



# North Carolina Archivist

VOLUME 71

SPRING 2004

Society of North Carolina Archivists

## A Gift that Endures

Jason Tomberlin

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As I write my first message as president, it is now well past April 15. Does that date ring a bell? Does it cause cold shivers and nightmares? Do you automatically think of calculators, dull pencils, endless cups of coffee and waiting in line at the post office?

If not, you are probably one of the few Americans that do their taxes early, or the IRS is hunting for you now. For the rest of us, April 15 is that dreaded deadline for filing income tax returns. When I was single, and making no money, tax time was painless. I used the 1040EZ form; the whole process took fifteen minutes--simple and easy.

Now, with a daughter, a mortgage, an IRA, and the multitude of other things that come with age and responsibility, the whole process takes several nights of starting and stopping, throwing my

pencil, and finally coming to the conclusion that there is a good reason I am not a "CPA".

This tax season, however, reminded me that April 15 can benefit our Society.

If you have ever itemized deductions on your IRS 1040 form, you know that you can reduce your taxable income by donating to tax-exempt institutions, charities, educational organizations and **societies**. Does SNCA qualify as one of these institutions? It most certainly does! Article II of the Society's constitution states that

*[t]he purpose for which the Society is organized is exclusively educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.*

Under the tax code, this qualification enabled SNCA to receive its Federal tax-exemption status for a publicly supported organization in 1990.

The information above is a not-so-subtle attempt to encourage you to consider a tax-deductible contribution to SNCA. You should not, however, consider a donation to the SNCA's Michelle Francis Endowment Fund as **only** a tax write-off! [You should also not consider this article as tax advice. I am not a tax lawyer and, as mentioned above, you don't see "CPA" after my name, so consider yourself forewarned!] The endowment is an important tool for fulfilling SNCA's educational mission. Students, society members and many other interested individuals have benefited from programs such as the Gene J. Williams Award, the C. David Jackson Scholarship, and the newly created Thornton W.

## We are the N.C. Archivists

Kathy Wisser

There have been a few adaptations circling around the email lists that I am subscribed to; I thought I'd give

**"WE ARE THE ARCHIVISTS — MY FRIENDS.. WE KEEP ON PRESERVING. THERE'S NO END."**

it a go myself. Here's a little ditty, reworded of course, sung to "We are the Champions" by Queen:  
We pay our dues

Year after year  
We meet and discuss  
New techniques we hear  
Successes and lessons  
We share it all  
From the East to the West

### Gift — continued

Mitchell Service Award. All are partially funded by income generated from the endowment.

Your donation is a gift that will endure in value. Students, society members and many other interested individuals benefit from programs such as the Gene J. Williams Award, the C. David Jackson Scholarship, and the newly created Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award. All are partially funded by income generated from the Francis Endowment.

As treasurer of SNCA for several years, I was always impressed by our organizations

Throughout the state  
We'll let no one fall.

We are the archivists – my friends  
And we'll keep on preserving  
There's no end  
We are the archivists  
We are the archivists  
You're not alone  
'Cause we are the archivists of NC

We process materials  
We answer patrons' calls  
We help genealogists, researchers, and students,  
We do it all  
But it's no bed of roses

financial situation. Over the past twenty years, SNCA's members and supporters have been extremely generous. In this time of budget cuts and generally bad economic news, it is difficult to write about and ask for donations, but I sincerely believe that a campaign to increase the Francis Endowment is necessary. Thomas Harkins and the entire board will be looking at ways to encourage giving, not only for meeting and workshop expenses but especially for donations to the Francis Endowment. Your support of the Society and continued generous giv-

No pleasure cruise  
SNCA helps with the challenge of records and minutes and bytes

Each item we make sure not to lose

We are the archivists – my friends

And we'll keep on working  
There's no end

We are the archivists  
We are the archivists

You're not alone

'Cause we are the Society of NC Archivists!

Thanks for a great year!  
Kathy Wisser



## Appointments, Retirements, Promotions

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**Monika Rhue**, Archivist for JCSU, received a C. David Jackson Memorial SNCA Meeting Scholarship and was elected to serve on the Society of North Carolina Archivists Executive Board as member-at-large from March 2004- March 2005.

**Debra Blake** is a recipient of a 2004-05 Archie K. Davis fellowship from the North Caroliniana Society.

**Chris Meekins** begins Ph.D. studies in United States History at UNC Greensboro this Fall 2004.

After twenty-three years of employment in the Duke University Libraries, **Ellen Gartrell McGeorge** will be taking an early retirement at the end of June. Ellen has served as director of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library since the center's inception in 1992. Under her leadership the center has become known internationally for its strong research collections and the quality of its services to academic and business researchers.

With Ellen's departure there will be several staffing changes in the Hartman Center. **Jacqueline Reid** has accepted the position of Interim Director for the center. **Lynn Eaton** will serve as Reference Archivist, filling the position being vacated by Jackie, and **Steve Hensen** (in addition to continuing as director of planning and project development for RBMSCL, with responsibilities for Web coordination and grant-writing) will assume responsibility for archival processing and cataloging for the center.

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## Grants and Special Projects

### University of North Carolina Greensboro

UNCG University Archives recently acquired approximately 2,000 square feet of additional stacks area to house the growing Women Veterans Historical Collection and the Manuscripts collections. Archives gained the space when Government Documents moved to the 3rd floor of Jackson Library and that area was assigned to University Archives. The area is currently undergoing renovation, which should be finished in the summer of 2004.

*Carolinian Indexing Project:* University Archives is continuing the indexing of the UNCG student newspaper. So far archives staff and student assistants have identified over 25,000 access points covering the years 1932 to 1970 and entered information into a database. When the database goes online it will be searchable by subject and be available through the Jackson Library homepage.

*Women Veterans Historical Project:* This past year has been a challenge for the Women Veterans Historical Project. The original curator for the Women Veter-

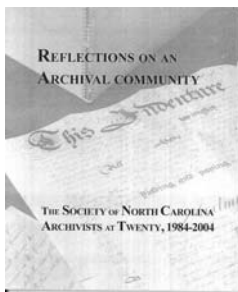
ans Historical Collection left and University Archives is in the process of interviewing to fill that position. Even with this challenge, several positive events have happened in the last year. The staff has conducted oral history interviews with over 195 women veterans, held a three day meeting with nationally known consultants to discuss a Women Veterans traveling exhibit, and hosted the 6th annual Women Veterans Luncheon attended by over 120 women veterans. The 7th annual Women Veterans Luncheon will be on November 6, 2004.

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## SNCA Springs Into Its Third Decade

Over one hundred archivists, librarians, and information professionals gathered at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Wilson Library on March 10-12 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of SNCA.

Because the first meeting and tenth anniversary meetings took place in Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Wilson Library were an obvious choice to host the twentieth anniversary affair. The anniversary meeting was not only a time to look back at the past twenty years, but also a time to contemplate SNCA's future.



The program began with a film preservation workshop on March 10. Karen Glynn and Elizabeth Arnold of Duke University led approximately twenty attendees through topics such as identifying small gauge film, handling and storing film, hands-on preservation work, and writing a preservation grant.

After the workshop ended, an informal gathering was held at the West End Wine Bar for

workshop attendees and members who arrived early for Thursday's meeting. Approximately thirty people enjoyed the drinks, food, atmosphere and camaraderie that evening.

On March 11, the twentieth anniversary celebration kicked off with a full day of speakers and sessions. Dr. Joe Hewitt, retiring University Librarian and Associate Provost for UNC-Chapel Hill, offered a few words of welcome to the gathering.

The opening plenary speaker Dr. David Gracy addressed the audience on the past, present and future of archives and archivists. Gracy, the Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise and Director of The Center for Cultural Archival and Records Enterprise, Preservation and Conservation Studies, and Museum Studies at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information, spoke at SNCA's first meeting in 1984 and at the tenth anniversary in 1994.

Following Dr. Gracy's rousing speech, Steve Hensen of Duke University and Diane Strauss of UNC-Chapel Hill treated the registrants to a discussion of the USA PATRIOT ACT and its effects on archives and libraries. The attendees were then unleashed to explore Chapel Hill's Franklin Street for lunch on their own.

The afternoon sessions provided both education and a bit of reminiscing. Two concurrent sessions were offered; one program dealt with the collection of ephemera, while the other with outlined how to locate, apply, and interview for a job in the archival/library world.

The final Thursday session was a look back at the past twenty years of our organization. Members of the initial steering committee and first executive board were invited to share their memories, anecdotes, and observations about SNCA's founding and early years. The gathering, however, was also a chance to evaluate and critique SNCA's activities and structure. The panel and the audience suggested several ideas for improvement, and the executive board is taking the comments and ideas into consideration.

The day ended with a wonderful reception at the Chapel Hill Museum. Participants enjoyed a buffet spread and Carolina Punch while examining the many interesting items on display.

The Spring 2004 program wrapped up on March 12. The day began with the annual business meeting. After hearing reports by the various officers, SNCA voted on and passed a constitutional amendment to create the position of development officer.

The new officer will work to increase SNCA's endowment and pursue alternative funding sources for meetings and workshops.

The participants were then led on a tour of Wilson Library's special collections departments. Afterwards, they enjoyed a buffet lunch and the first annual presentation of the Thornton W. Mitchell service award. Named after a former state archivist who exemplified the best that archivists can offer to the state and their profession, the award was presented to recently retired state archivist Catherine J. Morris.

Nationally renowned conservator Don Etherington of Etherington Conservation Center in Greensboro gave the closing plenary address. The day ended with concurrent tours of UNC-Chapel Hill's campus and the North Carolina Botanical Gardens.



I would like to thank all of the speakers, session participants, and moderators for a wonderful meeting. In particular, I would again like to recognize the following sponsors and donors. Without their assistance we would not be able to bring you the high quality programs you expect!!

Apex ePublishing  
 Bull's Head Bookshop  
 Friends of the Archives  
 Gaylord Brothers  
 Heritage Preservation  
 Historical Publications  
 Hollinger Corporation  
 Johnny T-Shirt  
 McAlister's Deli  
 Metal Edge  
 North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill  
 North Caroliniana Society  
 School of Information and Library Science, UNC-Chapel Hill  
 Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill  
 University of North Carolina Press  
 University Products

SNCA's next meeting will be held October 7-8, 2004 at the Pack Library in downtown Asheville. New vice president Gwen Erickson and the rest of the program committee are busy making preparations for the event. If you have session ideas, suggestions or questions, please contact her at [gerickso@guilford.edu](mailto:gerickso@guilford.edu)



## Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award Presented to Retired State Archivist Cathy Morris

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In March, 2003, the Society of North Carolina Archivists' Long-Range Planning Committee recommended the establishment of a service award. The Society's Education Committee was compiling the criteria for the award when former State Archivist Thornton W. Mitchell passed away in May 2003. Committee members immediately thought of naming the award for him. Intended to recognize outstanding service to the archival profession in the state of North Carolina, it was felt that the award would honor Thornton Mitchell each time it was presented. The 2004 award winner, recently retired State Archivist Cathy Morris, is an outstanding example of an archivist who has provided dedicated service to the state of North Carolina.

This excerpt from a letter written in support of Cathy's nomination for the Mitchell award illustrates just how appropriate her selection was: "... I can think of no one else who more closely embodies the professionalism displayed by Dr. Mitchell than Cathy. She has been as strong a voice for archives in North Carolina as he was ... Dr. Mitchell mentored Cathy prior to his retirement, and I am pleased to have benefited in numerous ways from Cathy's advice and assistance prior to her retirement."

The letter also relates several examples of Cathy's commitment to supporting the public records law and archival ethics: "As Hurricane Isabel bore down on the Outer Banks, the decision was made to temporarily relocate some priceless collections from our Outer Banks History Center to Raleigh ... Cathy was there at 10:30 p.m. that evening to assist in the unloading of these collections from the van and into our stacks. A week later as staff made the decision to go to Swan Quarter to assist the Register of Deeds and the Clerk of Superior Court with the recovery of their damaged materials, I watched Cathy work for hours trying to salvage water logged marriage bonds without ever once identifying herself by title to the staff in the Hyde County courthouse ... These actions are two in a long history of Cathy making herself available at all hours of the day and night to check on leaky facilities and mop up water from backed up drains. She never delegated the dirty work to others."

The 2004 Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award was presented by David Mitchell, Dr. Mitchell's son and current University Records Manager at Duke University. David's mother and brother were also in atten-

dance at the presentation. The next Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award will be presented in fall 2005, and the membership will be notified of the deadline for nominations. The individual selected for the award should have demonstrated outstanding service to the state of North Carolina by promoting public awareness, appreciation, or support of cultural heritage institutions; preserving historical and cultural resources; providing leadership in archival organizations or associations; or teaching, training, or mentoring new members of the archival profession.

## More Grants and Special Projects

### Outer Banks History Center:

#### Roger P. Meekins Photography Exhibit in Manteo.

In February 2004, the Outer Banks History Center presented a new exhibit of local history: *Aerial Views, Things in the News, The Beach of Yesteryear, and Past Happenings Here: Black & White Photographs by Roger P. Meekins*. The exhibit features about 50 black and white images of Dare County and the surrounding regions, dated 1949-1954.

Roanoke Island resident Roger P. Meekins chronicled the Outer Banks of the late 1940s through mid-1950s in aerial shots, landscapes, and scenes of everyday people. Photos of square dancing in Hatteras, net mending in Stumpy Point, boxing matches at the Nags Head Casino, and huge hauls of fish being unloaded at the Wanchese docks convey a sense of community life in the days before the area became a tourism mecca.

Meekins donated over 800 negatives to the OBHC. Photographs selected for the exhibit are from this collection. The exhibit will be on display through the end of August, 2004. The Outer Banks History Center is a regional archives and research library administered by the NC State Archives, Department of Cultural Resources.

### Biltmore to install HVAC

The 250-room Biltmore House has contained George Vanderbilt's art treasures, furnishings

and books for nearly 110 years without benefit of a climate-controlled environment. This year, the house will have its first HVAC system installed in a portion of the house that holds the estate archives.

Four separate Liebert units will be installed in a second-floor suite of rooms formerly used by the Vanderbilt and Cecil families as an apartment. The document, photo and drawing collections currently are stored here. At the project's completion, roughly 8,000 books from Vanderbilt's collection will be housed in the climate-controlled space as well.

The area covers just under 2,500 square feet. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August.



### Johnson C. Smith University

The Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center at Johnson C. Smith University hosted a seminar on "Preserving the Legacy of African American Schools" on March 27, 2004. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together individuals who have an interest in preserving the history of African American schools in North Carolina. The seminar also

educated individuals who have an interest in learning about preservation, oral history, and archival methodologies. Twenty-five representatives from various libraries and historical societies were present.

The keynote speaker for the seminar was, **Michael K. Lee**, the Director of Conservation for the Etherington Conservation Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mr. Lee spoke about conservation and preservation techniques for saving family memorabilia. Other guest speakers were:

**Steve Max Weiss**, Head of Southern Folklife Collection/the Media Archivist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Manuscripts Department. Mr. Weiss focused on preservation information for recorded sound.

**Nyoni Collins**, Project Director of the North Carolina Rosenwald Schools Community Project and founder of the Sanofa Center, discussed the importance of using oral history in documenting African American Schools.

**Jane Johnson**, Information Specialist in the Carolina Room at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County shared information on the North Carolina Room project "Documenting the last 200 Years of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools."

Two consultants visited the archives on March 25-26, 2004 in order to conduct an assessment of the archives' facility and the archival collection. The conservator assessed the preservation

## Grants and Special Projects continued

Two consultants visited the archives on March 25-26, 2004 in order to conduct an assessment of the archives' facility and the archival collection. The conservator assessed the preservation needs of original documents, aided in developing a plan of action for preserving fragile and deteriorating records, and evaluated the storage area, black heritage room, picture gallery, and reading room, making recommendations on the physical environment, display cabinets, storage units, and shelving.

The conservator also reviewed the following items: Johnson C. Smith University Publication Records Collection, Manuscript and Letters Collection and Photograph Collection. The technical

consultant evaluated the record album and audiovisual collection to determine their preservation needs.

A NEH Preservation Assistance Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 funded both the seminar and the consultant's visit.

### Central Piedmont Community College

Central Piedmont Community College held an event called "Identify the Past." It was the first step in providing the context and information about the pictures that have been gathered for the archives. Retirees and CPCC employees who had been with the college for more

than 10 years were invited to identify as much as possible about each picture on display.

In addition to identifying pictures, participants took part in an oral history project.

**Gena Moore** is beginning the long process of organizing the stacks and unprocessed boxes of materials that have accumulated in the archives storage room. Gena has produced two displays of items for the Spring Literary Festival and Identifying the Past. Additional information about the archives can be found at

<http://www.cpcc.edu/library/archives/archiveshome.htm>

Welcome to the society Gena and CPCC.

## Education Committee Report

Members of the Education Committee this year were Pam Mitchem, Diana Sanderson, Suellyn Lathrop, Lynn Eaton, Linda Sellars, and Joy Heitman. As a result of last year's Long-Range Planning Committee report, the activities of the Education Committee expanded this year. Our first goal was to define a new charge for the committee, and a 2-year plan for accomplishing this charge. In brief, our charge is "the promotion of archival education

and outreach, the selection of SNCA award, scholarship and grant recipients, and the promotion of archives awareness in the state of North Carolina." The following subcommittees were formed to work on these charges: **Mentor Program/Continuing Education Subcommittee; Scholarships and Awards Subcommittee; Educational Outreach and Extension Subcommittee; Archives Awareness Subcommittee**

Because our charge has expanded, we have separated the Education Committee and the Development function for SNCA. The new position of Development Officer was voted upon at the Spring 2004 meeting. Tom Harkins was elected to fill this position.

So, lots of exciting things are in the works for next year's committee, and they will need more help. If you've thought about volunteering for a SNCA committee, and weren't sure where

## Society of North Carolina Archivists

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P. O. Box 20448  
Raleigh, NC 27619

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[HTTP://WWW.RTPNET.ORG/~SNCA/](http://www.rtpnet.org/~snca/)

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The Newsletter is published semi-annually, and this issue was designed using Microsoft Publisher 2000.

**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.

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## SNCA BUDGET 2004-2005

| ITEM   | Proposed cost | Estimated income        |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| PO Box renewal 2004-2005                         | \$76.00       | (175 members @ \$25.00) |
| C. David Jackson Scholarship                     | \$500.00      |                         |
| Student Archival Society Grants \$               | \$800.00      |                         |
| Gene Williams Award                              | \$140.00      |                         |
| Thorton W. Mitchell Award                        | \$50.00       |                         |
| Checking service charge                          | \$12.00       |                         |
| General postage                                  | \$50.00       |                         |
| Newsletter                                       | \$400.00      |                         |
| J-SNCA (Journal)                                 | \$1,200.00    |                         |
| Federation of NC Historical Societies membership | \$25.00       |                         |
| RTPnet   | \$200.00      |                         |
| Domain name (through 2007 - paid in 2002)        | \$0.00        |                         |
| Paypal (estimated)                               | \$100.00      |                         |
| Membership endowment fund                        | \$175.00      |                         |
| Totals   | \$3,728.00    | \$4,375.00              |