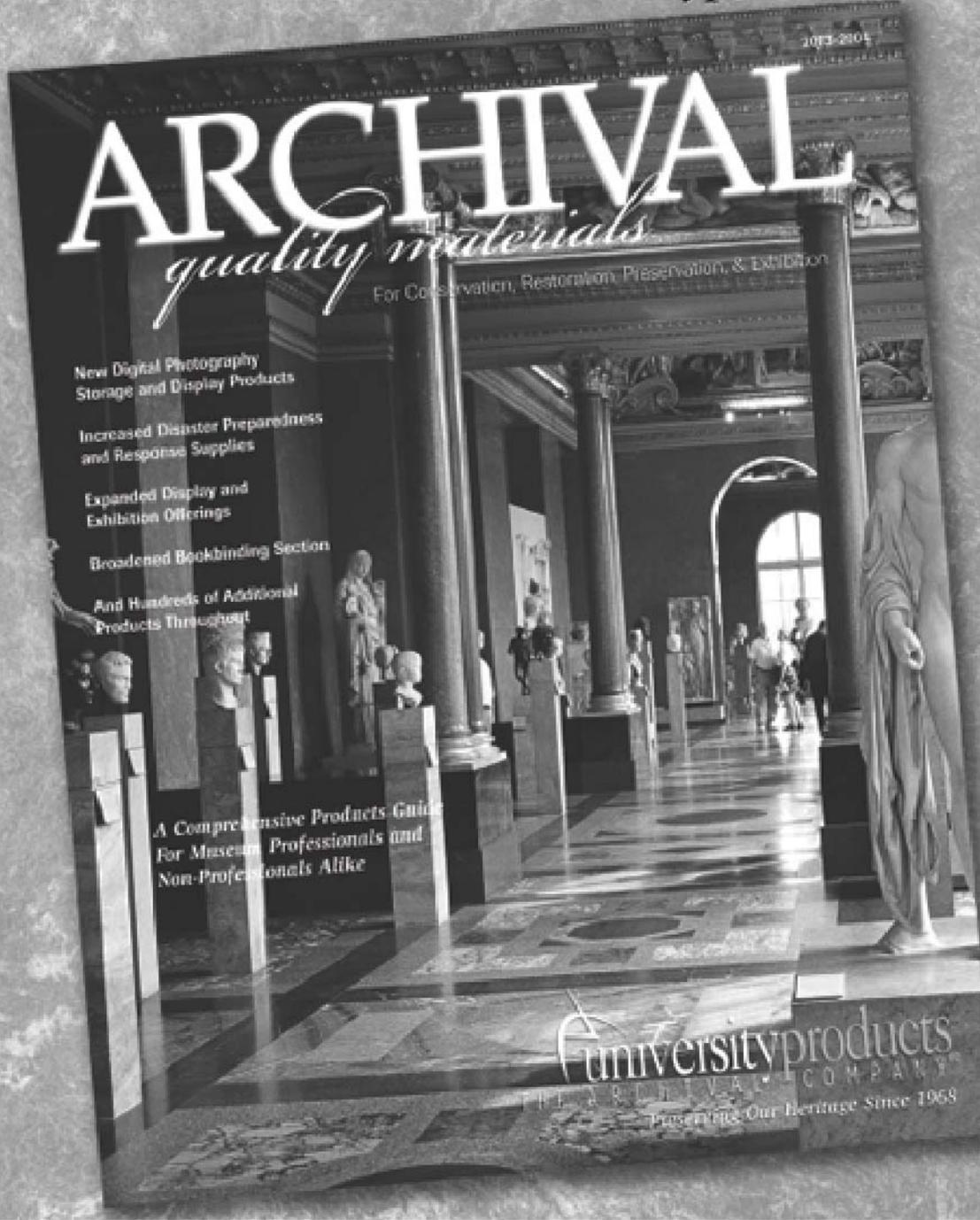
The SSA web page is maintained by Lee Miller at Tulane University.

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Deadlines for submissions are:

10th of April, July, October, and January.

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We encourage your comments, suggestions, and news articles. News items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members wherever they reside are especially welcome. Submissions by SSA members from repositories outside the SSA region will be published if space is available.

Please send submissions electronically or on disk. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Please send out-of-region submissions to:

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479-524-7335 (fax)
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520-621-9444 (fax)
calmesl@ccp.library.arizona.edu

Send Louisiana submissions to:

Carol Bartels
Historic New Orleans Collection
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New Orleans, LA 70130
504-523-4662 (phone)
504-598-7108 (fax)
Carol@hnoc.org

Send New Mexico submissions to:

Maura Kenny
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New Mexico State University Library
Box 30006 Dept. 3475
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006
505-646-4178 (phone)
mkenny@lib.nmsu.edu

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acf444@juno.com

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Carol Roark
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UNM'S CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST RESEARCH EXHIBITS ARCHIVAL TREASURES FOR ALBUQUERQUE TRICENTENNIAL, 1706-2006

Submitted by Nancy Brown Martinez, CSWR

Albuquerque, New Mexico, was founded by Spanish colonists in 1706, well before the establishment of the United States. To celebrate the city's birthday, the Center for Southwest Research (CSWR), the special collections division of the University of New Mexico Libraries, Albuquerque, has mounted a Tricentennial exhibit entitled "Albuquerque: 300 Years of History from the Center for Southwest Research," which runs through August 2006.

The documentary history of Albuquerque and the state of New Mexico draws heavily on resources from the CSWR and could never have been written without these archives. The exhibit features selections from the CSWR's archives showcasing the city's 300-year history, including manuscripts, oral histories, photographs, posters, maps, architectural drawings and models, newspapers, books, pamphlets, memorabilia, and music recordings. Use of contemporary images of local historical reenactors and revitalized landmarks give color and life to the displays. Several CSWR students developed their own display sections, thereby gaining valuable research and exhibit skills. City agencies and individuals generously provided items for the show and helped to promote it.

One key document featured in the exhibit is a 1706 Spanish colonial document (copy) and its transcription certifying the establishment of the villa or governmental entity of Alburquerque (original Spanish spelling). Considered to be the city's birth certificate, this document and other related items were identified by UNM History Professor Lansing B. Bloom in the Spanish and Mexican archives. More recent materials help fill in Albuquerque's long history.

Ancient pueblos and Spanish churches, dances and rodeos, blue corn and chiles, and luminarias and neons hold their own in this unique multicultural city, existing side by side with skyscrapers, Interstate highways, chain stores, casinos and atom smashers. The CSWR Tricentennial exhibit presents a powerful synthesis and visual view of Albuquerque's fascinating history.

T. HARRY WILLIAMS CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY FEATURED AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE

Submitted by Matthew R. Mullenix

Louisiana State University's GEMS Day celebration offers LSU a chance to highlight its multiple galleries, museums and exhibition spaces in a well-publicized open house format. Both the academic community and general public are invited to the popular annual event.

This year LSU's Special Collections Library (repository for unique manuscripts, rare books, photos, artwork, and the University Archives) featured one of its own, the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History.

Williams Center staff and volunteers presented seven audio/visual programs at listening stations within the library's lecture hall. Programs featured various oral history recordings ranging in topic from the work of prominent LSU archeologist Bill Haag, to the racial integration of the university, to the flight of Vietnamese refugees following the fall of Saigon. Center Director Jennifer Abraham gave hourly talks on the work of the Center, its role within Special Collections and its benefit to both LSU and the people of Louisiana. Numerous individuals previously interviewed by Center staff were on hand to speak with the public about their lives and unique experiences.

For more information on the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, its current work and available programs, please visit <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/williams/> or call: (225) 578-6577.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

by Tara Z. Laver, Chair, Scholarships Committee

The Scholarship Committee received an excellent and deserving pool of applications this year, and the competition was very close.

Penny Clark, archivist at the Tyrell Historical Library in Beaumont, Texas, won the Annual Meeting Scholarship.

Lisa Schmidt, a beginning student at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information, wrote the winning essay for the .J. Michael Caldwell Student Annual Meeting Scholarship.

Finally, **Howard Margot**, research manager of the New Orleans Notarial Archives Research Center, will use the A. Otis Hebert Continuing Education Scholarship to attend the society's annual meeting in El Paso Scholarship.

Thanks to those who served on the committee:

Dick Dickerson, University of Houston;

Irene Wainwright, New Orleans Public Library;

Shelly Kelly, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and

Dr. Elsie Hebert (Hebert Scholarship only).

These scholarships would not be possible without the continuing support of the membership through SLOTTO -- keep buying those tickets!

GIFT ITEMS NEEDED FOR SLOTTO!

All proceeds support SSA Scholarships.

Bring items unique to your area such as artwork, museum gift books, t-shirts, posters, and memorabilia to be auctioned at Saturday morning business meeting, at the annual meeting in El Paso.

Feel free to bring multiple items, but due to time constraints and the overwhelming response of donations, please bring one of a single item.

Some say SLOTTO is the highlight of the meeting! Join in on the fun!

For more information, contact:

Gracie Galvez <ggraciela@utep.edu>

Special Collections Department

University Library

University of Texas at El Paso

El Paso, TX 79968-0582

WHEN THE HYPOTHETICAL BECOMES HYDRATED

By Ann T. Boltin and Lisa H. Lewis, Diocese of Baton Rouge



Students from LSU's School of Library Science volunteer their time in the conservation room. Courtesy of LSU.

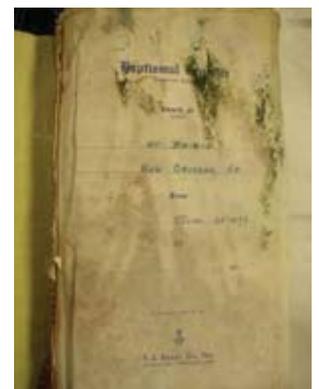
Before Hurricane Katrina, the disaster plan for the Diocese of Baton Rouge was prepared by an archives graduate student for a preservation class project based on hypothetical scenarios. The Archives Department of the diocese was well aware of a disaster's potential for harm to its collections. In the collective imagination, preparations for a tornado, a chemical spill or an explosion at a nearby oil refinery were considered. Although there were projections of the possibility of flooding in the greater New Orleans area, few believed that would happen. But no one had imagined the tremendous impact that this disaster would have on Baton Rouge and other nearby communities.

Precautionary measures were taken at the diocesan offices the weekend before Hurricane Katrina. Computers were backed up and unplugged, blinds were closed and traditional hurricane "battening down of the hatches" was done. However, little else from our disaster plan was used. No one had previously anticipated the immense scope of this disaster and its implications. With no precedent, adequate preparations could not have been made.

After the storm, local community groups and individuals got busy dealing with the swarm of evacuees, limiting available resources. Housing evacuees, assisting at shelters, collecting supplies, and providing necessary information strained the shared resources of commodities, transportation and office space necessary to effectively deal with the challenge. Cooperation crossed personal boundaries into the institutional realm. Within a week of the hurricane, the Archdiocesan Archives of New Orleans had moved in to share the offices of the Baton Rouge Diocesan Archives.

The records of the Archdiocese moved much slower than either the floodwaters or the population. The Baton Rouge office served as a collection point for the records of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. A room was prepared and supplies ordered. All priests were encouraged to bring their church records, wet or dry, to Baton Rouge. It took nearly a month for the documents to begin to trickle in. In the meantime, the staff educated themselves, as best as they could, on wet collection recovery procedures. However, no instructions or examples were available that compared to the condition of the materials. Some were covered in oil; many smelled of sewage or were covered in slime. Most had been wet for weeks or even months. Records arrived in garbage bags and plastic containers; one church brought in a file drawer with the records still stuck inside. Some records were wet, others just dirty or moldy, but many needed attention and all came with interesting stories. Some had been floated to safety in coolers, others had been taken upstairs until the hurricane had passed, with half being brought down too soon, only to be flooded when the levees breached.

These records were effectively salvaged and preserved due to partnerships formed in the spirit of cooperation. LSU's Hill Memorial Library offered the use of their freezer to kill existing mold, keep wet records from further molding, and buy time to formulate salvage plans. This allowed the Baton Rouge diocesan archivists to work on a manageable number of boxes in an organized manner. Local companies donated supplies to help furnish our on-site conservation room. Plastic crates from Pepsi Cola© were inverted and arranged to form a surface around which air could freely flow and the books and documents could be dried.



St. Brigid Baptism book damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Courtesy of LSU.

continued from previous page

Baton Rouge Press provided a roll of blank newsprint which was cut into sheets and interleaved between wet pages to absorb moisture.

Resourcefulness and flexibility became the norm. It seemed an overwhelming task, but the work proceeded in earnest. NEH awarded an emergency salvage grant to offset some of the costs. Dedicated students from LSU's School of Library and Information Science program and a few community volunteers were recruited to assist in the recovery efforts. The work progressed, slowly but surely, as the records of eleven church parishes were defrosted, dried, cleaned and re-housed. Over 120 sacramental books and ten cubic feet of school records were salvaged; all will be micro-filmed and the books copied for future use in the parishes. The originals will be archived.

Eight months after the storm, a thorough review of the disaster response is in order. It is now apparent that more than one scenario must be considered in disaster planning: the case where the local community hosts another community which has been evacuated as well as the case where the local community itself experiences the disaster directly and has to be evacuated. Therefore, preparation plans have changed. Disaster planning has trickled down through the administration. Although some evacuation procedures existed before Katrina, it is now mandatory that pastors in evacuated areas ensure the evacuation of essential records, even if the pastor himself decides not to leave. No longer is disaster planning a mundane exercise outlined on paper destined to live out its useless days in the dark, dusty depths of someone's file cabinet. Rather, disaster planning is approached from the standpoint of what could really happen.

This archives department has been charged with the writing of a disaster plan not only for their own holdings, but also for the records of all churches within the diocese. Furthermore, all disaster planning documents are being revised from a more practical point of view. It's not just a required exercise anymore; emergency preparedness now requires the identification of real measures to aid in real-life, community changing situations that now seem all too possible.

KATRINA AND THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH ARCHIVES

Submitted by Sister Jane Aucoin, csj, Archivist

Mercifully, Hurricane Katrina spared the Archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph in New Orleans. Housed on the second floor, beneath a heavy slate roof, the collection survived. However, four feet of water invaded the ground floors, remaining there for at least three weeks, giving mold and mildew the tropical conditions they welcomed with explosive energy. By the time it was safe to enter, some six weeks post Katrina, it had become painfully clear that building restoration was out of the question for us. Receipts from insurance and emergency aid would barely cover the costs of cleaning up. We Sisters now have no choice but to sell the properties that had housed us and our ministries of spirituality, education, and care of our elders since 1950. Archives would have to move to Baton Rouge.

For six weeks, we searched for appropriate rental space and then turned to the task of preparing the collection for transfer. Week after week generous volunteers and I—Sisters and devoted lay friends—trekked to New Orleans, packing up and preparing for the move. Finally, on December 5, we loaded 160 large cartons of materials and all the necessary furnishings into two large vans. By 9:30 that very night all cartons were stacked in one room and the furniture was in place—including sixteen seven-foot shelving units that had to be squeezed into rooms with eight-foot ceilings. Two weeks later, all the materials had been shelved and the now empty cartons—195 pounds—hailed away for recycling. Christmas holidays were never so gratefully welcomed!

The \$2000 Katrina assistance grant from SSA/SAA helped cover moving expenses. Just knowing we had such support was a big morale booster! As I write this, four months after the move, nearly all is in its proper place, except for the occasional misplaced file. And the Katrina story as it affected the Sisters of St. Joseph joins all the other sagas of storms and floods, fires and robberies that our fore-Sisters and their lay colleagues have faced and overcome, with fidelity and grace, during the past 150 years of their presence along the Gulf coast.

FATE OF RELIGIOUS ARCHIVISTS IN NEW ORLEANS

Submitted by Sister Dorothy Dawes O.P.

The members of the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans have finally surfaced in the cyberworld. Having missed their fall and spring meetings, they are looking forward to reconvening in September 2006. Members have sustained varying degrees of loss and damage.

Sr. Jane Aucoin of the St. Joseph sisters in New Orleans has moved the entire archives to Baton Rouge. The sisters were forced to abandon their beautiful home base on Mirabeau Avenue in Lakeview due to flood damage. Brother Alan Drain, archivist for the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, is displaced to Rhode Island. His community was so badly hit in New Orleans and Bay St. Louis, Mississippi that there was not even residential space. Brother Drain was among those sent on mission to the brothers in the Northeast. What remains of his archives is in a New Orleans building that once served for hospitality, in boxes mixed with the records of the province, and is waiting to be addressed. The extent of the damage is unknown. Brother Alan Drain is not alone other members of the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans are still unaware of the extent of the damages to their archives. There has been no report as yet on what may have been the most devastated archives in our group The Sisters of the Holy Family, who were located in New Orleans East. The Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans is hoping there is grant funding still available.

The small group of Dominican Sisters of Cabra, Ireland (see www.dominicansisters.com), whose archival collection, documenting their life and work since their arrival in New Orleans in 1968 was "drowned" by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding. Their archivist was in Ireland and the sister historian, feeling responsible, was grateful to receive a grant from the Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund of SSA/SAA. The same fund helped the Sisters Servants of Mary (see www.sisterservantsofmary.org), a group of sisters who have done private duty night nursing free of charge in New Orleans since the 1920s. Both archives were picked up on short notice by Pat and Scott Williams, twin brothers who specialize in disaster recovery as an adjunct of their bindery. These two collections were frozen as the first step in the recovery process. As one sister said, "At least we will know we did our best to save the history."

Sister Martha Gonzales, archivist for the Teresian Sisters in Covington, Louisiana did her own salvaging, manually, and without help from any source. She is pleased with what she was able to accomplish. A few of us escaped "high and dry," and they have been kept busy trying to care for evacuees, the new homeless, and to adjust to a dysfunctional city, struggling to recover, and hoping to catch up.

SSA CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues of \$10 run on the calendar year.

Please send dues & any contact information updates to:

**Ms. Gerri Schaad
SSA Treasurer
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Thank you!

VORHOFF LIBRARY AND THE NEWCOMB ARCHIVES ANNOUNCE NEW PROJECTS

Submitted by Susan Tucker

Clearinghouse of Hurricane-Related Research on Women and Gender

An online database of abstracts of research projects that look at the hurricanes, focusing on issues of women and gender.

Call for Submissions

We invite all researchers who are conducting relevant projects, regardless of methodology, to submit abstracts of their works-in-progress or completed studies to this online database so that we can begin to capture the ways in which the storms, their aftermaths, and recoveries are differently experienced by women with respect to race, class and community.

Bibliography of Hurricane-Related Publications on Women and Gender

A database of citations to various types of online publications and articles that discuss the hurricanes in relation to issues of women and gender.

Database of Women's Services and Organizations in Post-Katrina New Orleans

Currently in the data collection stage, this project will soon offer information regarding the status of local organizations that provide services specifically to women. Though services for women were scarce prior to Katrina, they have obviously been impacted by the storm and in many cases have diminished. It is the goal of this project to understand the effects that the hurricane has had on women's organizations, as well as to consolidate information about the services that are currently available. The data that is collected will be made publicly accessible online, enabling clients to easily find the information they need. It is extremely important for this data to be collected and for resources to be made available in order to insure that women form an integral part of the rebuilding of New Orleans. For more information or to submit information about your organization, contact Cheryl Schmitz, NCCROW intern, at cschmitz@tulane.edu.

Newcomb Women's Stories of the Storm

The Newcomb College Center for Research on Women has partnered with Tulane University's Office of Service Learning to train and assist students with the collection of oral histories from alumnae, faculty, staff and students of Newcomb College affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This project seeks to document the multiple ways the hurricane and its aftermath have affected these women's lives. In particular, we are interested in women's perception of how the hurricane affected their role in the family, in the community, and/or on campus. Given the post-Katrina announcement of Tulane University's restructuring and the end of Newcomb College as a degree-granting women's college within Tulane, we will also ask the interviewees to speak of Newcomb's past and unknown future.

This project is part of a larger coalition project, "In Wake of the Hurricanes". This collaborative effort to gather oral histories is spearheaded by the Louisiana Folklife Program and in partnership with the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress, which has agreed to act as a secondary repository for all the oral histories collected. For more information about this project, please contact NCCROW Librarian, Cristina Hernandez, at chernan2@tulane.edu

Documenting the Fight for Newcomb

This project seeks to document and archive the resistance to, and the general dialogue about, the elimination of Newcomb as a degree-granting college as outlined in Tulane University's post-Katrina renewal plan. To this end, discussion forums and other relevant materials have been posted on the following websites: <http://renewal.tulane.edu/>, <http://tulane.daily-jolt.com/>, <http://ncsenate.blogspot.com/>, <http://www.thehullabaloo.com/>, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Renew-comb/>, <http://new.petitiononline.com/aschklar/petition.html>, http://www.ipetitions.com/campaigns/Newcomb_College/, <http://www.newcomb.tulane.edu/NewcombAlumnaeOffice/Home.html>.

We would greatly appreciate any additional links to other websites that contain relevant information or dialogue that we can document. We are also very interested in collecting any of personal letters, exchanges, emails, journals, or any other documentation that pertains to this matter. To suggest a link or to discuss donating personal papers, please contact NCCROW student worker, Stephanie Bordy at sbordy@tulane.edu

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY'S LOUISIANA DIVISION OPEN

Submitted by Irene Wainwright

The Louisiana Division is now open Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Irene Wainwright and Wayne Everard comprise the Division staff following the October 2005 layoff of eight of their colleagues. They are concentrating their efforts towards providing in-house assistance to researchers and other patrons along with answering reference letters and e-mail inquiries as well as maintaining the Library web site. Most processing of archives/special collections materials is on hold until additional staff can be hired (and that probably will not happen until 2007).

Several projects in the archives are underway, however. FEMA has digitized the Lower Ninth Ward portion of the Division's 1946 and 1960 aerial photographs of New Orleans and the surrounding area. They currently are scanning and processing the remainder of the 1946 series.

Also, the Louisiana Division has entered into an agreement with the Genealogical Society of Utah to digitize the original suit records of the Orleans Parish Court of Probates (1805-1846) and the Second District Court of Orleans Parish (1846-1880). These records were micro-filmed by the GSU many years ago, but because the microfilm job in each case was substandard, the Mormons have agreed to redo the job, this time in digital format. They will also digitize the general docket books for all pre-1880 civil court in New Orleans.

The New Orleans Public Library Foundation has undertaken a major rebuilding/fundraising campaign. Among the immediate needs recognized by the campaign is to "safeguard the City Archives and Special Collections: 250 years of irreplaceable records survived Katrina, despite being stored below ground. Funds are needed to safeguard these collections before next hurricane season, while a new long-term home is planned." Information of the Foundation's campaign can be found at <http://www.nutrias.org/foundation/noplfoundationappeal.htm>.

TEXAS HERITAGE DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE UNDERWAY

Submitted by Danielle Plumer

The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (THDI) is a cooperative project to identify, describe, digitize, preserve, and make broadly accessible special collections of history and culture held by libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other institutions in Texas. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide support for THDI and to develop a search interface that will allow users to search for photographs, maps, audio recordings, documents, images, and other digitized resources relating to Texas history and culture.

To improve the amount and relevance of material to be accessed through this search interface, the THDI Standards Work Group has developed proposed standards and best practices relating to digitization, metadata, controlled vocabulary, interoperability, and preservation of digital objects. The proposal is available as a PDF on the THDI website, <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/thdi/>. Jerry Drake, chair of the THDI Standards Work Group, welcomes comments and suggestions for improving this proposal. He can be contacted at Jerry.Drake@glo.state.tx.us.

The 2006 THDI Annual Meeting was held in Austin, TX, on March 24. The focus of this year's annual meeting was "User Perspectives," and librarians, archivists, and museum curators from across the state had opportunities to talk with each other and with representatives from the teacher, genealogist, and researcher communities of practice to identify their needs concerning online resources. The next THDI Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2007, in Houston.

For more information about THDI, contact Danielle Cunniff Plumer, THDI Coordinator, at dplumer@tsl.state.tx.us.

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION OFFERS FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITION IN CITY POST-KATRINA

Press release



"Toussant Louverture", 1802, color engraving by Jean. On exhibit courtesy of Dr. Fritz Daguillard.

In its continuing efforts to help rebuild New Orleans, The Historic New Orleans Collection is proud to announce the first major exhibition to be unveiled in the city post Hurricane Katrina. From the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 until 1810, the population of New Orleans virtually doubled - in large measure due to an influx of émigrés from St. Domingue (Haiti). Approximately 10,000 St. Domingans (whites, free blacks and slaves) brought a new infusion of French language and Creole traditions to Louisiana, contributing to the rich cultural diversity we enjoy today. *CommonRoutes: St.Domingue, Louisiana* explores the complex history of this Caribbean island and its ties to Louisiana. The exhibition is on view at The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street Tuesday through Saturday from March 14 – June 30, 2006.

About St. Domingue

Called Hayti by the Taino people who lived there prior to European contact, the island became known as Hispaniola after Columbus's discovery. In time, Hispaniola was colonized by both the Spanish and French under the name Santo Domingo/St. Domingue. During the French period, St. Domingue developed into the wealthiest place in the new world. The island boasted

paved streets and sidewalks, a drainage system predating Paris by 50 years, and nightly theatrical and musical events creating an active cultural life. Sugar, coffee and indigo plantations brought the island great wealth, at the cost of a brutally exploited slave labor force. A successful revolution from 1791 to 1804 brought an end to the French colonial period and gave birth to a new republic. Named Haiti, the country was not only the first established by slave revolt, but also the second independent nation founded in the New World. During the revolutionary period and for nearly a decade following, a diverse group of émigrés settled in Louisiana and influenced the area's literature, music, theatre, architecture, industry, and law.

The Exhibition

"Common Routes: St.Domingue, Louisiana" showcases more than 150 objects from private lenders and institutions in Spain, France, Canada, and the United States. Rare and never-before-seen items spanning centuries illustrate the fascinating stories of St. Domingue's history and its relationship with Louisiana. Highlights in the exhibition include Spanish tropical armor; native Indian artifacts; plans for theaters, prisons and gardens in St. Domingue; and images and documents telling the story of St. Domingue émigrés and their descendents. One of the featured items in the exhibit is *Les Cenelles*, the first book of poetry published by African Americans in the United States (published in New Orleans, 1845). "Post Hurricane Katrina, it is more important than ever before for Louisianans to preserve the unique heritage that makes this our home," says Priscilla Lawrence, executive director of The Historic New Orleans Collection. "This exhibition is a celebration of the roots of Louisiana's culture – from literature and music to architecture and cuisine." During the year, The Historic New Orleans will celebrate the connections between Louisiana and St. Domingue with this groundbreaking exhibition, a catalogue, lectures, educational activities, and a symposium.

Call (504) 598-7171 for more information or visit our website at www.hnoc.org. Support provided by: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, BellSouth, Regions Bank, Historic Restorations Inc.

"A SHORT HISTORY OF PRINTS:
HISTORICAL WORKS OF GRAPHIC ART"
ON VIEW AT LSU

Submitted by Leah Jewett

An exhibit entitled "A Short History of Prints: Historical Works of Graphic Art" is on view at Hill Memorial Library at Louisiana State University, April 17 - September 1, 2006. Works span several centuries, and include a variety of techniques including woodcut, lithograph, etching, copper plate engraving, mezzotint, and cliché'-verre, among others. Materials are drawn from LSU Libraries Special Collections and two private collections.

CIVIL WAR LOUISIANA TO BE FEATURED
IN NEW PUBLICATION

Submitted by Kathie Bordelon

The McNeese State University Archives, Friends of the McNeese Library, and the Southwest Louisiana Historical Association are jointly producing *More Stories from Old Imperial Calcasieu*, a compilation of historical articles by Mike Jones, writer for the Lake Charles American Press. The book includes articles concerning the Civil War and other war stories and articles about Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish written from 1990 to 2004. The Historical Association re-printed Mike's previous articles (1979-1989) in three volumes, *Southwest Louisiana in the War Between the States*; *Citizen Soldiers: Southwest Louisianians Defend the Nation*; and *Adventures in Old Calcasieu*.

SRMA SPRING MEETING

The Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists announces its Spring Conference and Business Meeting to take place at the Bessemer Historical Society in Pueblo, CO on June 2, 2006. The meeting, entitled, "Still and Moving Images: The Management and Preservation of Photographs and Film" will include talks from Paul Eisloeffel from the Nebraska State Historical Society and Leslie Shores from the American Heritage Center in Laramie, WY.

Using a combination of real world examples and proven theory, these presenters will discuss still and moving images and the issues of management, preservation and use associated with them. For more information, see www.SRMArchivists.org or contact: Monte Kniffen (303) 565-5406, archives@redemptorists-denver.org.

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION AT TEXAS TECH
RECEIVES JAYE SKAGGS DESIGN, INC.
RECORDS

Submitted by Tai Kreidler

An initial donation of over 75 boxes of materials from Ms. Jaye Skaggs of Fort Worth was accepted by Dean Donald Dyal on behalf of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University. The collection contains the business records of her interior design company. The donation also includes design catalogs, material samples, and publications that cover the broad spectrum of the interior design industry.

Skaggs is the owner and president of Jaye Skaggs Design, Inc., of Fort Worth which was an interior design company that worked with such noteworthy clients as T. Cullen Davis and Martina Navratilova. During the 40 years in business she and her company helped set the standard for 'Texas'-style interiors and established world-wide credibility for "Texas chic."

She is also the president of HelpBeacon which is a Fort Worth, Texas based corporation that develops products to help locate people in both emergency and recreational conditions. The company was founded in 2004 when Skaggs developed a solution for 911 callers whose addresses were difficult for emergency responders to pinpoint.

Skaggs is a native of Odessa, Texas and is a graduate of Texas Christian University.

ALSO NEW AT TEXAS TECH: BIG 8 RECORDS

The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library announced that Bo Carter, Big 12 Sports Information Director, forwarded the first shipment of Big 8 Athletic Conference Records to the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library (SWC/SCL) at Texas Tech University. The records will join the documents of the now defunct Southwest Athletic Conference that were archived at the SWC/SCL in 1995.

In 1994, Texas Tech University, University of Texas, Baylor and Texas A&M University joined with members schools of the Big 8 to form the Big 12. As a consequence both the Big 8 and the Southwest Conferences eventually dissolved. While the SWAC Records were archived immediately, the Big 8 Records had been in storage since then. Through the offices of Bo Carter these documents were preserved and are some of the few Big 8 Athletic Conference Records that remain available for research.

20TH -CENTURY SUGAR PLANTATION DOCUMENTED IN LSU COLLECTIONS

By Tara Z. Laver, LSU Libraries Special Collections

Three important recent donations to the LSU Libraries Special Collections center around Acadia Plantation, a sugar plantation in Thibodaux, La., that until 2003 had been owned and operated by the same family since 1875. The families associated with Acadia Plantation, the Butlers, Gays, and Platers, boast a distinguished history in the state, producing United States senators and representatives, as well as community, business, and sugar industry leaders. The donation of the family papers of the plantation's owners and the plantation library late last year concluded three years of donor relations that also resulted in the acquisition in 2004 of the records of the plantation. The latter are now processed and open for research.

These materials are a significant addition to the Libraries' holdings. Twentieth-century, family owned sugar plantations are increasingly rare, and their records, even harder to come by. Further, as many planting families have done, the most recent owners, the Platers, diversified their land, leasing portions for oil and gas production or selling it for development. As much as LSU's thousands of antebellum plantation papers document quintessential plantation life, culture, and economy of the first part of the 19th-century, this later collection tracks the common path of the 20th-century plantation.

The Acadia Plantation Records (1809-2004, bulk: 1940-1979) are comprised of 50 linear feet of correspondence, financial, legal, and miscellaneous documents, printed items, maps, plats, and photographs, plus an additional 30 manuscript volumes and 68 oversize folders. The papers document business and legal dealings of the plantation owners and operators, as well as plantation operations such as sugar cane farming, tenant farmers and their crops, and the planning and development of the plantation lands throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The LSU Libraries were fortunate that in addition to the donation of the records, the owners provided funds to subsidize the processing of the collection. Working under the supervision of Manuscripts Processing Librarian Rose Tarbell, Ashley Via and Rebecca Smith, two graduate assistants from the LSU School of Library and Information Science, processed the collection over 15 months. Portions of more recent records are restricted until 2014 or 2024. A finding aid is available at www.lib.lsu.edu/special/findaid/4906.pdf.

The Gay, Butler, and Plater families are represented in the family papers (circa 1834-2004, bulk: 1860-1980). These include personal, family, and business correspondence, legal and financial records, diaries, journals, record books, photographs, and recorded reminiscences. Of note are the Civil War diary of Mary Susan Gay; letters relating to late 19th century Louisiana politics, labor unrest in Lafourche Parish in the 1880s, and the hardship of the Great Depression, as well as a series of personal letters among female members of the family; family portraits and photographs illustrating the glamour and wealth of a turn-of-the-century, well-connected sugar planting family; photographs of the plantation complex; and the daily journals of Richard C. Plater, Jr. (1939-1970), in which he recorded both personal activities and plantation work. Also included are photographs and some letters relating to two family members who served as U. S. Congressmen, Edward J. Gay and Andrew Price. A preliminary inventory has been prepared, but the collection is presently unprocessed.

Finally, the Platers also donated the library of Acadia Plantation. Accumulated over more than 200 years and comprised of approximately 700 titles, it contains works on history, literature, folklore, children's literature, historic preservation, Southern history, Louisiana history and culture, and related subjects. The earliest volume is Rousseau's *Emilius*; or a *Treatise of Education* (1763). The collection is searchable through the LSU Libraries' online catalog.

For additional information on these collections, please contact Tara Z. Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.; tzachar@lsu.edu.

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OUR EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: THE BOY IN THE BUBBLE

Submitted by JoAnn Pospisil, Archivist, Baylor College of Medicine Archives

We archivists tend to have more information in our collections than we ever have time to appreciate and absorb. That certainly held true regarding our Baylor College of Medicine [BCM] Archives and the David Vetter story. Each of us read an article or two about David's life and situation, processed material related to David and briefly discussed the information, then returned to completing projects du jour. We knew of the event and some of the players, but not all the details, the 'why' and the 'how' of this failed, yet in some ways beneficial, experiment.

In the spring of 2005, American Experience Associate Producer Kate Walker called to inquire about BCM's photographs and film footage of David Vetter. As a closed archive, anytime we receive a request from outside the College we refer the researcher to our Public Affairs department for clearance. Public Affairs approved our participation in this project so we began researching. Many of the photographs and much film footage were released and published during David's lifetime so privacy was not a huge issue. Of course, there was additional material which had not been released and now is governed by HIPAA rules and/or by the Vetter family's wishes. We decided to follow the old adage "if in doubt, don't." To provide the historically correct setting for David's story, Ms. Walker requested footage of the Texas Medical Center, particularly Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, from the period of David's life, 1971-1984. We continued the search through our material. In early May 2005, Ms. Walker visited the BCM Archives to peruse our holdings and select items for the film's producers. She requested dubs of one-half inch VHS and three-quarter inch U-matic videos from our collection in a time-coded beta format. Most of the photos she chose were scanned and burned onto CDs. A few last-minute photograph requests were e-mailed to Ms. Walker as late as August.

Months passed following the research and supplying phase. Almost a year after the initial inquiry we received a card announcing that PBS would air American Experience's "The Boy in the Bubble" on Monday, April 10, 2006. After watching the broadcast we all agreed that the well-edited piece presented a balanced and objective view of David's short life. We all learned new aspects of David's story--about his birth, his medical supervision and care, his life in the sterile bubble and NASA-designed suit, and his death following the failed bone marrow transplant. The supporting website at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bubble/> is an excellent resource for additional details on David, his family, and the medical advances derived from his life and death.

Among other things, our "Agreement of Conditions for Use of Photographic, Musical, Motion Picture, and Audiovisual Works" form stipulates one-time use, credit lines for BCM Archives material, and a complimentary copy of any publication. We were delighted to see credit lines accompanying many photographs on the website plus film credits listed for the BCM Archives as an entity with special thanks to each archivist named individually: Diane Ware, JoAnn Pospisil, and Tiffany Schreiber. We are reminded of the education that research requests can provide to archival staff, and we are equally proud of our association with this excellent American Experience presentation.

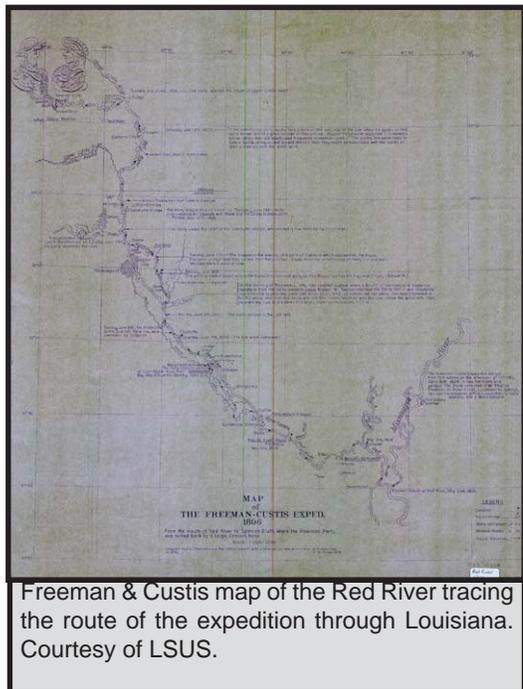
DOES YOUR REPOSITORY HAVE NEWS TO SHARE WITH SSA?

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

SEE PAGE 4 FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.

LSUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CELEBRATES THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FREEMAN & CUSTIS EXPEDITION OF 1806

Submitted by Laura McLemore



Freeman & Custis map of the Red River tracing the route of the expedition through Louisiana. Courtesy of LSUS.

LSUS Archives and Special Collections, in cooperation with the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences and the James Smith Noel Foundation, will host the Freeman and Custis Expedition of 1806 Bicentennial Symposium June 14-17, 2006. The symposium will celebrate “The Grand Excursion” of Thomas Freeman and Peter Custis in 1806 by re-examining the middle Red River region then and now. Historians, archivists, archaeologists, cultural anthropologists, folklorists, and Caddo tribal elders, will gather to share their knowledge, observations, and insights about the expedition and its impact on Louisiana history and culture.

Most Americans are familiar with the expeditions of Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, Dunbar and Hunter, but few are aware of Jefferson’s commission of a southwestern expedition aimed at the Red River. At the time of the Louisiana Purchase, the boundary between Louisiana and Texas was a critical issue that persisted for a number of years and involved particularly the region from the Sabine River northward to the Missouri River. President Jefferson was also intrigued by the possibilities for commerce in the region. The team he chose, Thomas Freeman, a civil engineer, and Peter Custis, a naturalist, traversed unexplored land between Natchitoches and southern Arkansas, or roughly from Avoyelles Parish in Louisiana to Bowie County, Texas. Their 1806 expedition

had lasting cultural, environmental, and ecological ramifications for the region and its inhabitants as well as immediate political consequences for the United States, which are illuminated by the presenters in the symposium.

Archivists Mary Linn Wernet of Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and Alfred Lemmon of The Historic New Orleans Collection will discuss available primary resources within the state related to the Freeman and Custis expedition and its historical milieu. The foremost scholar on the Freeman and Custis expedition, Dan Flores, will provide an overview tying together all the aspects of time, place, and peoples and their significance to Louisiana history and American history. Other presentations include mapping of Louisiana to 1806 and the mapping of the Red River to the present; territorial expansion and intercultural contact and their consequences, examining the way people applied and interpreted the information the Freeman and Custis expedition produced; and the first people of the Red River, the Caddo, before and after Freeman and Custis. A team of archaeologists will analyze the evidence gleaned about the Bayou Pierre community, composed of people of French, Spanish, and Caddo heritage. Caddo Elders will speak about the importance and sacredness of some of the areas that were a part of the Freeman & Custis expedition and their relevance to the Caddo people today, and Dr. Archie McDonald, of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, will address the boundary issues and implications of the expedition for the settlement of east Texas. LSUS Archives and Special Collections will provide an exhibition of maps documenting the Red River region from the late eighteenth century to the present. The program will conclude with a day-long excursion on the Red River as traversed by the explorers.

The symposium is funded in part by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the James Smith Noel Foundation. It is free and open to the public. Registration is required for anyone wishing to attend the luncheon on Thursday, dinner on Friday, or boat trip on Saturday. A complete program and registration form are available on the LSUS Archives and Special Collections website, <http://www.lsus.edu/library/archives/events/freeman.htm> or by contacting Laura McLemore, Archivist, at 318-797-5378.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. JOHN L. FERGUSON

Submitted by Jane Hooker, Arkansas History Commission



Dr. John L. Ferguson.
Courtesy of Arkansas
History Commission.

Dr. John L. Ferguson, of Little Rock, passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Oris Brandon Ferguson; a son, Dr. Clay W. Ferguson and his fiancée, Mandy McLaughlin, of Nashville, Arkansas; a daughter, Lee Gatewood and her husband Jim, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and grandchildren, Rachel and Grace Gatewood, and Britany and Zach Backus.

Dr. John L. Ferguson was a leader in preservation, archival work and historical research in Arkansas for over half a century. After becoming State Historian in 1960, Dr. Ferguson led the Arkansas History Commission's staff to grow from 3 to 20, and the operating budget to increase from \$18,600 to over \$1.2 million. Created by Act 215 of 1905, the Arkansas History Commission celebrated its 100th Anniversary on April 27, 2005. After nearly 45 years as the Director of the Arkansas History Commission, Dr. Ferguson retired on April 30, 2005.

John L. Ferguson was born in Nashville, Ark., on March 1, 1926 to Clarence Walter Ferguson and Nannye McCrary Ferguson. Raised on a farm in Howard County, Dr. Ferguson read every history book he could get his hands on as a youth. He never stopped learning about history and continued to share his knowledge with others.

Dr. Ferguson's love for history led him to pursue degrees in History in Arkansas and New Orleans. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Henderson State Teachers College (now Henderson State University), his Master of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas, and his Ph.D. from Tulane University. Dr. Ferguson was the head of the Department of Social Studies at Conway Baptist College, now Central Baptist College, for six years when the college was first formed in 1952. He also taught history at Arkansas Polytechnic College (now Arkansas Tech University) and Little Rock University (now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock) before coming to the Arkansas History Commission.

In 1960, Dr. Ferguson was hired as the State Historian for the Arkansas History Commission. He was only the third director of the Arkansas History Commission, which was created in 1905. At the time of Dr. Ferguson's hire, the Arkansas History Commission was located in the West Wing of the Old State House, and had both an archival and museum object collection. Dr. Ferguson greatly expanded the AHC's staff, funding and collection.

While at the Arkansas History Commission, Dr. Ferguson wrote several books on Arkansas History for students and scholars. Published in 1965, *Arkansas and the Civil War* explored the many facets of the Civil War in Arkansas. Dr. Ferguson wrote *Historic Arkansas*, which was published in 1966 as one of the first textbooks on Arkansas History available for schoolchildren. He also edited *Arkansas Lives*, a compilation of biographies of contemporary Arkansans in 1967. Most recently, Dr. Ferguson wrote *The Church Called County Line*, published in 2002. Dr. Ferguson's publications are numerous – from scholarly articles and books to an Arkansas history-coloring book. Through his writing, Dr. Ferguson educated young and old about history throughout Arkansas.

Dr. Ferguson's work to preserve and interpret Arkansas History also goes beyond the written word. He spoke to private citizens, organizations and government officials from city to state levels about the importance of preserving Arkansas' past. He also encouraged his staff to work with the public and other cultural institutions to ensure artifacts and archival material are properly preserved and displayed.

continued on next page

As the director of the Arkansas History Commission, Dr. Ferguson oversaw special history projects and the development of new preservation programs. The Williamsburg Team was formed in 1968 to survey the state for historic structures, and included staff from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and federal historic preservation specialists. Dr. Ferguson traveled the state with the Williamsburg Team to identify historic structures. The survey resulted in one of the first reports that identified historic structures and the need for historic preservation work in Arkansas.

After the Williamsburg Team completed their initial survey of the state, Dr. Ferguson worked to ensure that historic preservation became an important part of Arkansas State Government. In 1968, he used funds from the Arkansas History Commission as matching funds for federal money to establish the Historic Preservation Program in Arkansas.

With the formation of the Department of Parks and Tourism in 1971, Dr. Ferguson's duties extended to overseeing other history agencies. Dr. Ferguson became the director of the History Department under the Department of Parks and Tourism, which included the Arkansas History Commission, the Old State House Museum, Arkansas Territorial Restoration and the Historic Preservation Program. As restructuring in State Government came once again, the other historical agencies were incorporated into the new Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 1975, now the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Dr. Ferguson decided to have the Arkansas History Commission remain with the more established Department of Parks and Tourism.

With the Bicentennial of the founding of the United States approaching, Dr. Ferguson was appointed the Chairman of the Arkansas American Revolution Bicentennial Committee. In the mid 1970s, Dr. Ferguson directed two groups of staff, one for the Arkansas History Commission and one for the Bicentennial. He worked with the public, local agencies, state agencies, national agencies and even international governments in planning the Bicentennial celebrations in Arkansas. During the Bicentennial, the Committee gave numerous grants to museums, organizations and local government to participate in the festivities. In addition to the Bicentennial of the United States, Dr. Ferguson was active in the Arkansas Sesquicentennial celebrations in 1986 and served on the Board for the Sesquicentennial.

While special committees were important, Dr. Ferguson was always concerned in properly preserving and making available to the public for research the historical treasures of Arkansas. In the late 1970s, Dr. Ferguson led a campaign to move the Arkansas History Commission into a new building that was better suited for the preservation and research of the State Archives. After much lobbying, a new building was approved by the Arkansas General Assembly to house the Arkansas History Commission and the Arkansas State Library. Dr. Ferguson consulted archivists from the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) to ensure the building was properly designed for an archives. The Arkansas History Commission moved into the MultiAgency Complex, known as the Big MAC Building, at One Capitol Mall in 1979. With the new building, Dr. Ferguson expanded the role of the Arkansas History Commission to include more microfilming of collections and newspapers, as well as a Conservation Lab.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Ferguson traveled the state to find and preserve the history of Arkansas. He encouraged the public, organizations, and the State Government to donate their records to the Arkansas History Commission. Without his efforts, priceless historical material would have been lost forever.

Not only did Dr. Ferguson work to preserve Arkansas History through the Arkansas History Commission, he also contributed to the interpretation of Arkansas History through donations of his family's historical belongings to museums throughout the state. One can see wagons, furniture, farm equipment and salt kettles from the Ferguson farm in museums in Dumas, Arkansas Post and Stuttgart. Dr. Ferguson helped small museums and county historical societies across the state in many ways.

Dr. Ferguson's life-long commitment to preserving and interpreting the History of Arkansas was apparent in his numerous accomplishments. As director of the Arkansas History Commission for forty-five years, Dr. Ferguson saved a multitude of historical records and artifacts from destruction. He worked to bring the knowledge of Arkansas History and the importance of proper preservation to every corner of the state. Through his work with archives, historical societies, historic preservation and museums, he was a leader in all aspects of preservation.

UTSA'S WARDEN EPHEMERA COLLECTION OF WESTERN AMERICANA

Submitted by Traci JoLeigh Drummond

The Warden Collection of Western Americana, at the Archives and Special Collections Department of the University of Texas at San Antonio Library, consists of many rare and first edition books covering a wide spectrum of topics in this nation's Westward expansion. The Warden Collection was purchased by the UTSA Library in 1973 from R. D. Warden of Great Falls, Montana. Mr. Warden, a former newspaper reporter, editor and publisher, accumulated his collection of almost 9,000 items of Western Americana over a span of 20 years. Mr. Warden's collection focuses on three identifiable areas: Northwest Americana and the state of Montana; Southwest Americana; and Western Americana. The collection contains several items related to the exemplary artist of the West, Frederic Remington. In addition to books, the collection also includes art reproductions, magazine and newspaper articles, and other ephemeral material.

Archivist Traci Drummond recently inventoried the ephemera, making it easily accessible to researchers for the first time since the collection was purchased in 1973 (most items in the collection were created in the early-to-mid-20th century). Materials include brochures and maps for state and national parks of the Western and Northwestern states; art prints, gallery guides, exhibition catalogs, periodicals and prints (some reproduction) of art and artists of Western subjects; maps, government documents, tourist brochures, souvenir books, Native American history, and articles about the cities and regions of the American West. While there are few primary resources in the Warden Ephemera Collection, Louis A. Parson's Metallurgy Trip Diary (1909) is an outstanding item. The diary details visits to the Washoe Smelter of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. at Anaconda, Montana and to the Boston and Montana Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining Company Smelter at Great Falls, Montana. The diary includes an index, several drawings, and detailed descriptions of the operations of the smelters.

The finding aid for the Warden Ephemera Collection of Western Americana will be added to Texas Archival Resources Online in the near future. Any queries about the Collection can be directed to Traci Drummond, Archivist, at archives@utsa.edu.

NEW WEBSITE ON-LINE FOR REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PRESERVATION

Submitted by Robin Berenholz

The Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP) is pleased to announce the launch of our new website at www.PreserveCollections.org. RAP, a national network of nonprofit organizations with expertise in the field of conservation and preservation, provides information and resources on preservation and conservation for cultural institutions and the public throughout the United States.

The new website includes a calendar of Training and Educational Opportunities; a list of Conservation and Preservation Services provided by RAP members; links to related organizations; and a Publications & Resources section with a searchable bibliography of full text reports and documents, and specialized bibliographies prepared to answer common collection care concerns for libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and house museums. Please come visit us at www.PreserveCollections.org.

The RAP website is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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FORT WORTH'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY REVEALED BY GARCIA HISPANIC HISTORY COLLECTION

Submitted by Tom Kellam, Fort Worth Public Library



Sam Garcia (right) with two friends at an American GI Forum event, 1981 Sam Garcia (right) with two friends at an American GI Forum event, 1981.
Courtesy of Fort Worth Public Library.

Fort Worth Public Library's Genealogy, History and Archives Unit is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of the Samuel Garcia Hispanic History Collection.

The Samuel Garcia Hispanic History Collection consists of approximately 100 linear feet of correspondence, newspaper clippings, magazines, and memorabilia relating to Fort Worth's Hispanic community. The collection contains material relating to the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The North Texas Chapter of the American GI Forum, the Fort Worth Hispanic Debutant Association, the United Hispanic Council and other civic organizations. The collection also has a complete run of Community News and Events, a local Hispanic newspaper, Hispanic business directories, and extensive clipping files relating to Hispanic social and political issues.

The first section of the collection, consisting of some of Mr. Garcia's personal papers and some organizational records, arrived at the Library in

2000 – 2001. The bulk of the material, about 80 linear feet, arrived in March 2006.

Sam Garcia was born in Mexico. His family moved to Oklahoma when he was about two years old. He grew up on a farm near Pittsburg, Oklahoma. Educational opportunities were limited for farm children in rural Oklahoma during the Depression; Mr. Garcia never made it through fourth grade. (1)

When the Second World War started, Garcia joined the Army. His Experience in the Army, he said "was an education", a life changing experience. "If I hadn't gone into the Army, I probably would have stayed right there in the Hills of Oklahoma..." Instead, he returned to Oklahoma after earning three Bronze Stars, determined to make a better life. He sold insurance for a while in Oklahoma, then moved to Fort Worth in 1958. (2)

After a rough start in Fort Worth, he established his own successful construction business in 1960. As his business grew and flourished, Mr. Garcia took an avid interest in the civic affairs of his adopted hometown, especially its Hispanic community. He was a member of the Fort Worth Housing Authority for several years, and its chairman for two. He helped found Fort Worth's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and for ten years edited and published Community News and Events, a newspaper devoted to the local Hispanic community. His wartime experience led him to a long involvement with the American GI Forum, a Hispanic veteran's organization. He was North Texas Chairman of the Forum for several years. Mr. Garcia has also been a member of the International Good Neighbor Council, the Human Relations Council, the United Hispanic Council, the Veterans Outreach Council and numerous other civic organizations. (3)

In 1985, Mr. Garcia was one of the founding members of the Hispanic Debutant Association. Each year, this organization honors up to 12 young Hispanic men and women who have exhibited outstanding scholarship and leadership qualities and shown a devotion to community service. The Association presents the young people to society and awards scholarships. Over the last 22 years, the Association has awarded between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in scholarships.



Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 1980s
Sam Garcia, top row, second from left.
Courtesy of Fort Worth Public Library.

Over the years, Garcia kept careful records of his activities in these various organizations. He also collected material from newspapers, magazines and other sources documenting Hispanic history in Fort Worth and Texas. Eventually this material became a sizable collection on Hispanic issues and history, filling up many shelves – and at least one closet – in Mr. Garcia's company offices. Mr. Garcia realized that he had created something that would be a valuable resource for local historians, scholars, genealogists and anyone interested in Hispanic history in Fort Worth. He decided that the collection needed to be placed in the Fort Worth Public Library's Genealogy, History and Archives Unit, where it could be made available to the public.

As part of the Library's programming for Hispanic History Month, Mr. Garcia will give a lecture on his collection, his work with Fort Worth's Hispanic community, and his knowledge of Hispanic history in Fort Worth. The Sam Garcia Papers: Documenting Hispanic History In Fort Worth will be presented September 9th, 10:30 AM in the Library's Tandy Lecture Hall. This program is part of a lecture and workshop series the Library sponsors in cooperation with Texas Christian University's Center For Texas Studies. (For more information on this lecture series and the Center For Texas Studies, visit <http://www.texasstudies.com>.)

For information on the Samuel Garcia Hispanic History Collection contact: Tom Kellam, Archivist/Librarian Genealogy, History and Archives, Fort Worth Public Library, 817-871-7740, tkellam@fortworthlibrary.org

Notes:

- 1.) Kennedy, Bud "Proud patriot began as illegal immigrant" *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Nov. 10, 2005
- 2.) Ibid.
- 3.) Ibid. Rogge, Kara "Pair to be honored share history of service to Fort Worth" *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Nov. 4, 1985; "Sam Garcia Recognized as Fort Worth's 'Volunteer of the Year' " *Community News* April 1990



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13TH AMENDMENT EXAMINED AT PEARCE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Submitted by Julie Holcomb, MLIS, CA



Pearce Museum docent, James Williford, left, shows Corsicana High School student LaToya Brown the courtesy signed copy of the 13th Amendment. Courtesy of the *Corsicana Daily Sun*.

The Pearce Civil War Museum at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas hosted a special exhibit in February 2006 of the 13th Amendment, which forever settled the question of slavery in the United States.

The 13th Amendment was a featured attraction of an exhibit celebrating the journey to freedom. Included in the exhibit was Phillis Wheatley's book of poems published in London in 1773. Wheatley was the first black poet in the United States. Also included in the exhibit were pamphlets published by abolitionists fighting to end slavery in the United States and a first edition copy of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The heart of the exhibit was a courtesy signed copy of the 13th Amendment. One of thirteen copies, the amendment was written by the House clerk shortly after the amendment was passed by the House of Representatives on January 31, 1865. The document was signed by Abraham Lincoln, his vice-president Hannibal Hamlin, and Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax as well as 147 senators and congressmen who voted for the amendment. Of particular note, congressman and future president James Garfield signed the document twice. Garfield was assassinated in 1881.

The exhibit also featured a typescript annotated and signed by Thurgood Marshall and signed by Channing Tobias. The manuscript outlined the strategic plan for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1952-53. At this time, Marshall was Chief Counsel for the NAACP and Tobias was Chairman of the NAACP. Each section of the manuscript detailed the organization's current status or strategy. For example, under the section "Physical Security," Marshall and Tobias noted the presence of an anti-lynching bill before Congress. In 1954, the Supreme Court issued the landmark decision *Brown v. the Board of Education* ending segregation of public schools. Marshall, who represented and won more cases before the United States Supreme Court than any other American, was appointed to the Court in 1967 by President Lyndon Johnson.

The 13th Amendment, the Pearce Civil War Collection, and the exhibit were featured in several newspaper and television news stories including an interactive video developed by the *Dallas Morning News* and available on their website (<http://www.dallasnews.com/s/dws/spe/2006/amendment/>).

After leaving Corsicana, the 13th Amendment traveled to the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago; the Frederick Douglass Museum and Hall of Fame for Caring Americans in Washington D.C.; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site in Atlanta; the North Carolina State History Museum in Raleigh, N.C.; and the Burlington Times-News Building in Burlington, N.C. The tour was organized by Historical Collectible Auctions in Burlington, N.C. to celebrate Black History Month and to promote their "Special Edition" auction held March 30. At that auction, the courtesy signed copy of the 13th Amendment sold to a private collector for a record-setting \$1,868,750.

LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark

Ryan Semmes, former Assistant Archivist at the McNeese State University Archives in Lake Charles, LA, has been appointed the Archivist of the DC Community Archives, in the Washingtonian Division of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library (the District of Columbia Public Library). He manages a collection of materials that focus on the communities of DC, as well as the individuals and organizations that have shaped the history of the Nation's Capital.

Staff from the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge is working to assist the elections department and the Orleans Registrar of Voters. Staff members are commuting to New Orleans daily to help with the city's electoral process.

Faye Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries for Special Collections at Louisiana State University, was a presenter at the National Humanities Day program on Capitol Hill on March 1, 2006. Each year the Humanities Alliance lobbies Congress for support of humanities programs and grant agencies. Presentations are made by representatives of agencies that have received humanities grants during the previous year. Phillips focused on the National Endowment for the Humanities emergency grant received by the LSU Libraries Special Collections for assistance in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts for colleagues in South Louisiana.

Faye Phillips and Elaine Smyth, Curator of Special Collections, also served on a panel discussion about hurricane recovery efforts at the Louisiana Historical Association on March 24, 2006.

Stephen P. Bruno, Custodian of the Notarial Archives in New Orleans, LA, participated in a panel presentation at the 2006 legislative conference of the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks, held in March in Washington, D.C. The session title was "Pre and Post Disaster Recovery Panel – Lessons Learned."

Notarial Archives Research Manager **Howard Margot** is a new member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Phyllis Kinnison, Project Librarian – Political Papers, in the Special Collections Division of Hill Memorial Library at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the library and information studies honor society. Eligibility for membership in Beta Phi Mu is by invitation of the faculty from an American Library Association accredited professional degree program.

Russell James, an MLIS student at Louisiana State University, has published his first book, *Too Late for Blood: Florida Volunteers in the Mexican War* (Heritage Books, 2006), a peer-reviewed monograph about the men of Florida who volunteered for service during this 1840s-era war. James holds an M.A. in history from The University of West Florida and has previously served as the archivist at the public library in Columbus, Mississippi, and as a records manager at The University of West Florida.

Susan Tucker, Curator of Books & Records at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, at Tulane University in New Orleans has published a new book, *The Scrapbook in American Life* (Temple University Press, 2006), with colleagues Katherine Ott and Patricia P. Buckler. The volume examines scrapbooks from a historical and cultural perspective.

Janet Neugebauer, Senior Archivist for Photographs and Special Projects with the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, recently returned to full-time status after a one-year, half-time grant funded leave of absence to work on the biography of West Texas statesman George Mahon, who represented the 19th Congressional district for 44 years. Neugebauer is the editor/author of numerous books including, *Lambhead Legacy: The Ranch Diary of Watt Matthews and Plains Farmer: The Diary of William G. DeLoach, 1914-1964*.

Leadership Log continued

Patricia Clark has joined the staff of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University, on February 1, 2006 as the new Head of Reference. Clark comes to Texas Tech from Waco, Texas, where she worked at the Waco-McLennan County Library.

Mike Widener is resigning as Head of Special Collections at the Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas at Austin, effective June 30, 2006. He has accepted appointment as Rare Book Librarian at the Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale University. Mike has worked at the Tarlton Law Library since 1991. He and his wife Emma will miss all their SSA friends and the great annual meetings.

Amanda York Focke was awarded the 5th Annual Beth Shapiro Award for Library Innovation at the Fondren Library, Rice University.

**EMPLOYMENT POSTING:
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST AND RECORDS
MANAGER**

The Albert B. Alkek Library at Texas State University – San Marcos is seeking qualified applicants for the position of University Archivist and Records Manager. This new position is responsible for establishing and administering the University Archives and Records Program at Texas State and reports to the Assistant Vice President, University Library.

Responsibilities: Develop and oversee the university-wide records management program and establish collection development, processing, and collection maintenance policies for the University Archives. Update and maintain the University's records retention and disposition schedules. Promote the records management program within the University community. Provide reference and instruction services for the University Archives. Engage in professional activities in accordance with Texas State University's standards for promotion for professional librarians.

Complete posting and requirements available at: <http://www.library.txstate.edu/admin-serv/lib-jobs.asp>. Applicants can apply online at: <http://www.humanresources.txstate.edu/>

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