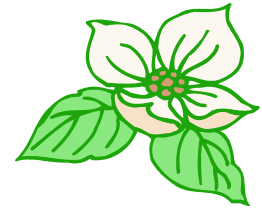


North Carolina Archivist



President's Message

Katherine Wisser

For my first President's Message, I originally intended to celebrate the success of the Spring 2003 meeting held in Raleigh this past month. Two events, though, happened in the immediate aftermath of the meeting that reminded me much more clearly what it is that we archivists do and why we do it. The first was the recovery of the North Carolina copy of the Bill of Rights, and the second was the outbreak of war in Iraq. Celebrating our society's success without making mention of these two rather monumental events seems to be a hollow effort.

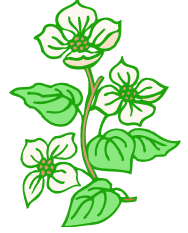
The missing Bill of Rights copy was recovered on March 19th by FBI agents during a sting operation in Philadelphia. It is one of fourteen hand-written original copies of the Bill of Rights known to exist. Penned in 1789 during the first federal Congress meeting in New York and distributed among the various represented states as copies of the proposed amendments, the North Carolina copy was retained in the statehouse for seventy-six years, and, in the terrible years of the Civil War, a union soldier with General Sherman's army is believed to have stolen the copy and taken it home to Tippecanoe, Ohio.

Researchers believe that the soldier sold it in 1866. For the next 135 years the document was in private hands. It was periodically offered for sale through intermediaries, often to North Carolina and later to the National Constitution Center for four million dollars. The National Constitution Center contacted state officials and the FBI, and the document was secured. Replevin laws took effect, and the document will be returned to the state.

This somewhat unbelievable story provides an occasion to look back at both the document's history and the role that archivists have played in the action. Replevin is not a new feature of archival endeavors in North Carolina history. In 1974, the state archives sued for the recapture of a letter written by George Washington to the governor and council of state of North Carolina (see <http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/centennial/features/replevin.htm>). The North Carolina State Archives was successful in its acquisition of this letter and thereby retained another piece of historical documentation for the public. While the Bill of Rights may be a trophy piece to some repositories, the significance of a document like this for the public of North Carolina extends beyond its artifactual significance as a valuable historical document. Its contents, as evidence of the founding of the nation, provides a connection between the people and the state that is tantamount to the survival of its archives and cultural heritage institutions.

In addition, the story itself is remarkable in the role that archivists played in its recovery. The National Constitution Center should be applauded for its responsive (and responsible) action in notifying the authorities of the document's reappearance. But it is the life of the document itself that interests me most. As telling and fascinating as an original copy of the Bill of Rights can be for constitutional historians, North Carolina historians, and American history enthusiasts, the document tells us much more. It tells of a confusing and terrible time in American history, when documents were considered spoils of war. It tells of the growing value placed on the artifacts of our history, and the development of a profession and a community of professionals that in its recovery have laid solid foundations of legal and cultural ramifications for the coming century.

The story of the North Carolina copy of the Bill of Rights reminds us what we have accomplished as a profession as we face yet another national trial. War, by its nature, is a traumatic event for the world, and as archivists, it is not only our responsibility to be safe-keepers of historical documents but in many ways to be the recorders of events for future researchers. The war itself, while not being fought on American soil, involves all our lives, not just personally, but as a society. We have the opportunity to document what this war means to us at this time. Look around your community, your college or university campus, and think about how the war is affecting the lives of those around you. It is our responsibility to take a proactive stance in collecting information about our communities, which will help present and future patrons come to grips with the turmoil in which we are currently engaged. Rather than be passive receivers of history, archivists can be active participants.



The success of the Spring 2003 meeting, with over 120 attendees, outstanding sponsorship, and panels and plenary addresses that made attendance really special reminds me what a strong and exciting organization we are. My question, then, is how can the society take advantage of this exciting time in archives? What can we do as a society to make these times less confusing and more productive? How can we as a group of professionals invested in the events around us succeed in the next few months to retain the history of today? It is a challenge, and I think we are just the group to meet that challenge.

Hoping for peace and the safety of all.



Meet the Executive Board 2003-2004

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Message From the Outgoing President

Janis Holder

As I write this message, we are a country at war. Our minds are occupied with the safety and well-being of both our troops in Iraq and the innocent civilians caught up in the war. We are treated to a ringside seat of the conflict courtesy of our media – at times it is a view both disturbing and intentionally shocking. At the very least, it makes us fearful about the future of international relations and doubtful that there will ever be peace among nations of the world. At best, it gives us reason to hope that tyrants and dictators will not be allowed to continue their persecution of innocent people.

In our own little corner of the world, however, I can honestly say that I am hopeful ... hopeful about the future of preserving the past. SNCA has had a very productive year, under the leadership of a progressive executive board. I have been impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment, and their willingness to take risks. The spring meeting in Raleigh was a fine example of this. The three-day celebration of one hundred years of archives in North Carolina was the result of much hard work and careful planning on the part of the Program Committee. Our collaboration with NC ECHO attracted people from cultural repositories across the state as well as SNCA “regulars.” Costs were offset by recruitment of sponsors for the event, and vendors were not only present at the poster fair, but in some cases contributed to the meeting sessions. Attendance at the meeting was well over one hundred, and if the comments I heard were any indication, it was a wildly successful event.

Other positives:

- Membership is up this year, with many of the new members students;
- SNCA is financially stable, with total assets over \$26,000;
- A new position, Electronic Resources Chair, was created and filled;
- The Long Range Planning Committee report was completed;
- The “buddy” system and job board continue to be popular at our meetings;
- Publication of a scholarly journal began and the SNCA brochure was revised and reprinted; and
- Collaboration with the ARMA Triangle Chapter will provide an educational seminar in April at a lower cost for SNCA members.

The opportunity to serve as President of SNCA was one of the most positive experiences of my professional life, and I have been enriched by my association with some of our profession’s finest practitioners. Kathy, your own hard work will pay off in the coming year as you lead SNCA into the future. Kudos again to a great executive board, and please accept my gratitude for making me feel hopeful about the future of preserving the past.



News From Around The State



Appointments, Retirements and Promotions

The Manuscripts Department, UNC Chapel Hill, is pleased to announce that **Janis Holder** began her tenure as University Archivist on February 3, 2003. Janis, whom many of you know from her SNCA work, comes to Chapel Hill from UNC Greensboro, where she worked for more than 30 years, first as a library assistant in reserves; then as a cataloger of special collections and university archives materials; and, most recently, as archivist in the UNC Greensboro Special Collections Division. She earned both her bachelor's degree in English and her master's degree in library science from UNC Greensboro. Janis brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to her new position. We are delighted to welcome her to Chapel Hill and look forward to the great work that she is sure to do here.

Russell Koonts became the Director, Duke University Medical Center Archives and Memorabilia on January 1, 2003.

On April 1st, **Lisa Persinger** became the Archivist for the Wake Forest University Archives and Special Collections.

Monika R. Rhue has been promoted to Archival Service Librarian/Archivist at Johnson C. Smith University, after receiving her Master of Library and Information Studies from the UNC Greensboro. Monika Rhue previously worked as the Associate Archivist for Smith.

Publications and Papers



Jacqueline Reid, Reference Archivist for the Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History at Duke University is proud to announce that "*The Advertising Age*": *Encyclopedia of Advertising* has been published and is currently available for purchase. Reid was the illustration editor for this three-volume reference set, published by Fitzroy Dearborn in November 2002. Fellow North Carolina archivist **Catherine Saleeby** (currently the Project Archivist at the American Dance Festival Archives) acted as assistant illustration editor. To learn more information about this encyclopedia or to purchase a set please see the publisher's website:

<http://www.routledge-ny.com/books.cfm?isbn=1579581722> .

Linda Sellars, Manuscripts Processing Librarian, Academic Affairs Library, and Beth Millwood, Director of Outreach, Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented "Voices of the Past: Planning and Conducting an Oral History Project" at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Museums Council in High Point on November 21, 2002.

Collection Development

The **Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center** at Johnson C. Smith University received Congresswoman Eva Clayton's papers.

Grants and Special Projects

The **Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center** at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), in conjunction with the North Carolina Rosenwald Schools Project Director Nyoni G. Collins wrote a proposal for a historical marker honoring Dr. George E. Davis (Smith was the first black professor and an alumnus) and

the Rosenwald Schools. The proposal was approved and the marker will be located on Beatties Ford Road next to the campus of JCSU, arriving late April or early May.

The **Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center** at Johnson C. Smith University is participating in the NC ECHO Higher Education Demonstration Project, which will fund digitization of select materials related to the history of Johnson C. Smith University.

Comprehensive efforts to improve the arrangement, description, and preservation of materials in the **Office of Archives and History** relating to Black Mountain College (BMC) have been completed. Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$98,245), this major project has had national interest because of the avant-garde ideas of education that were put into practice at the college, and because of the well-known artists, writers, musicians, dancers, photographers, designers, and so on who attended the college or taught there. The institution remained open from 1933 to 1956 near the town of Black Mountain, NC. The recently completed initiative to preserve information about the college began in the fall of 2000 with the employment of Joshua Dillon as a part-time data control clerk. Mr. Dillon has since completed his masters degree in the Public History program at North Carolina State University and continued to work until May 2002 when grant funding for his job expired. In March of 2001, Ashley Yandle came from the South Carolina Historical Society to serve as project archivist for the grant. Barbara Cain was the immediate supervisor for the project until her retirement on May 1, 2002, and Jesse R. Lankford was the project director for this grant.



An improved web site that reflects the results of this grant is now available at http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/archives/arch/bmc_web_page/bmc.htm. The web pages include a gallery of images depicting Black Mountain College, along with more information on the college and our BMC holdings. Links to xml and html versions of finding aids for eighteen Black Mountain College-related collections are also available through the new pages. These resources will greatly aid researchers around the world who are interested in individuals connected with the college or in the general history of the college and its influence on art, literature, and education in the twentieth century.

Maury York and **Nancy Shires**, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, have been awarded a grant from the university's Rural Education Institute to host a workshop for teachers in eastern North Carolina who will develop an educational component for the library's Eastern North Carolina Digital History Exhibits (<http://www.lib.ecu.edu/exhibits/>).

Exhibits

Linda Sellars, Manuscripts Processing Librarian, Manuscripts Department, UNC Chapel Hill, created an exhibit titled *The Popes of North Carolina: An African American Family from Reconstruction to Civil Rights* on display in Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill from February through March 2003. The exhibit illustrated the lives of Manassa T. Pope and his family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Born of free parents in Northampton County, N.C., Dr. Pope, one of the first medical school graduates at Shaw University, practiced medicine and started several businesses in Charlotte; served in the Spanish American War; moved to Raleigh in 1899, where he was one of only seven men of color eligible to vote; and ran for mayor of Raleigh in 1919. His wife, Delia Haywood Phillips Pope, taught school and practiced Madame C. J. Walker's hairdressing method. Daughter Evelyn Pope was on the North Carolina Central Library School faculty for thirty years; daughter Ruth Pope taught home economics in Orange County and Chapel Hill schools. The exhibit featured the 1851 certificate of freedom of Dr. Pope's father; a Spanish American War broadside; Dr. Pope's 1902 voter registration certificate; hair-

dressings tools; and other documents, pictures, and artifacts from the Southern Historical Collection and the North Carolina Collection and from the Pope House Museum in Raleigh.



Web Sites

The Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago invites you to publicize your collections relating to women in the **Mapping Women's Archives Project Directory** that is available to potential donors and researchers on its website. To fill out an online submission

form, to update an existing submission, or to view and search the Directory, please visit the following website: <http://www.luc.edu/orgs/gannon/archives/donordirectory.html>

The redesigned website of **Dorothy Carpenter Medical Archives** at <http://www.wfubmc.edu/library/archives/index.html> was officially launched March 18, 2003. The site was created by archivists, Dianne Johnson and Vicki Johnson, and web master Pam Cabe. It includes information about the Wake Forest University School of Medicine history, archival collections, museum objects and North Carolina Baptist Hospital's School of Nursing transcripts.



Gene J. Williams Award

The Society of North Carolina Archivists invites nominations for the Gene J. Williams Award. This annual award is given to one North Carolina graduate student for the best paper on an archival topic written for a graduate-level course.

The award honors the late Gene J. Williams, archivist at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History and at East Carolina University. Mr. Williams was also a charter member of the Society of North Carolina Archivists.

The winner will receive \$100 and a one-year membership in the Society. The *Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists* will publish the paper, and the award will be presented at SNCA's annual fall meeting.

Deadline for submissions is May 31.

Print out the form online at:

http://RTPnet.org/snca/williams_form.htm

Submission forms should be sent to:

Gene J. Williams Award

c/o SNCA

PO Box 20448

Raleigh, NC 27619

Film Preservation Seminar



Duke will host a small film preservation seminar (limited to twelve participants) in the fall of 2003. The seminar is geared to archivists, librarians, and curators in cultural institutions with motion picture collections and limited access to the information and resources needed to care for those collections.

The product of the one-day seminar will be a book on film handling and preservation addressed to cultural institutions with small collections of moving image material.

For more information contact:

Karen Glynn

Visual Materials Archivist

Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library

Duke University

karen_m_glynn@notes.duke.edu

919.660.5968

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Changed your name?

Changed positions?



Please update the Membership Chair:

Send an e-mail to Ruth Bryan at:

ruth.bryan@duke.edu

or call 919.660.5829

Visit us on the Web
<http://ncarchivists.org>

SNCA Newsletter

Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter of the Society of North Carolina Archivists by submitting news items to the editor.

The Newsletter is published semi-annually, and this issue was designed using Microsoft Publisher 98.

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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.



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