

KCAA --- *The Dusty Shelf* --- 1996-
97

Eastern Kansas ----- Vol. 16, No. 1 ----- Western Missouri

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Documenting the Native American Experience

The Haskell Indian Nations University Archives

For the first time in its 112 year history, Haskell Indian Nations University has its own archives. The university archives were established as part of the school's Vision 2005 plan, which plots a course for Haskell's future development. The archives are housed in the university's Tommaney Library.

Many of Haskell's earlier records were created by the federal government. When they became inactive, they were taken off-campus and deposited in the National Archives--Central Plains Region office in Kansas City, Missouri. But non-federal records were also separated from the university in the years before Haskell had a formal archives. Many non-federal records were placed in the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, the Kansas Collection at the University of Kansas, and the Watkins Community Museum in down-town Lawrence, among other locations.

In time, these arrangements were no longer satisfactory. Haskell Indian Nations University has a unique history, and its story is best told by the people who worked and attended school there. Haskell's unique heritage reflects the historical trends that have shaped Indian education in America. The school's history is a rich source for understanding American Indians generally and American Indian education in particular. Consequently, it seemed imperative by the mid-1990's to establish an archives to serve the university's needs. As one aspect of its mission to become a national center for American Indian education and cultural information, Haskell Indian Nations University now has its own on-campus archives that is accessible to researchers, staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

Drawing upon the Sacred Circle as the foundation for American Indian/Alaskan Native philosophy, Haskell provides higher education to federally recognized tribal members. Haskell began as a boarding school for all American Indian nations in 1884. Today, it is a four-year university that strives to be a national center for Indian education, research, and cultural programs. Haskell's current 890 students come from thirty-six states and represent 147 tribal nations.

The Tommaney Library staff has long collected Haskell historical materials. Its holdings include books and theses on Haskell's history and copies of the student newspaper and yearbook. *The Indian Leader* is now on microfilm, thanks to a generous grant. The library also houses the American Indian Collection, which has reference material on all American Indian nations. It holds most recent books about and by American Indians and has CD-ROM reference works on Indian culture. The Haskell Archives has a storeroom full of materials—cafeteria menus, textbooks, commencement programs, public relations materials, publications produced by the Haskell printing department, play and pageant scripts, photographs, videotapes, and films.

The Haskell archives has been established as a branch of the library. An advisory committee which includes regional archivists is writing a mission statement and collections policies and guidelines. Committee members include Steve Jansen (Watkins Community Museum), Alan Perry (National Archives), Bob Knecht (Kansas State Historical Society), and Dave Boutros (Western Historical Manuscript Collection). The Haskell community is represented by Pat Baker (student representative), Ray Farve (faculty representative), Ellen Allen (admissions and records), and Turner Cochran, Archie Hawkins, and Linda McCoy (alumni representatives). The

ex-officio members are Dr. Deborah Wetsit (Dean of Instruction), Bobbi Rahder (staff archivist), Karen Highfill (librarian), Venida Chenault-White, (faculty representative), and Fran Day (Haskell Foundation executive director).

One of the significant collections in the Haskell Indian Nations University archives is the Frank A. Rinehart photograph collection. This collection of 809 glass plate negatives was made by Rinehart and his assistant, Adolph Muhr, at the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition and Indian Congress in Omaha, Nebraska. The Haskell library staff recently completed preservation of the photographs after receiving funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Hallmark Corporation. The photographs were transferred to archivally safe housing, organized by tribal affiliation, and stored in a specially designed glass plate storage cabinet built by Delta Designs of Topeka. Copy negatives and archivally processed prints were made by Lawrence photographer Jon Blumb. The photograph collection has been cataloged and scanned into a computer database. The images were recently shown in an exhibit entitled "Faces of Destiny," which was first organized by KU's Spencer Art Museum and the Mid-America Arts Alliance in 1986. The exhibit has traveled all over the U.S. and returned to Haskell last year. It was shown during September 1996 in Haskell's Stidham Union. The Haskell Foundation will publish a book on the Rinehart Collection within the next year.

The Rinehart Collection and the Haskell Archives will soon be opened for research as soon as policies and procedures are developed and approved by the Haskell Archives Advisory Committee and the university administration.

Bobbi Rahder, Staff Archivist
Haskell Indian Nations University

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Preservation Notes

by

Alan Perry

The Quiet Joys of Passive Humidification

In the old days, humidifying large quantities of rolled and folded documents that were brittle often involved the whirring of electric humidifiers, squeezing hand-held plant misters, or even utilizing the (hopefully) controlled violence of a good old fashioned laundry mangle. Some power humidification chambers worked well when they were carefully monitored, but documents were often wetted (rather than humidified) and damaged (rather than conserved) unless a considerable amount of staff time was consumed monitoring the process.

By the early 1980s, an alternative idea was catching the attention of archivists. This was passive humidification--allowing humidity to build up gently and gradually within a chamber. Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler featured drawings of the now classic trash can and old refrigerator humidification chambers in her 1983 manual, *Archives and Manuscripts: Conservation*. She has added a photo tray chamber design in the new edition of her book, now titled *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts*.*

The trash can and old refrigerator chambers work well for most collections of personal papers but are too small to efficiently handle the large volume of documents, not to mention the oversize items, often held by archives and historical agencies. The staff at the Olmstead National Historic Site in Boston was faced with this problem a few years ago, and Diana Roley of their staff (now with the National Archives in Washington) constructed the solution. Her institutional passive humidification chamber is built with acrylic sheets.

"Egg crate" fluorescent light covers are placed over wet blotters in the bottom of the chamber. The documents that need to be humidified are placed on the "egg crate" light covers. Polyethylene sheeting is stretched over a hinged wooden or plastic frame to form the chamber lid, which permits easy access to the chamber's contents without allowing much humidity to escape. The chamber can be as large or small as desired. The humidification chamber in use at the National Archives-Central Plains Region is five feet by four feet by ten inches deep. Like the trash can chamber method, it is practically impossible to over-humidify the contents using the "egg crate" florescent light cover technique .

The supplies necessary to construct our chamber came to about \$660. The cost could be considerably reduced by substituting plywood protected by polyurethane varnish or polyethylene film for the acrylic sheets. The chamber is easy to build with the in-house or volunteer handyperson talent usually found hanging around archives and historical societies.

The National Archives-Central Plains Region can supply specifications to anyone interested in constructing a chamber. Contact me at 816-926-6920, or at <alan.perry@kansascity.nara.gov>.

* Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, *Archives and Manuscripts: Conservation* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1983; Basic Manual Series), 90-92.

**Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1993; Archival Fundamentals Series), 184-188.

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Announcements

Tony Crawford, Kansas State University archivist, and Alison Wheatley are the proud parents of Jesse Holbrook Crawford, born July 26, 1996.

Lynn M. Jenkins, archivist at the Liberty Memorial Museum, is now *Lynn M. Ward*. Lynn was married to Darrel Ward on September 27, 1996.

The Society of American Archivists' Minority Student Award was presented to *Letha Johnson* on August 29, 1996 at the society's annual meeting in San Diego. Well done, Letha!

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[minutes: FALL QUARTERLY MEETING, September 19, 1996](#)

The American Tombstones Presentation

On Monday, October 28, KCAA sponsored a slide presentation by John Mark Lambertson entitled, "Marble Roses: Art and Symbolism on the Tombstones of America."

Fifty-two people attended the presentation at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City. Everyone appeared to enjoy the event. Most of those in attendance were not KCAA members, so KCAA benefited not only from their \$5 donation but also through outreach. Donuts, hot mulled cider, and coffee were provided.

St. Mary's was a beautiful (and most appropriate) place to hold the special event KCAA extends their thanks to Father Bruce and parishioner Alicia Stockton for helping with the arrangements.

Many thanks to John Mark, who has agreed to continue the program next year by presenting a slide show on tombstone inscriptions. Also many thanks to Rita Klepac for making the arrangements and working on refreshment duty, along with help from Ron Romig and Carol Dage.

Reported by Denise Morrison

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Scholarship Committee Report

December 1996

New scholarship guidelines were approved at the March 14, 1996 quarterly meeting. Through that action, KCAA again demonstrated its commitment to encourage, promote, and facilitate the

continuing education and the development of the highest professional skills and competencies among its members. The Scholarship Fund has grown steadily for nearly ten years. Funds are now available to help members with access to little or no institutional support to defray the cost of attending professionally related educational conferences, workshops, symposia, and institutes. This is a good time to plan some professional development opportunities into the 1997 schedule. Please review the guidelines and application form at the back of this newsletter and give serious thought to how you or a KCAA colleague might benefit by the use of these funds in the coming year. As you become aware of professional development offerings in 1997, please share this information with others.

Ron Romig, Scholarship Committee Chair, and Rita Klepac

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Future *Dusty Shelf* Deadlines

Have news about your repository's new collections and exhibits? What about personnel changes? Keep fellow KCAA members informed. The deadline for the issue of the *Dusty Shelf* is April 10, 1997. The deadline for the issue following that will be June 15. Information is power—when it is shared.

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Education Committee

The Education Committee is busily developing plans for a full-day symposium in the spring and a half-day seminar in late summer. The spring symposium is tentatively set for April 12, 1997, at the RLDS world headquarters in Independence. It will focus on the care of collections and other collection-related issues. It will feature sessions for those wanting advice about the basics of appraisal, acquisition, arrangement, and description. For those who are beyond the basics, there will be sessions focusing on archival issues such as deaccessioning. Additional sessions are planned on topics such as security, conservation, outreach, grant sources, and grant writing.

The late-summer seminar will be an interaction between teachers and educators with the objective of showing educators how to use primary sources in teaching. The seminar will also feature a dialogue where archivists and teachers can work co-operatively.

If you would like to participate in the preparation of these programs, please contact Bob Knecht at (913) 272-8681, extension 304, or e-mail me at: bknecht@hspo.wpo.state.ks.us

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Membership News

Jelain Chubb, Membership Chair

KCAA membership now stands at 141, including 24 institutional members. We welcome the following new members to KCAA:

*William Cole
Bill Cole Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 60
Randolph, MA 02368*

*Jetta Nash
Cleveland Chiropractic College
6401 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64131*

*Sally Quinn
Combined Arms Research Library
250 Gibbon Avenue
Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027*

*Pam Kontowicz
Combined Arms Research Library
250 Gibbon Avenue
Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027*

If you know of someone who may be interested in joining KCAA, bring them along to a quarterly meeting, or give me a call. I'll send them a brochure describing KCAA and a personal invitation to attend a meeting.

Membership Directories

By now, you should have received the 1996-97 edition of the *KCAA Membership Directory*. We have made changes in the format, most notably the font, which we believe is easier on the eyes. The directories were hand delivered to members present for the December 12 quarterly meeting and mailed to others on December 17. If you have not received your copy please contact Jelain Chubb at 913/272-8681, ext. 307. Please note that replacement *Directories* will cost \$5.00 each.

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Publications Committee

This fall, the Publications Committee worked on ideas for technical leaflets, including one on photograph preservation. A pamphlet is also being developed to help teachers instruct students in using primary resources. *Keeping Your Past*, a booklet first published by KCAA in 1987, is being revised and will soon be republished.

The Kansas City Area Directory of Repositories is now on the world-wide web thanks to David Boutros. The directory can be accessed at the KCAA web site, whose address is: <http://ctr.umkc.edu/whmckc/KCAA/>. Those with access to the internet should check the entry for their institution and report any errors they find to Lynn Ward, Publication Committee Chair, Liberty Memorial Museum Archives, 100 W. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108, or call (816) 221-1918. Also keep Lynn informed of e-mail links and home page links to your institution. And . . . share the Directory of Repositories address with your researchers.

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National Union Catalog of MS. Collections Announcement

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections will maintain a link through September 1997 to a search form that provides researchers with free access to the RLIN AMC file via the Library of Congress' WWW/Z39.50 gateway. This file is a key source of information on archival and manuscript collections, and it includes all online cataloging created by NUCMC, a program of the Library of Congress.

How do you find the gateway? First, go to the NUCMC web page, which is found at: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>. Then click on either the NUCMC cataloging icon or the Utilities icon. No account number or password is necessary to search the RLIN AMC file.

The NUCMC folks welcome comments regarding the gateway's usefulness and will accept suggestions for improving it. For information on the gateway or on the NUCMC program, contact the NUCMC Team, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20540-4375, or via e-mail at nucmc@mail.loc.gov .

The January 1997 issue of *Missouri Historical Review* reviews [A Legacy of Design: An Historical Survey of the Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Boulevards System, 1893-1940](#) (1995). The book is edited by Janice Lee, David Boutros, Charlotte R. White, and Deon Wolfenbarger. Lee and Boutros are members of KCAA.

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MidAmerican Archives

News of KCAA People & Repositories

The Kansas City Museum

The passage of the Bi-State Proposal insures the preservation of Union Station and the building of Science City, a science center concept of the Kansas City Museum. As part of the museum's plan, a large component of Science City will be "Yesterday's Kansas City." This feature will have 12,000 square feet of interactive history exhibits that incorporate all different types of artifacts from the museum's collections. For the first time in twenty years, the museum will have space to house all of its collections at Union Station, including the archives.

The Kansas City Museum Archives will gain valuable new space and a separate research area to accommodate more visitors. The total footage of the new archives and research space will be approximately 5,000 square feet.

Work has also begun to computerize all the museum's collections to make them as visitor friendly and accessible for research as possible. The current plans are to open the doors to Science City in October 1999.

Nazarene Archives

The Emma Colburn Collection is an important new accession received late last fall. Mrs. Colburn, of Seattle, was an intimate friend of the primary founder of the Church of the Nazarene, Phineas Bresee, and his family. Between 1903 and 1920, she received over fifty letters from Bresee, his wife, and their daughter Sue. The letters are important new sources on Nazarene origins in Los Angeles, a primary center where the church emerged. The Bresees were remarkably frank in their views and comments. The collection was donated by longtime Kansas City resident Alpin Bowes.

The Archives was allowed to copy a travel diary of Méry Dupertuis, a Swiss immigrant who spent her early childhood in frontier Oklahoma. The diary remains in the family's possession. It describes the Dupertuis family's migration from Oklahoma Territory to Washington State in 1899, with insight into American religious influences on this Swiss family. Méry was later a charter member of Seattle First Church of the Nazarene and the mother of theologians Mildred Wynkoop (Nazarene) and Carl Bangs (United Methodist), who taught in graduate theological seminaries in Kansas City. Another of Méry's daughters was a Nazarene pastor and home missionary in Alaska.

Other recent accessions reflect the international character of the Archives' holdings, including photographs taken at ordination ceremonies for new ministers in Haiti, the papers of the late Mary Cooper, missionary in Swaziland, and the papers of Ruth Dech, missionary teacher in Central America.

National Archives-Central Plains Region

Over the last year the Central Plains Region has--as always--accessioned additional records and updated several finding aids. The records pertaining to Federal court civil and criminal holdings have been increased with 1960s vintage accretions from courts in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, naturalization records from Wichita, and records and briefs from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

One of the more unusual recent accessions is a small but fascinating set of records pertaining to weapons development and production, and security investigations, by military contractors during the Second World War. They bear on guided missile, radar, and other work by Bell Telephone Laboratories and other contractors, and the mass production of bombers for the Army Air Force.

The Archives has added a few series of early twentieth century land use records from the Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency in Minnesota; correspondence of the Superintendent of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, 1953-1965; land use records of the Mark Twain National Forest, 1964-1965; directives and organization manuals of the Marine Corps Finance Center in Kansas City, Mo.; program correspondence from the Kansas City, Mo., regional office of the Unemployment and Training Administration, 1969-1990; and evaluations by the Office of Economic Opportunity of legal services provided by private groups in Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

The Naval Reserve Training Command has transferred station journals, reports, and correspondence files of the Olathe, Kansas, Naval Air Station, 1950-1970; station journals and notices of the Minneapolis Naval Air Station, 1956-1970; and correspondence files, personnel records, and notices of the Naval Reserve Training Command, Omaha, 1954-1969.

We continue to gather records of the disposition of World War II and postwar Federal facilities, such as old Air Force Bases, missile sites, defense plants, and post offices in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

Several inventories have been upgraded and are now available through e-mail. These include descriptive inventories of the records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (records of steamboats plying the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers); records of the Pine Ridge Indian Agency; and records of ordnance districts, ordnance depots and plants, and arsenals in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, primarily from World War II, but with some extending into the early postwar years.

An index to deaths recorded by the Social Security Administration has been added to the electronic finding aids available in our research room.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives

I recently attended a meeting hosted by the Missouri Historical Records Advisory board in Independence. After some lament that archives in general are having a difficult time finding funds for staffing, I was surprised to hear from one participant that the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art had closed its Archives after Chuck Hill left. Indeed, this is NOT true. The Nelson-Atkins

Museum of Art Archives is still viable and open for use, albeit in a limited fashion. The Museum Archives was moved into its own space in the stacks of the Nelson's Spencer Art Reference Library. This was a cost savings measure *and* a way to give Museum staff greater access to the Archives. When Chuck Hill left, I felt that it was incumbent upon me, as head librarian, to keep the Archives program going, if only on a restricted level.

The Nelson Archives are open by appointment each Wednesday. Margaret Hellner handles all requests for use of the Archives and supervises three volunteers in specific projects. The Archives still collects materials, although they will not be processed as rapidly as in the past. Scrapbooks are being kept up-to-date, smaller record groups are being processed, and inquiries and research requests are being answered. Unfortunately, the level of cataloging and processing has--of necessity--been cut to the bone.

Let me reiterate the scope of the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum Archives. The major record groups and collections are: William Rockhill Nelson Trust Records 1926-70; Paul Gardner Papers 1916-1950; director's Office Records 1932-1985; Laurence Sickman Papers 1931-87; Friends of Art Records 1934-1986; plus various administrative and curatorial records. The focus of the Archives is on institutional records, activities, publications, and correspondence. We do not collect the papers of local artists or architects.

For those wishing to use the Archives, please phone 816-751-1216 with your specific request, and we will make every effort to answer your question. The Archives is open Wednesdays by appointment. It is located on the Museum's ground level in the Spencer Art Reference Library. For questions of a more general nature regarding the collections of the Library, please phone 816-751-1215 for further information. (*Susan Malkoff Moon, Head Librarian, Spencer Art Reference Library, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*).

Liberty Memorial Museum

Many exciting things have happened this year for the Liberty Memorial Museum. Archives. There have been many new donations, and the museum archives has provided illustrations for locally and nationally produced films and books. Another exhibit annex also has been opened. Moreover, the restoration plans for Liberty Memorial and its museum include the substantial expansion of the archives.

New donations have been numerous and diverse. One collection that was recently added has exceptionally good material on World War I Medal of Honor recipient John L. Barkley, Co. K, 4th Infantry. The collection contains a manuscript of Barkley's book, *No Hard Feelings*, letters, photographs, and other media. It attracted researchers within a few weeks of its being placed in the archives. Other recent donations include original drawings, books, British periodicals, German photographs, and a scrapbook containing over one hundred World War I U.S. Navy snapshots.

Besides cataloguing all these new acquisitions, the staff has been busy selecting illustrations for books and films. The first illustrated edition of Erich Maria Remarque's classic, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, published by Bulfinch Press, came out in September. The book's sixty black and white photographs and one drawing were all images provided by the Liberty Memorial Museum

Archives. Look for it in bookstores! The archives also provided the image used on the cover of Sunflower Press' *The 90th Division in World War I*, written by Lonnie J. White. That cover image is a painting of 90th Division members in the field.

A new biography film by Guggenheim Productions, which will be on permanent exhibit at the Harry S. Truman Library, also contains images from the Liberty Memorial Museum Archives. And a new PBS series, "The Great War and the Shaping of Our Century," also used images from the archives. It aired nationally on November 10-12.

Another Liberty Memorial Museum annex was created last March at Ward Parkway Mall. It joined the exhibit on the lower level of the Town Pavilion at 12th and Main. Both exhibits contain archival material and objects from the collection, plus information and a detailed chronology of the war. The Ward Parkway annex has a changing exhibit, which has featured "A Sample of War-Time Periodicals." In addition to the annexes, the museum had an exhibit called "Posters from the American Home Front, 1917-1918" at the Roger Guffey Gallery in the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City which ran through much of last autumn. That exhibit was funded by the William T. Kemper Foundation. The annex exhibits are free.

It is anticipated that the new Liberty Memorial and Museum renovations will be completed in late fall of 1999. The expanded archives space will include a large reading room for researchers and special rooms for processing and preserving collections. In addition, six thousand feet of storage will be devoted to archival material, allowing the present collections to be stored properly and further allowing the present volume of our collections to double. The museum's staff size will also increase, including staff for the archives.

A brochure has been developed to familiarize potential donors and researchers with the Liberty Memorial Museum Archives. If you would like a copy of this brochure, please call Lynn Ward, museum archivist, at (816) 221-1918.

Harry S. Truman Library

The Truman Library has a new automated retrieval system for its still photograph collection. The photograph card catalog and 15,000 photographs were scanned onto ZyImage software. The photos were scanned at approximately 300 d.p.i. and are stored on CD. A researcher can now search by subject at the computer terminal in the audiovisual area and actually look at any of the scanned photographs on the computer. The library plans to eventually scan most of its 99,000 photographs and place them on the system.

On September 3, 1996, the Truman Library opened the Papers of Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture (1948-1953) and creator of the "Brannan Plan," a federal program to raise farm income while keeping consumer prices down. The program was not passed by Congress during Truman's administration but many of its elements later became part of U. S. agricultural policy. Brannan, the last surviving member of President Truman's cabinet, died on July 2, 1992.

Dr. George Curtis, Assistant Director of the Library for nearly nineteen years, retired in September. Curtis worked for the National Archives for over twenty-seven years. He began at the Office of Presidential Libraries and was posted to the White House twice during the Nixon

administration. He worked at the Eisenhower Library for five years before accepting his assignment at the Truman Library.

One and all are welcome to visit the Truman Library's web site at the following address:
<http://sunsite.unc.edu/lia/president/truman.html> .

KU Medical Center Archives

E. W. J. Pearce, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine, has arranged and described the Thor Jager Collection in the Clendening History of Medicine Library at KU Medical Center. Jager, born in Stockholm in 1882, came to America in 1902 and studied medicine in Germany and at Northwestern University. He opened a private medical practice in Wichita in 1911 and headed a pathology lab at St. Francis Hospital. Jager willed his collection to the University of Kansas in 1970. The collection includes 830 books, bound journals, and sixteen cubic feet of Jager's manuscript materials. An important component of the Jager Collection is the Rudolf Virchow series. Dr. Pearce characterizes Virchow as "one of the towering figures in pathology in nineteenth century Germany." Jager corresponded with Virchow and collected forty-one books written by Virchow, along with 300 volumes of the Virchow Archive. Jager worked in his practice until 1964.

Photographs and documents from the Medical Center Archives were used in an exhibit about the first students and leaders of the Kansas School of Nursing, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this academic year. The exhibit has been displayed at state nursing conferences , at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and will be displayed in the spring of 1997 at the School of Nursing alumni weekend celebration.

On March 20, KUMC archivist Nancy Hulston will deliver The Hixon Hour lecture for that month on the subject of "Medical Education on the Frontier in the 1870s." The lecture will be at 5:00 p.m. in the Clendening Amphitheater at KUMC. The lecture is preceded by a reception at 4:30 in the Clendening Library Foyer. Nancy and fellow KCAA member Lawrence Larsen, professor of history at UMKC, have a jointly written article in the recent issue of the *Missouri Historical Review* (January 1997). "Criminal Aspects of the Pendergast Machine" explores the relationship between Democratic machine boss Tom Pendergast and Kansas City's gangster element during the 1920s and 1930s.

Jackson County Historical Society Archives

The Jackson County Historical Society is sponsoring a free program series for children and families one Saturday a month. It will feature re-enactors, storytellers, and authors, each presenting a one-hour program highlighting a time or event in history. Documents from the Archives' collection also will be highlighted during the hour. All children present will receive a certificate granting them reduced or free admission to an area historic site related to the day's theme. The presentations include "Frank James," portrayed by Gregg Higginbotham on January 18, "Stories from Black History in Jackson County" by Milton Gray on February 18, and "The Story of the Osage Indians" on March 15. On May 17, KCAA member Niel Johnson will present

"Mr. Truman Visits the Archives." The programs will start at 10:00 a.m. in Room 103 of the Independence Courthouse on the Square.

JCHS is sponsoring a series of open houses at area centers for genealogical research in conjunction with the Public Broadcasting System's 10-part series "Ancestors," which will begin airing January 12 on KCPT. (KCAA members outside the KCPT broadcasting area should check the schedules of their local PBS station for correct dates and times). JCHS is also presenting a panel on "Resources for Genealogy Research" at its Spring Education Forum Series on April 10, 1997, at First Presbyterian Church in Independence. The time is at 5:30.

Three other Spring Forum events reflect the theme of Jackson County in the Prohibition era. The programs are: "The History of Kansas City Jazz" on February 13 (Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center), "Prohibition and Woman's Suffrage" on March 7 (Arthur Mag Center, Midwest Research Institute), and "Rise of the Kansas City Economy" on April 3 (Mag Center). These events all start at 5:30 p.m.

Missouri State Archives

KCAA member Lora Bloom had an article entitled "Electronic Currents" in the September 1996 issue of the *MAC Newsletter*. Bloom provides an introduction to electronic document imaging and explains why this procedure is attractive in a variety of office settings. But she also raises some important questions that archivists need to be concerned about, including the ability to preserve information that is preserved only in electronic media. She argues that records on a short retention/destruction cycle will probably not be affected seriously by the electronic office, but records that need to be preserved are at serious risk without hardcopy backup.

The Kansas Collection

The Kansas Collection at the University of Kansas has received the papers of retiring United States Representative Jan Meyers. Meyers served in the Congress of the United States for twelve years, representing Kansas' Third Congressional District. Approximately 170 boxes of papers were sent to Lawrence from Meyers' Washington office, while another 30 boxes were transferred from district offices in Overland Park, Lawrence, and Kansas City, Kansas. The papers reflect Meyer's work on the House International Relations Committee and as chair of the House Small Business Committee, and her interaction with constituents. She has placed a ten-year restriction on general access to the collection based on guidelines recommended by the General Accounting Office.

Visit the KCAA web site at:

<http://www.umkc.edu/KCAA/>

Other sites of interest:

MSNBC's primer on copyright: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/49689.asp>.

Provenance Electronic Magazine for Information Professionals:
<http://www.netpac.com/provenance/>