



North Carolina Archivist

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Society of North Carolina Archivists

Our Greatest Resource

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What is SNCA and why are you willing to volunteer time with it? I got these questions from students and friends this past year while trying to fit SNCA meetings into my already busy schedule. I took this as an opportunity to share with non-archivists and give them a better understanding of what we do and why this organization is so important both for me personally and for the archival profession. Now I have the opportunity to share some of my thoughts with my fellow SNCA colleagues.

The Society of North Carolina Archivists events became a regular item on my calendar almost ten years ago. I began attending meetings while still in graduate school and quickly got more involved. I was looking for ways to become active in professional organizations but could not afford to travel to national meetings. SNCA was perfect since it was affordable on a student budget and offered informative programs and workshops that provided practical suggestions for issues I faced at work. My part-time position in graduate school led to a full-time position as the archivist at Guilford College; I was able to stay in North Carolina and continue to benefit from SNCA.

For me, the greatest benefit provided by my membership in SNCA is the connection to other archivists. I have always worked in archival settings with only one full-time professional. Luckily, I am in a library on a friendly college campus; I am not totally alone. I am, however, the only archivist. There are times when I really would like a second opinion from someone who knows some of the idiosyncrasies of archives. Technology now allows us to subscribe to listservs and post questions to hundreds of colleagues, but sometimes it works best to communicate directly with another human being. SNCA meetings are a great opportunity to meet others who face some of the same challenges that I do. The events are large enough to attract a nice variety of people but not so large as to be overwhelm or isolate members.

The blessing of being in a smaller archive is that you get to do a little bit of everything. The challenge is that you have to be able to do a little of bit of everything! Sometimes I hear colleagues say, "Why should I waste time

It's the key — get involved

Jason Tomberlin

WOW! What can I say about the past year? This is a very difficult column to write. I actually tried to steal some ideas from previous outgoing presidents' columns,

but nothing worked for what I wanted to say. The entire year has been an honor and a pleasure. However, I do

not want to comment on just the previous year. My entire association with SNCA has been a wonderful, enlightening experience—and will continue to be as I transition to the Education Committee.

In March I was asked to participate in a panel session of recent graduates during a

going to professional meetings when I have too much to do in my understaffed archives already?" or "I don't have the staff or budget so why should I spend time hearing about projects at _____ (UNC, Duke, State Archives, etc.)." The answer, of course, is that when you build a network of peers, you access their knowledge and support. I am grateful that I have as a resource fellow SNCA members from both large and small institutions. When I want to see how

meeting at UNC. The two other panel members and I were asked to look back at our graduate educations and evaluate how it had prepared us for the realities of our current jobs. Each of us had good and bad things to say about our experiences... mostly good! On the other hand, I told the audience that one of the best experiences I have had in my early career did not come from graduate school—it was SNCA. I attempted to impress on the graduate students in attendance the value of participation in a professional organization. I encouraged them to get involved at whatever level they could. Attending meetings and workshops, working with committees, presenting pa-

pers, participating on panels, helping to plan events... whatever they could do...*get involved*.

I encourage the readers of this column to consider the same phrase—***get involved***. SNCA is constantly striving to better serve its members. The executive board is always looking for interested individuals to work with any of SNCA's committees. If you are, or if you think you are, one of these individuals, I encourage you to contact any of SNCA's board members. The time you put into working for SNCA will be some of the best time you spend all year.

Again, thank you for a wonderful year.

Resource— continued

someone else has tackled a tricky issue, I contact a member who has experienced a similar issue. I have called on people I meet at SNCA meetings when I want a second opinion on a situation. Why should I spend my limited time reinventing something that already works for someone else? I may have to adapt the process for my particular setting, but to find out what has not worked for others in advance can save me a lot of headaches.

As President, I want to en-

courage all archivists, as well as non-archivists working in archival settings, to get involved in SNCA. Our daily work can often seem overwhelming, with staff shortages, budget cuts, and ever increasing standards and demands. With our efforts, SNCA will continue to serve a dual role as an advocate for the North Carolina archival community and as a supportive organization encouraging collaboration among a wonderful community of colleagues.

"BEST EXPERIENCES DID NOT COME FROM GRADUATE SCHOOL... IT WAS SNCA"

NHPRC Goes to Senate

Tim Pyatt

On June 21, 2005, the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD and the Judiciary [approved](#) a figure for NHPRC of \$7.5 million [\$5.5 million for grants and \$2 million for program administration.] Next the bill must be approved by the Senate. The SAA has asked members to continue their support during this period and to focus letters to our Senators on the Appropriations Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD and the Judiciary. For more information see the [NHPRC Funding](#) page at the SAA web site.

As you are aware, the FY2006 budget recommendations released by the White House on February 7 proposed to essentially eliminate the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration. In the President's budget **NHPRC has been targeted for zero funding for grants and zero funding for staff to administer the NHPRC and its highly important grants program.**

NHPRC makes grants each year to institutions across the country to preserve historical records, publish historical papers, and to make historical materials more accessible. Its grants help state and local organizations:

- edit and publish historical documents
- develop archival programs
- promote the preservation and use of historical records
- promote regional and national coordination in addressing major archival issues.

NHPRC leads the nation in supporting research and implementing scalable solutions to the challenges of electronic records. In North Carolina, a wide range of institutions have benefited from NHPRC support. The archival programs at universities large and small, including Catawba College, North Carolina Central University, Duke University, UNC-CH, and UNC Pembroke, have received NHPRC grants. NHPRC also has supplied grants to the cities of Fayetteville and Greensboro to preserve their municipal records. Since 1976 NHPRC awarded \$1,456,604 to North Carolina organizations as part of its historical records program and \$1,815,752 to support publications projects.

Of special note to SNCA members, NHPRC funds the operation and programs of the N.C. State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). Over the years this funding has allowed the SHRAB to offer an archival re-grants program, survey N.C. historical records, and sponsor the OPEN-NET cable programs on archival topics. Currently the SHRAB has NHPRC funding to create and offer the "Archival Basics" workshops that SNCA is co-sponsoring. These two-day workshops target those new to the profession and have been a great success. For more information about the SHRAB and its programs, please see:

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/shrab/default.htm>

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHR), and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) as well as other organizations are still actively [lobbying Congress](#) to request that the Senate increase the funding to \$8 million dollars for NHPRC grants along with \$2 million in funding in the NARA budget for NHPRC administration of this function. Please encourage support for this important program that helps insure America's past is preserved for future generations.

Archives Week

Jason Tomberlin



Image Courtesy of the [North Carolina State Archives](http://www.ncarchivists.org)

Archives Week is quickly approaching. SNCA's Fall 2005 meeting in Wilmington will be the official kick-off for this celebration.

SNCA has a web page dedicated solely to Archives Week and the activities surrounding it. We hope that you and your institution will participate. The web page contains a planning guide, calendar (to which we hope you will post your plans/events/activities for Archives Week) and contact information.

The url is: http://www.ncarchivists.org/archives_week

Spring SNCA Meeting—Photographs courtesy of Stephen Fletcher



Linda Simmons-Henry,
Director of Library Services,
Saint Augustine's College



John Aarsen, 82nd Airborne
Division War Memorial Museum



Gwen Gosney Erickson and Jason
Tomberlin

Spring Meeting continued



Wanda Riggins, UNCW, and Steve Mandeville-Gamble, NCSU



Bobby C. Wynn,
Director of Library
Services, Fayetteville
State University



Anders Selhorst, UNCG; Katie Nash and Stephen Catlett, Greensboro H. M.

Workshops

On May 2, 2005, **Mountain Area Cultural Resources Emergency Network** hosted its sixth disaster preparedness and response workshops for museums, historic sites, archives, and libraries. This one-day hands-on workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn mold prevention from colleagues who handled the Summer 2003 mold outbreak in the historic Main House at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

Presenters covered topics on managing a mold emergency, protecting museum collections and people, working with contractors for dehumidification and mold remediation services, environmental monitoring (i.e. temperature and relative humidity) and understanding the interior environment of your building, using monitoring data to predict the likelihood of a mold outbreak, and managing building moisture and mold prevention.



On February 26, 2005, five Society of North Carolina Archivists professionals presented a workshop at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill called "**Finding a Job in the Archives.**" The workshop was co-sponsored by UNC's Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists. Nine graduate students participated in the four hour workshop. Among the topics discussed were learning how to read and decipher job postings; what students can do while they are in school to prepare for the job search; how to improve resumes and tailor cover letters to particular job openings; and how to succeed in an interview. Through discussions, small group work, and interactive presentations, the students learned directly from North Carolina archival professionals, and had an opportunity to ask specific questions about their own job searches.



The SNCA professionals who facilitated the workshop included: Ruth Bryan, Archivist and Manuscript Cataloger from the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University; Lynn Eaton, the Hartman Center Reference Archivist, also from the RBMSCL at Duke; Jill Katte, Technical Services Archivist from the Duke University Archives; Jason Tomberlin, Special Projects Librarian from the North Carolina Collection at UNC-CH; and Kathy Wisser, the NC ECHO Metadata Coordinator.

SNCA hopes to offer other workshops in future years. We would like to reach a broad audience of archives, library science, and public history students.

Appointments, Retirements, Promotions

Anders Selhorst has been hired as Special Projects Archivist at **The University of North Carolina at Greensboro's** University Archives and Manuscripts. He received his BA in Classical Studies from UNCG, MA in Education from Tufts University, and MLIS in Library and Information Studies from UNCG. An-

ders will be processing, and digitizing collections as well as encoding finding aids using EAD.



Elizabeth Arnold Hull has left Duke RBMSCL and is now the Assistant Archivist/Librarian at the **Forest History Society** in Durham.



Vicki Johnson joined the Special Collections Team at **Wake Forest University's** Z. Smith Reynolds Library as Archives Librarian on February 28th, 2005. Vicki was formerly an Archivist at the Medical School of Wake Forest University.



Grants and Special Projects

The **Women Veterans Historical Project** has created an endowed fund and started a campaign to raise money to conduct additional oral history interviews for the Women Veterans Historical Collection. This year the Project plans to interview women who served in Korea and Vietnam.

With the help of NC ECHO and NCEAD, UNCG University Archives staff has implemented a new EAD program. We hope to start putting our EAD finding aids on the web in the spring

Betty Carter, **University of North Carolina at Greensboro** University Archivist, has applied for a grant from Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro to digitize the Civil Rights Oral History Collection

at UNCG in collaboration with the Civil Rights Oral History Collection at the Greensboro Public Library. Both collections contain audio tapes and transcripts of local civil rights, community, and governmental leaders. The grant will allow both institutions to put the transcripts on the web so they can be accessed by researchers.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro University Archives staff have implemented the ADA Compliance Project to make approximately 500 University Archives and Manuscripts web pages as well as over 1,000 Women Veterans Historical Collection web pages compliant with ADA standards. This is part of the campus-wide project.



The Special Collections Department of the Atkins Library, **University of North Carolina at Charlotte** has received a substantial endowment from the estate of Anita Stewart Brown. The bequest was made in order to help preserve the memory of Harry Golden, best selling author of *Only in America*, publisher of *The Carolina Israelite*, and civil rights activist.

Among anticipated uses for the annual income from the fund are a permanent exhibit on Golden, a website devoted to Golden and his times, and a visiting scholars program to encourage use of the Golden Papers and related 20th century collections held by the department.

Grants and Special Projects, continued

The **North Carolina State Archives** has been selected as one of thirty-five institutions to participate in the Climate Notebook® Field Trial II grant conducted by the Image Permanence Institute of the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. The grant is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Participants

were selected from the institutions participating in the Preservation Environment Monitor® and Climate Notebook® Field Trial I grant. In the Field Trial II grant participants will receive advanced training in detailed data analysis. The training will focus on how participants can take actions to improve the collection environment, obtain

a better understanding of HVAC systems, and improve report writing using the Climate Notebook® environmental monitoring software. Sarah Koonts, head of the Collections Management Branch at the North Carolina State Archives, will serve as the Archives' lead staff member on all grant training and data analysis.

Exhibits and Events

B.W. Wells Association hosted the second annual open house at **Rock Cliff Farm** on April 2, 2005. This was an unique opportunity for community members to tour the home site and farm which is located north of Raleigh. For more information on the home site, go to the [self-guided walking tour of Rock Cliff Farm](#).



The research and visual resources of the **Outer Banks History Center's** archives provided various materials for a gallery exhibit highlighting the region's role in the Civil War. The exhibit, ***Turmoil in the Tar Heel State: The Civil War in Northeastern North Carolina***, opened with a debut presentation at the Roanoke Island Festival Park Film Theater on Friday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. It will remain on view through August 28,

2005. Local Civil War enthusiasts Mike Tames and Dennis Schurr provided artifacts and expertise for the exhibit; Kelly Grimm led design and production. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; weekend hours vary seasonally to correspond with hours of Festival Park.



Writers wanted!

Looking for an opportunity to be a SNCA volunteer?

How about writing a column for this newsletter? Contact Paula Brown (paulabrown01@yahoo.com) or Jan Blodgett (jablodgett@davidson.edu)

Society of North Carolina Archivists



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Editor:

Paula Brown
Gaston County Public Library

The Society of North Carolina Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a common concern in the preservation and use of archival and manuscript materials.

The purpose of the society is to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in the preservation of the archival and manuscript resources in North Carolina; to share information on archival methodology and the availability of research materials; to provide a forum for discussion of matters of common concern as they pertain to the archival profession in North Carolina; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines. Dues are \$25.00 per year.

PS — Show Us the Money

Jason Tomberlin



I started off my year as president by writing about the Michelle Francis Endowment, so I will conclude my year by doing the same. Please consider a donation to this worthwhile fund. The revenue generated by this endowment goes to support many of SNCA's efforts, such as the Gene Williams Award and the Grants to Student Archival Societies.

If you have any questions about donating to this fund, please contact either SNCA's treasurer [chris.meekins@ncmail.net] or SNCA's development officer [thomas.harkins@duke.edu].