

# KCAA --- *The Dusty Shelf* --- 1998

Eastern Kansas ----- Vol. 17, No. 1 ----- Western Missouri

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## THE PENDERGAST CONUNDRUM

### *Two Local Historians Examine the Life & Impact of Kansas City's Most Controversial Politician*

Few people or events in the history of the Kansas City area stir as much interest and animosity as Thomas J. Pendergast and his political machine. For years students have approached me about doing papers on the topic. And each time they did so, I discouraged them from taking on such a difficult task. Why? Because so little material was available to cobble together a credible work. But Larry Larsen and Nancy Hulston, two very capable researchers and historians, have to some degree proven me wrong. Their second jointly authored book--*Pendergast!*--was published late

last year by the University of Missouri Press. With an incredible amount of work, and the benefit of a variety of new sources, they have told an important story in a very balanced and readable form.

Let me reinforce that point. Fully half of the manuscript material cited in their bibliography was unavailable for use as recently as a few years ago. A large percentage of the remaining material was not consulted by earlier researchers on the political machine. The existence of this book speaks volumes about Larsen's and Hulston's skill and tenacity. And--I am proud to say—it speaks well about the efforts of local archivists to gather new and important documents to help understand the dynamics of Kansas City's past.

Nancy and Larry have produced a wonderful book, rich in detail and insight, that dispels myths that have accumulated around Tom Pendergast. Some myths stem from his supporters, others from his detractors. *Pendergast!* paints a portrait of a flesh and blood person, his blessings and vices, and most importantly, his motives. Attitudes about Pendergast still split Kansas City. He is regarded by some as a booster who, by the standards of his time, did great things for his city and softened the pain of the Great Depression. Others see him as the kingpin of a criminal gang that pillaged the city's resources, instilled the worst forms of corruption into the body politic, and coddled murderers and robbers who plagued this city and, indeed, the whole Midwest. Both perceptions have merit, though a stronger case can be made for the latter.

Regardless, T.J.'s legacy is varied, both in its concreteness (literally) and in its impact on local attitudes. It is easy to point to the City Hall, Municipal Auditorium, and Brush Creek as public works that benefited Kansas City, both in the short-term (providing needed work during the Depression) and in the long-term (creating significant structures).

The importance of ethereal things, both good and ill, are more difficult to codify. Some credit the openness of the city to vices as the fertile ground in which Kansas City Jazz grew. Some see the evolution of local reforms and distrust of government as a reaction to city and country corruption. And then . . . there is Harry Truman . . . .

I congratulate Larry and Nancy for a job that was very well done. And I strongly encourage anyone who wants to comprehend the development of our community to read this work carefully.

**David Boutros**  
**Western Historical Manuscripts Collection-KC**

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***Pendergast!***

**Coming to the KCAA March Meeting**

The book reviewed by David Boutros will be featured at the Spring Meeting of Kansas City Area Archivists. Come hear the thrilling stories behind each chapter from the book's authors—KCAA's own Larry Larsen and Nancy Hulston! Copies of *Pendergast!* will be on sale at the meeting, or bring your a copy and have it personally inscribed by the authors.

**DATE:** Thursday, March 19, 1998

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Jackson County Historical Society Archives

112 W. Lexington, Room 103

Independence, Missouri (in the Jackson County Courthouse)

Refreshments and a tour of the Jackson County Archives will follow the program. If you have questions, call Kelly Chambers at (816) 252-7454.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-435 and exit on Truman Road, going east. Drive to downtown Independence and turn right on Liberty. Go one block. The Courthouse should be there. (If you see the Noland Road street sign, you've gone too far east).

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## The Corner Chair

Lynn M. Ward  
*KCAA Jr Co-Chair*

Hello old members and welcome to all the new members! One of the best benefits of belonging to KCAA is the networking and exchange of ideas and information that goes on between archivists who work in different settings but often face similar situations. A good way to network is to submit news from your repository about projects, staff, or collections to the KCAA newsletter and/or web site. Also, try to come to the meetings. The meetings provide a good opportunity to talk to other archivists or museum and library professionals. The meetings are also a convenient way of getting tours of all the interesting repositories in the area. If your repository would like to host a KCAA meeting next year, please let us know!

Also, get involved! We have great people on all the KCAA committees but we could always use a few more. The Publicity Committee chair is vacant and is just waiting to be filled. If you would like to volunteer for the Publicity Committee or any other committee, call me or Bobbi Rahder, Senior Co-Chair and archivist at the Haskell Indian Nations University Archives (785) 749-8470.

Many thanks to the great staff of Kansas Geological Survey Library at the University of Kansas for hosting the December 18 KCAA quarterly meeting. They have an incredible collection of maps and core samples! Many thanks also to the Western Historical Manuscript collection for hosting our Banish the Blahs party February 15.

I hope everyone can come to the next quarterly meeting, March 19 at 3:00pm, at the Jackson County Historical Society Archives, in the Historic Court House, 112 West Lexington, Room 103, Independence, Missouri.

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# Preservation Notes

*by*

**Alan F. Perry**

## ***TO DIGITIZE . . . OR OTHERWISE***

Well, folks, its time for old Uncle Al, well known for his stick-in-the-mud ways, to utter a few cautionary words on the theme of digitizing. I've just come through my first brush with digitizing (see the MidAmerican Archives section for the results of that adventure). Furthermore, I've recently been given responsibility for our shop's microfilm laboratory, have followed a recent Archives and Archivists listserv thread on digitizing, and spent a few days last May at the Northeast Document Conservation Center's School for Scanning. All this has forced me to think about the state of the arts of digitizing and microfilming.

You're thinking about copying some of your precious documents? Well, what purpose will the copies serve? If you're anxious to put a modest number of representative documents on your website, then digitizing certainly is the answer. If you are desperately seeking a sophisticated indexing capability, then digitizing *may* be the answer.

BUT, if you are primarily trying to preserve the information, then hearken to the wisdom of Dean DeBolt, who pounds the electronic table and tells us that we have a duty "to our clients to emphasize, to the point of irritability . . . that the original records should be preserved, and all this cost and effort at a fancy digital 'home movie' will not serve our family or preserve our personal life on this earth."\* Who is Dean DeBolt? He's the archivist and regional manuscripts curator at the University of West Florida. Why is he willing to irritate people? Because he realizes that occasionally our professional responsibilities may require us to do just that when we point out that digitizing is not archival.

It may not be archival, but because digitizing is sexy, and the technology is hot, administrators often like it. If you're not putting your collection on line, they may say, you're putting yourself out of business. Digitizing can produce quick payback in terms of public exposure.

But here is where we have to pound the table and shout that we often vastly underestimate the cost of digitizing and maintaining digital images. According to figures provided at the School for Scanning, during the first ten years of the life of a digitized document, the cost of migrating to the inevitable new formats will be more than twice the original cost of describing and scanning the document in the first place. The cost per image for scanned images with appropriate \*mediate\* built into the job seems to average about \$19.00. I can't recall hearing a single responsible archivist state that digitizing documents is, by itself, an adequate preservation strategy. Old fashioned unglamorous, ANSI-standard microfilming is still, it seems, the way to go when you want to do right by your preservation responsibilities. Microfilm may be depressingly old fashioned, but once its done its done, whereas in the digital world generations of technological change are now, as a newsmagazine notes, "roughly as ephemeral as those that make up the family trees of mayflies."\*\*

None of this is to say, of course, that there is no place for digitizing in our business. Electronic images on the internet can serve as attractive sampling of our wares. Making digitized finding aids available to the public can enhance the effectiveness of our reference services manifold. As long as the present and future costs do not cripple our other programs, and we don't expect effortless permanence from a transitory medium, these are very good things to do.

And yes, of course technology marches on. After all, that's the main problem with digitizing for preservation! Eventually we'll have an electronic reformatting procedure that the community of archivists can agree is superior to microfilm. Eventually I'll be able to stop feeling like such a Luddite when I tell people to treasure those originals, to go for photonegatives rather scanned copies of their photographs, to film rather than scan. Eventually Dean DeBolt will stop pounding the table and irritating people. But not yet, folks. Not yet.

\* Posting on Archives & Archivists listserv, 2/9/98. By permission.

\*\* "Store Wars," *The Economist* (Sept 18, 1993)

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## Announcements

*Margaret Hellner* is presently the Library Media Specialist at St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City, Missouri. Until last August, Margaret was an Archival Technician and Library Assistant at the Spencer Art Reference Library.

Two KCAA members will soon be united in marriage. *Cynthia Shively* and *Joe Laframboise* will exchange vows on July 17th in Lawrence, Kansas. Both are employed at the Kansas State Historical Society

The spring conference of the Missouri chapter of the National Association of African American Heritage Preservation (MO-NAAAHP) will be in St. Louis on Saturday, March 21, 1998 at the Henry VIII Conference Center on Lindbergh Boulevard. The one-day conference will feature sessions highlighting African-American culture preservation, and recording and documenting African-American heritage. For further information contact Angela da Silva at (314) 865-0708.

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[minutes: Winter Quarterly Meeting, December 18, 1997](#)

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## Award of Excellence Reminder

Award of Excellence nominations are being accepted. The previous issue of the *Dusty Shelf* contained a Guidelines and Nomination Form. The Award of Excellence recognizes outstanding contributions to preserving the documentary heritage of the Greater Kansas City area. Recipients may include the region's historical management professionals who have provided exemplary leadership and/or promoted excellence through institutional and professional achievements. Non-professionals and those outside the Kansas City area who have contributed to the betterment of the archival profession generally or have provided specific assistance to local archival institutions may also be recognized with an Award of Excellence. For more information or a Guidelines and Nomination Form, please contact: Angela Curran, Archives for Family Practice, 8880 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114; or call 816-333-9700 x3310.

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## "Banish the Blahs" Party

The Banish the Blahs Party on February 15 brought many KCAA members and their families to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection to enjoy barbecue, other good dishes, and desserts. We saw film footage of Thomas Pendergast and other Kansas City notables from the WHMC archives. Many people won doorprizes consisting of various archival supplies. Raffle prizes were also distributed. The raffle was a benefit for the outreach program being planned by the Education Committee, which is developing pamphlets and other methods to encourage area teachers to use primary resources as teaching tools. The money raised in the raffle (about \$74)

will help offset the cost of producing the pamphlets. Anyone who wishes to join the Education Committee or be involved with this project should contact Bob Knecht at the Kansas State Historical Society, (785) 272-8681.

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## Membership Notes

Welcome to the National Archives & Records Administration-Central Plains Region branch as a new institutional member.

Please correct your copy of the KCAA directory: e-Mail for Bobbi Rahder should be sent to:

[BRAHDER@ROSS1.CC.HASKELL.EDU](mailto:BRAHDER@ROSS1.CC.HASKELL.EDU) (it is ROSS number 1, not ROSS capital L)

KCAA member Mary Conrad at Sumner Academy is serving as History Day regional coordinator for the Kansas counties of Johnson, Wyandotte, Miami, and Leavenworth. Congratulations, Mary!

What the Little Mouse Saw: An item in KU Medical Center's "Topics" newsletter from Dec. 3, 1997 entitled "KUMC jack-o'-lantern contest winners." This is noted: "Best Carved: 'The Grave Robbers' by the International Programs team of Julie Heaston, Bill Shumate, **Nancy Hulston** and Sally Heaston." Nancy is obviously an archivist of many talents!

Pat Michaelis of the Kansas State Historical Society was quoted extensively in an article in *The Wichita Eagle* (Jan 5) titled "The Challenges of Preserving the Past: Technology is Presenting Its Own Problems for People in Charge of Preserving Historical Documents." The article examines the challenges in preserving information that is created or stored electronically. Archivist Matt Veatch is also quoted in the article.

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## Art McClure

Arthur F. McClure II, 61, Warrensburg, Mo., died Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1998, at his home. Mr. McClure was born Jan. 24, 1936, in Leavenworth, Kan. In 1958, he received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and his master's degree in history from the University of Colorado in 1960. He joined the Department of History and Anthropology at Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, in 1965, became chairman in 1971 and held that position until his death. He also served as University Archivist since his appointment Jan. 1, 1985. He received his Ph.D. in history in 1965 from KU. A specialist in 20th century America,

he authored or co-authored 18 books in the fields of the Truman era and popular culture. He was especially noted for his work in the history of American motion picture. (*Independence Examiner*, January 22, 1998).

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# Education Committee Report

*Dec. 18, 1997*

## **Bob Knecht, Chair**

Since the last quarterly meeting, the KCAA Education Committee has met twice. Currently we are concentrating on assembling information about what area archives do to help teachers and students and to publicize their holdings and programs. We could include this information in the packets of material that KCAA members give to teachers at workshops and conferences. The general brochure about archives and doing research in archives that the Publications Committee produced will also be part of the packet.

Stan Ingersol published a request for current information about area archives' educational and outreach programs in *The Dusty Shelf*. If responses are incomplete, it is possible we may need a questionnaire.

Committee members looked at and suggested minor changes to the draft brochure copy produced by the Publications Committee. The Education Committee has also looked at brochures and web pages on introducing archives and archival research produced by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the Idaho State Historical Society, the National Archives, and Yale University Libraries for possible inclusion or citation in the packets.

The consensus was that the packets for teachers should have lots of handouts: lesson plans, ideas for student projects or research, information about area archives, information about KCAA-area archives and educational materials currently available from them, and similar types of items.

Development of the presentation kit is also under consideration by the committee. We propose to have a highly-structured presentation that volunteers from KCAA could use in talks to teachers. Our hope is to design a packet so presenters will not have to spend a lot of additional time developing the details. The presentation materials would be more detailed than an outline but not as detailed as a fully-written text that might be read (boring!). The packet would include information about the advantages of using archives in working with students, what an archives is and does, and how to do archival research. Suggestions for other things in the kit include slides or videotape of archives and documents, photocopies of interesting documents to use as handouts, examples of finding aids, and suggestions on how to give effective presentations and lead discussions.



Suggestions for a spring workshop for KCAA members have been given to the committee. At the last quarterly meeting, Dave Boutros mentioned the possibility of having people from the Getty Museum come to Kansas City and present a workshop on the Art and Architecture Thesaurus that we could offer to others responsible for curation of historical materials. Several people have indicated an interest in a workshop on digitization projects and efforts to develop a web page. Ideas from the KCAA membership are welcome.

*Suggestions of the committee:*

(1) A symbol could be inserted in the KCAA archives directory denoting repositories with educational programs available.

(2) KCAA could establish an annual award to the archives that had done the best job of developing educational or outreach programming during the past year.

(3) KCAA could also give an award to the teacher who best uses primary sources in his/her classroom, either directly in teaching or by fostering student research.

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# MidAmerican Archives

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## *News of KCAA People & Repositories*

### St. Joseph Museum Archives

Several recent gifts to the St. Joseph Museum archives include bequests from a St. Joseph woman whose ancestors played important roles in the city's history. Mrs. Elizabeth Garth left a wedding photograph of Mrs. John Lemon and oil portraits of John Lemon; General James Craig, U.S.A.; and Lieutenant Colonel Todd Samuel, C.S.A. The portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel was painted by renowned artist George Caleb Bingham. Mrs. Garth's bequest also included written information about each person. (Reported by Marilyn Taylor)

### Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library

The Special Collections department of the Kansas City Public Library recently received a Local Records grant from the Missouri Secretary of State's office which will help to preserve the department's newspaper clipping collection. Beginning near the turn of the century, the library

reference staff clipped, mounted, indexed, and preserved clippings pertaining to Kansas City and the states of Kansas and Missouri. They clipped from local papers as well as national papers carrying articles of local interest. The earliest segment of the collection spans the first half of the 20th century.

The mounts used with the clippings have stayed together remarkably well over the years. They were microfilmed in the 1980s but many original clips had faded and the filming was not satisfactory. It was felt that if the 100,000-plus mounted clippings could be photocopied on acid free paper and remicrofilmed, a better quality filming would be the result.

Work began on the project as soon as Special Collections was awarded the grant. All of the Kansas City and Missouri clippings have been photocopied at this time, and the Kansas City portion has been microfilmed. Missouri portion will be microfilmed later this year.

This unique collection is one of a kind for this area. All the clippings contain citations that are especially helpful in researching the history of this area. Although they did not cover sports or jazz much, they are rich in historical articles, the arts, social history, government, and personalities. They are available for use in the Special Collections department of the Kansas City Public Library. (Reported by Sara Nyman)

## Cleveland Chiropractic College

Jetta Nash, Archivist, has been asked to present a paper she wrote on Dr. Millie Cleveland, D.C., mother of the current Cleveland College president, Carl S. Cleveland, III, to the Association for the History of Chiropractic. She will attend the AHC's annual conference in San Lorenzo, California, this year at Life-West, February 20-22. All papers read at the conference will be published in the AHC's journal, *Chiropractic History*. This will be Jetta's fourth paper published in five years. (Reported by Angela Curran)

## Archives for Family Practice

Angela Curran, Archivist, is still recovering from 50th Anniversary festivities held in 1997 for the American Academy of Family Physicians. At a ceremony in January, the AAFP retired its 50th anniversary banner and flag to the Archives and presented an award to Angela, naming her "Archivist Extraordinaire."

Anniversary projects and programs that required use of the Archives' collections included: *Caring for America: The Story of Family Practice* (a commemorative coffee table book); two videotapes featuring highlights from AAFP history; monthly news features in FP Report; the AAFP's newsletter; and a photo collage poster. The highlight of the year for Angela was travelling to the AAFP's Convention in Chicago to staff a 50th Anniversary Room, which featured display cases of archival material. The Room was a huge success, drawing over 3,000 people in five days. (Reported by Angela Curran)

# Partee Center for Baptist Studies, William Jewell

The Partee Center for Baptist Studies, located at William Jewell University, has been collecting material since the 1800's. Angela Stiffler, archival director, currently is organizing the collection for reference and research use, and for preservation. The archives has a wide range of books, 10,000 biographical files on Missouri Baptists, periodicals, and over 2000 church history files--some on churches that are no longer active. The archives is working on a line of Baptist heritage pamphlets and is planning to create additional publications. They also have a church anniversary program where they help churches plan anniversaries and teach the importance of keeping records and recognizing history. (Information by Angela Stiffler, reported by Lynn Ward)

## Ozarks Labor Union Archives, SMSU

The Ozarks Labor Union Archives was awarded a grant of \$58,620 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The grant will underwrite the work of arranging, describing, and cataloging the collections. It will also fund the creation of finding aids that will enhance access to the collections and promote their use. Eighteen collections are involved. These collections document the history of organized labor and working class history in the state of Missouri and the Southwest Missouri Ozarks region. The collections were selected for their regional and statewide significance, inclusive dates, comprehensiveness, physical condition, and contents regarding working class women's history and under-documented trades. The collections total 430 linear feet. They date from 1891 to the 1980s and include the Missouri State AFL-CIO records, Greater Kansas City Missouri Labor Council, the Essie DeCamp Collection (Women's Auxiliaries) and the Ozarks Labor Union Archives photograph collection.

## Assemblies of God Archives

The Assemblies of God Archives in Springfield, Missouri, is involved in a major expansion that will provide a new office, reading room, vault, and museum-visitors center. The facility is located on the second floor of the Assemblies of God headquarters complex. A capital fund drive of \$1 million is underway, with more than \$800,000 currently committed to the project. The project's completion date is the autumn of 1998.

The first phase of the expansion was completed in December, when temporary office space was occupied and the contents of the old vault were moved to an 800-square-foot block vault. Features of the vault include a reinforced concrete ceiling; a Simplex FM200 fire protection system; 13 Kardex movable shelving units, 14' in length; other Kardex stationary shelving units; filtered overhead lights; and a walk-in cooler for the storage of tapes and films. Because the building's heating and air-conditioning system is shut down on weekends, the vault is equipped with its own heating and cooling system. In addition, the facility has a storage room for unprocessed materials on the first floor.

The new offices, conference room, and reading room will occupy 2,000-square feet. They will be adjacent to the main foyer of the Assemblies of God headquarters building. The museum-visitor's center will occupy 3,000 square feet, and it will include a store-front type church building reminiscent of early Pentecostal history. The interactive exhibits of the museum-visitors center are being designed and built by Lynch Industries of Burlington Township, New Jersey. Lynch designed the Billy Graham Center Museum in Wheaton, Illinois.

The expansion project entails a new name for the Assemblies of God Archives. It is now called the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, in honor of the J. Roswell and Alice Reynolds Flower family. The late Mr. and Mrs. Flower were charter members of the Assemblies of God when it was formed in 1914, and he served as an executive officer for many years. Their children followed them into the ministry and have contributed documents, artifacts, and financial gifts to the center.

The current personnel of the center are Wayne Warner, director since 1980; Joyce Lee, assistant archivist, who has been here since 1986; and Glenn Gohr, archives assistant since 1987. A secretary will be named soon. (Reported by Wayne Warner)

## Combined Arms Research Library, Ft. Leavenworth

The Combined Arms Research Library has recently described and organized a collection of over 200 WWI pamphlets published by the War Department and intended for the use of soldiers in the European theater. These pamphlets tell soldiers how to handle weapons and perform a variety of technical tasks, such as sound-ranging and wire-laying.

The photographs in the CARL Archives have been rehoused, inventoried, and organized. The majority depict Fort Leavenworth personalities and locations. There are some images from the Civil War, the American Frontier, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Soviet war in Afghanistan. CARL has an extensive collection of group photos of students who were in various classes at Fort Leavenworth prior to World War II. For instance, the 1923-1924 CGSC class contained George S. Patton and Leslie Hodges, both majors at the time. These photos are available to researchers, but arrangements to use them should be made in advance. To access them, please contact Tim Renick at (913) 651-3153, or write to Tim via e-mail at [renickt@Leavenworth1.army.mil](mailto:renickt@Leavenworth1.army.mil)

Tim Renick has joined the Combined Arms Research Library staff as Archivist and Curator of Special Collections. He comes from Washington, D.C., where he held positions at the Pentagon Library, the National Defense University Library, and the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center. Tim holds a master's degree in library science and a master's degree in history from the University of South Carolina. His primary responsibilities will be control of the curriculum archives, cataloging of the Special Collections materials (books that are fragile or threatened and sequestered from the circulating collection), and reference service.

Ed Burgess, Archives Manager at the Combined Arms Research Library, has been selected for the special libraries seat on the Kansas Library Network Board. KLNb members are appointed by Governor Bill Graves and are charged with improving the state of library networking and resource availability in all Kansas libraries. Some of the Board's projects are Blue Skyways, the extensive set of WWW pages which provide access to Kansas communities and government at local and state levels; a courier service for Interlibrary Loan; a fund for paying for lost or damaged ILL items; and the Interlibrary Loan Development Project, which provides grants to libraries to purchase materials that they agree to make available for statewide use. The Board presently funds free unlimited use of selected FirstSearch databases for Kansas libraries. KLNb's major project for this year is an inclusive, broad-based strategic planning effort to determine what the state effort should be in providing library service for Kansans in the 21st century. As part of that effort, KLNb is surveying all libraries in the state for ideas, problems, projects, and suggested resources. The staff at the State Library will soon distribute printed surveys (an online version is also ready), and the Board will invite comment at a program at the TriConference in Wichita in April. Blue Skyways can be reached at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/> Ed can be reached at (913) 651-3171. His email address is [burgesse@Leav-emh1.army.mil](mailto:burgesse@Leav-emh1.army.mil) (Reported by Ed Burgess).

## Missouri State Archives

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives will be conducted on June 19, 1998. Those attending will spend an evening relishing the splendor of Missouri's past in the historic Governor's Mansion from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event will be hosted by Missouri's First Lady, Jean Carnahan, at the Governor's Mansion, 100 Madison Street, Jefferson City. Space is limited, so those who are interested should make reservations early by calling (573) 751-4236. The cost is \$25 per member. A non-member rate is also available. (Reported by Jelain Chubb).

## Kansas State University Special Collections

The Department of Special Collections at Kansas State University has been renamed in honor of Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse. A special ceremony conducted in October marked the event. The action recognizes the long-time generosity and support that the Morses have shown to Kansas State University Libraries and especially to special collections. Between 1988 and 1993, the Morses co-chaired fundraising efforts on behalf of KSU Libraries' Essential Edge Campaign. Earlier, they established the Consumer Movement Archives in the Department of Special Collections in 1987. They have also provided cherry tables and chairs for the Special Collections research room. Richard Morse received the Midwest Archives Conference's President's Award in 1996 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the KSU Archives. Most recently, Richard and Marjorie Morse established a major endowment to provide lasting support for KSU's Department of Special Collections. (Reported by Tony Crawford)

## Cottey College Archives

Cotney College was founded by Virginia Alice Cotney in Nevada, Missouri, in 1884. Her lifelong determination was to provide a school where girls would receive an education that was equal to that of boys. As founder and president, Cotney ran the College for forty-five years and retired in 1929 at age 81. Two years earlier, she gave the College to the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic organization dedicated to education. Today Cotney College is a private, two-year liberal arts college for women and is the only non-sectarian college owned and supported by a women's organization. The Cotney College Archives is the repository of the school's 113-year history. It is housed in the Library, which has a staff of five full-time employees, student assistants, and one faithful volunteer. Library Director Nancy Hill came to Cotney in 1994. Becky Kiel, Assistant Director of the Library and Archivist, spends most of her time with reference work and library instruction. Beth LaGuire Lightner, Class of 1968, is the volunteer who spends more hands-on time with archival materials.

The archives collections include materials pertaining to Virginia Alice Cotney, her family, and the college from its earliest years forward. Elizabeth McClure Campbell, a niece of the founder, wrote *The Cotney Sisters of Missouri*, a history of the family and college through 1949. Campbell's papers have been placed in the archives.

In 1918 Cotney was a charter member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honorary society for two-year colleges. Cotney's Epsilon Chapter is the oldest continuing member. Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow, president of the college from 1949 to 1965, was national president of AAUW from 1963 to 1967, and copies of her papers are in the archives. The college continues to thrive and create new documents and artifacts for its archives. The current president, Dr. Helen Washburn, is a former president of the Women's College Coalition. The archives at Cotney College are a vital source for the history of women's education in the late-19th and 20th centuries. Each spring Dr. Debbie Cottrell's class in the History of Women in the United States uses photographs, documents and artifacts from the archives to create an exhibit of Cotney history. (Reported by Rebecca Kiel)

## Robert J. Dole Collection, University of Kansas

Bob Dole, longtime U.S. Senator from Kansas, Senate Republican Leader, and senior statesman, announced the gift of his papers to the University of Kansas in April 1997. To date, nearly 4,000 linear feet of the Dole Collection have arrived at KU, primarily documenting Dole's thirty-five year career in the U.S. House and Senate. The Dole Collection will be the jewel in the crown of the Dole Archive, a state-of-the-art legislative archive at the Dole Institute for Public Service and Public Policy. The Institute, soon to be constructed on the West Lawrence campus, will promote public service and thoughtful public debate on issues important to Kansas, the region, and the nation.

Dole served as U.S. Representative from 1961 to 1968, and U.S. Senator from 1969 to 1996. His U.S. House and Senate records include extensive administrative, legislative, press, and personal files. They illustrate how modern House and Senate offices have evolved since 1960. They also document the increasing workload and oversight functions of Congress, and they show the growth of constituency and advocacy groups. Files maintained by Dole's legislative aides cover a broad range of subjects and issues before Kansas and the nation, from agriculture to veterans'

affairs, from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. Decision memos, bill markups, drafts of floor remarks, and vote analyses, among other things, are contained in the legislative files. Press operation files include a complete run of press releases and newsletters, news clips, national talk show transcripts and subject files. VIP correspondence, memos, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and drafts for more than three thousand speeches delivered outside the halls of Congress, all kept by the Senator's secretaries and executive assistants, are also in the Collection.

Dole was the longest serving Senate Republican Leader. The extensive holdings from his Republican Leadership Office include legislative issue files on health care, the judiciary, national defense, labor, foreign affairs, civil rights, and taxes, among others. The Leadership holdings include press operation files and executive assistant files comprised of correspondence, schedules, briefings materials, and nomination files. Dole's service as Republican Leader is also documented in thousands of photographs and exotic gifts from heads of state. En masse the Leadership files alone comprise a rather large and enviable collection.

Campaign materials include holdings on all Dole U.S. House ('60, '62, '64, and '66), Senate ('68, '74, '80, '86, and '92) and Presidential ('76, '80, '88, '96) campaigns. National and state operations, position papers, legislative histories and voting records, advance and scheduling files, and debate briefing materials are just a few of the record series among the campaign files. Paid media advertisements and campaign memorabilia are also in the campaign holdings.

Pre-1960 files in the Dole Collection include photographs and memorabilia from Dole's youth, teen years in Russell, Kansas, and his years at the University of Kansas in the early 1940's. The collection also contains materials on his career in the U.S. Army dating from 1943, his physical rehabilitation as documented in his Army medical records, and his long association with the 10th Mountain Division and the citizens of Castel D'Aiano, Italy.

Special mention should be made of the Collection's photographs, audio/video media, and memorabilia, which constitute a rich source for the study of politics in the latter half of the twentieth century. The photograph collection includes shots of Dole with colleagues, staff, in committee, with constituents on the campaign trail, and at GOP conventions. Dole's meetings with heads of state and his foreign travel as a Congressional delegate and advisor to Presidents is documented as well. Extensive video footage includes interviews on national press shows, convention footage, and commercial productions bearing on issues before Congress. Over three thousand gifts from Presidents, colleagues, foreign dignitaries, and supporters document his distinguished career and his stature as a national leader.

An exhibition of a small portion of the Dole Collection went up for display at the Kansas Day Celebration January 29-31, 1998. The Senator and Mrs. Dole were on hand to view the display, as were Senators Pat Roberts, Sam Brownback, and other members of the Kansas Congressional delegation. More exhibits and presentations are planned for the near future. (Reported by Bryan Culp)

## Liberty Memorial Archives

The Liberty Memorial Archives was the recipient of many new donations throughout 1997. Most were unsolicited but all were welcomed. They were received from all over the country. Although most of our donations are unsolicited, I still spend a lot of time trying to attract new ones. One of the principal methods is by writing articles for publications read by World War I enthusiasts. It's also a great way to inform researchers of the vast information on World War I that the Liberty Memorial archives hold.

Many people ask where the archives are located presently. That is a good question, since the museum buildings are closed to the public. I am still at the memorial. The museum buildings are structurally sound and so is the tower. The unsafe areas are the courtyards and stairways. The research library, however, remains available to researchers by phone or appointment. I also get many letters requesting information about certain aspects of World War I. We recently provided the Discovery Channel with images and information for a documentary on the influenza epidemic during the war. We also continue to operate our two off-site exhibits. So even though the monument is closed for renovation, we are still very busy! (Reported by Lynn Ward)

## Central Mo. State Univ. Archives & Museum

Central Missouri State's Archives and Museum is located in Room 117 of the Union Building in Warrensburg, Missouri. Several exhibits are scheduled for this spring. In March, works in wood and stone will be displayed, along with textiles from India and Pakistan. These are on loan from the Nance Museum of Kingsville, Missouri. In April and May, an exhibit featuring CMSU history will use photos and objects from the university collection. (Reported by Jelain Chubb).

## Nebraska State Historical Society

According to former KCAA co-chair Paul Eisloeffel, the Library/Archives Division of the Nebraska State Historical Society will move public records in its care to a new off-site storage facility between February 9 and April 13. During this period, some manuscript and public records collections may not be available for use. Researchers needing access to specific materials during this time should contact Library/Archives staff at 402/471-4772 to discuss the availability of materials.

## Clay County Archives & Historical Library

The Clay County Archives & Historical Library is operated by an all-volunteer staff. The volunteer staff is available Monday through Wednesday except for holidays. Many improvements were made in the archives computer department over the past few months. A grant from the Harry Arnote Charitable Trust, augmented by additional contributions, made possible the installation of new work counters in the computer room. The counters replaced a set of miscellaneous desks of uneven height that restricted work space. Also, several computers were donated and networked by those on the board and by friends of the archives. On-going computer projects include the indexing of all Clay County cemeteries, Clay County censuses,



and a growing collection of early Clay County circuit court files. The master index, comprising all computerized indexes, will eventually be available to researchers on the reception room computer. This will improve the efficiency of research on individuals and families.

Work continues on improved indexing of early probate records, historical collections centered around individuals, family history collections, obituaries, marriage records, and other miscellaneous historical items. A committee continues to work on creating and publishing a Clay County Archives website. Once in place, researchers will have quick access to information about using the collections, and eventually they will be able to e-mail their queries directly. As these improvements occur, so does the capacity for providing genealogical resources to visitors and the many persons who write for information on their Clay County ancestors. (Information from Bill Hawkins, reported by Lynn Ward)

## The Unity Archives

The Unity Archives had a busy and speedy 1997. Until this year, the archives was officially the Heritage Rooms and Archives. But Archives staff had recognized for some time that a consistent name was needed for the historical area. The growth of our collections and the increasingly widespread knowledge about them—indicated by the growing number of research requests--definitely identified us as an archives. The simple name "Unity Archives" better reflects the activities of our area.

The Unity Archives collects, preserves, and makes accessible records and manuscripts of Unity School of Christianity, the Town of Unity Village, and the Unity movement. The primary collections are the records of Unity School of Christianity, with its 12 Divisions and 58 Departments. The Archives also collects manuscripts of individuals associated with the Unity movement and the Association of Unity Churches. The Archives serves ministers, students on ministerial and continuing education tracks, researchers, and the various departments of Unity School of Christianity. The documents date from the 1890s to the present.

In 1997 the Unity Archives received 695 research requests for information regarding Unity and its history. Seventy percent of requests came from Unity School departments or field ministries. The other 30 percent came from the public. Many requests required considerable research time by staff members. The Archives recently entered the computer age and staff already have a few inventories on the system. The office computer is slowly becoming a useful tool for our work and will probably increase the number of research requests. At the same time, it will also enhance our communication with other Unity departments.

The Archives has nearly completed the longtime project of having the Charles S. Fillmore Papers (35 linear feet) placed on microfilm. The collection documents his work from 1903 to 1933 as a minister of the Unity Society of Practical Christianity in Kansas City, Missouri, and as an author, lecturer, cofounder, and President of Unity School of Christianity through 1948. Work continues on a detailed inventory of the Myrtle Fillmore Papers (16.5 linear feet). This collection contains a portion of her voluminous correspondence for the Silent Unity Department. The collection also contains personal correspondence and ephemera collected by this woman, whose spiritual

experiences launched the Unity movement. Microfilming this important collection should begin within the next year.

The Unity Archives is in the final stages of a large film transfer project of nearly 600 films produced and collected by Unity School and the Fillmore family. The films include Unity lessons, "The Word" television broadcasts, and historical scenes such as Unity farm and Unity buildings. The films date from the early 1920s through the 1980s. The collection has been placed on video tape for research use.

Archives staff and volunteers have processed numerous collections, including the Nina Wright Papers, the Rev. William L. Fischer Papers, and the Marion Penrod Papers. Wright conducted the Silent Seventy Department, which provided free literature to prisons and hospitals. Fischer ministered in Unity churches in Michigan, Iowa, and Ohio. He also worked in the Unity Radio and Television Department and directed Unity School's Retreat Department. Penrod taught at Unity ministries in Maryland, California, Texas, and Kansas.

The Fillmore Family Book Collection is now inventoried. The collection contains 87 books, from 1852 to 1950, collected by six members of the Fillmore family. Many were gifts to family members and contain messages and notes. The collection reflects the family's interests in religious studies and the works of transcendentalists like Emerson and Lowell. One dedicated volunteer also photocopied and inventoried the Public Relations Scrapbooks from 1920 to 1983. The artifact collection of 450 objects, representing many aspects of Unity School and the movement, was also inventoried. (Reported by Eric Page)

## Park College

As the motion picture *Titanic* moves rapidly to become the first \$1 billion film in movie history, Park College can celebrate its own connection to the Titanic! Two alums, Albert and Sylvia Harbaugh Caldwell, survived the sinking with their 10 month-old son. Of the 168 men survived who survived, only 14 were traveling in second class. Albert was one of these. He told his story in the May, 1912 *Alumniad*. Sylvia was one of several Titanic survivors interviewed by Walter Lord for his 1955 best-seller, *A Night to Remember*. Their son, Alden, left the bulk of his estate to Park College when he died. This fund, used for scholarships and named for his mother, remains Park College's permanent link to the Caldwell family and to the Titanic. In light of the interest generated by the current film, the Park College Historical Society has arranged to have Michael Rudd, local Titanic scholar, historian, and collector, to speak at the annual meeting, 1:00 p.m., June 19th. The location will be determined later. If you are interested in attending this event, call Carollyn Elwess, Park College Library, at 741-2000. She will also be setting up an exhibit on the Titanic. (Reported by Marilyn Burlingame).

## The Kansas Collection

Sherry Williams, Kansas Collection Curator and University Archivist at the University of Kansas, has been awarded sabbatical leave for the 1998 spring semester. Sherry's research will

focus on developing a proposal to ensure that the University's institutional electronic records of enduring value will be identified and retained for the future. Her work will be conducted primarily at the University of Kansas but will include trips to other academic institutions. In Sherry's absence, Becky Schulte is in charge of the Kansas Collection and Ned Kehde is in charge of University Archives. Questions concerning Sherry's sabbatical may be sent to her e-mail address (SWILLIAM@UKANS.ED). (Reported by Mary Hawkins)

## Omaha Regional Community, Sisters of Mercy

The archives of the Omaha Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas is located at the order's regional offices in Omaha, Neb., at 73rd and Mercy Road. The present facility was occupied in July 1996. With the move, a decision was made to renovate part of the building and establish a climate controlled atmosphere and install compact movable shelving. This is light years ahead of the previous situation! I laughed many times at the "moving" jokes in the *Dusty Shelf*, because some of them hit very close to home! By March 1997, the collections had been moved for the third time but were finally "home."

The archives are the official repository for the historical and administrative records of thirteen original foundations in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon and California, which became the Omaha Province in 1929. These records date back to the 1860's (Omaha), 1880's, and early 1890's. The newest acquisitions include records from the Red Bluffs, Calif., community. The archives is also receiving many administrative records as the current leadership team prepares to leave office in June.

Within the Mercy Institute, there are 25 regional communities and 25 regional archives. The third meeting of Mercy Institute Archivists is scheduled for next October. These meetings occur every three years and promote a helpful network focused on specific concerns. In August 1997, the Archives of Communities of Women Religious held its second national meeting in Wisconsin. Twenty-two Sisters of Mercy archivists attended. This is another wonderful group!

I have been recuperating at home this winter after breaking two ribs on January 3. Needless to say, I am not doing any lifting at this time. (Reported by Rita Connell).

## National Archives—Central Plains Region

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and its regional archives and records centers have been reorganized. There is no longer any administrative distinction between the former regional records centers and the former regional archives. They are now merged into regional "service centers." NARA's Central Plains Region in Kansas City, Mo., has been further reorganized into three "clusters" of record groups (legal, financial, and all others), with each cluster responsible for the entire life cycle of the records assigned to it. The closing of NARA's former regional records center in Bayonne, New Jersey, has also affected the Central Plains Region. Records stored formerly in Bayonne are being moved to a permanent home at the Central Plains Region facility ("The Cave") in Lee's Summit, Mo.

The Central Plains Region staff have completed an index of the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary prisoner files accessioned several years ago. The index is available in the research room on a computer database. It covers 15,803 case files of prisoners incarcerated at Leavenworth from 1895 to 1920, and provides the name and number of the prisoner, his or her offense and date of incarceration, and the Federal Judicial District from which he or she was sentenced. It also notes whether or not a photograph is included in the case file.

Regional participation in the first phase of NARA's Electronic Access Project has involved digitized images and descriptions of 787 selected photographs from the region's holdings. These can now be accessed through NARA's homepage at <<http://www.nara.gov>>. Click on "NARA Archival Information Locator," then on "Data in NAIL," then on "Search NAIL." Select "Central Plains Region" from the pull-down menu, and follow the instructions for the search procedure. Most of the photographs are images of the northern Midwest, but there are also pictures of overseas theatres in the Second World War and the Korean War. (Reported by Alan Perry)

## Nazarene Archives

Typically, a cross-section of accessions includes "something old and something new," and even "something borrowed" (though not necessarily something blue). The recent past is no exception. Recent accessions include microfilm copies of the administrative board minutes and other records of San Diego First Church of the Nazarene dating from 1907 to the present. These were loaned to the Archives for microfilming. The cost of microfilming them was underwritten by the Merle Dimbath Memorial Fund, which is designated for the preservation of congregational records. Our newer accessions include photographs and materials of the 1998 Kansas City District (Church of the Nazarene) Women Clergy Conference. Not only do the women clergy materials document the networking of local women, but the collection ties in nicely to a broader collection of materials produced by the on-going International Wesleyan-Holiness Women Clergy Conference. That organization is composed of women in ministry in the Free Methodist, Wesleyan Church, Salvation Army, Church of God (Anderson, Indiana), Brethren in Christ, Evangelical Friends, and Church of the Nazarene denominations. Two years ago, the Nazarene Archives was designated as the official repository of the organization, which sponsors an international conference every two years.

In the final months of 1997, the Archives received the papers of Dr. Donald Owens, who retired at the end of two terms (eight years) on the denomination's Board of General Superintendents. His diverse career includes service as a missionary pastor and administrator in South Korea, professor of anthropology and missions at Nazarene Theological Seminary, founding president of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila, and second president of MidAmerica Nazarene College in Olathe, Kansas. The Archives also received 342 reels of microfilm from the World Mission Division and 39 reels from Church Growth Division.

The H. H. Hooker Collection was received in mid-1997 but deserves comment. Hooker was a minister and district superintendent whose career largely was spent in the South. The collection of diaries and preaching logs also contains very unique items: over a score of different tobacco

products surrendered at the mourner's bench by penitents during revivals Hooker conducted in Alabama in the 1940s. (Reported by Stan Ingersol)

## Short Repository Notes

Anne Jones reports that the Johnson County Museum has been closed since October 2 while the building and its exhibits are being renovated. It is scheduled to re-open to the public on Saturday, May 2. Becca Bruce has been hired as the museum's registrar. She replaces LeeAnn Schmitt . . . Pat Osborn has been hired to help the Kauffman Foundation prepare to move to its new facility in January 1999 . . . "Halo Boy" ("Archives of the Absured," *Dusty Shelf*, v.16, n.2) was arrested last August for delivering a threatening videotape demanding \$5 million to the office of the president of Emporia State University . . . Special Collections & Archives at Southwest Missouri State University has revised its homepage and URL, which is visited at:  
<http://www.smsu.edu/contrib/library/spcol-index2.htm>

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## Newsletter Exchange

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### *Local, State & Regional News*

## Indiana Archivists Celebrate Quarter Century

The Society of Indiana Archivists celebrated its 25th anniversary during its annual Fall Meeting in November. SIA was founded in 1972 to bring together archivists, librarians, manuscript curators, university personnel, local historical society members, and others interested in historic document preservation in the state. SIA sponsors a Fall meeting and traveling workshops. SIA recently sponsored workshops on "Records Management for Archivists" and "Fundamentals of Archival Acquisition and Appraisal." The society's publications include a brochure on establishing an archives and a directory of records repositories in the state. The directory can be purchased in hardcopy or it can be accessed on the WWW at <http://cawley.archives.nd.edu/sia/guide/reposito.htm>. The SIA Newsletter is published twice a year. Those interested in SIA are also welcomed to visit our web site at <http://cawley.archives.nd.edu/sia>. (SIA Announcement and *SIA Newsletter*, Sept-Oct. 1997)

## Notes from Ohio

The Society of Ohio Archivists continues to nurture a relationship with colleagues in Cuba. The Fall 1997 issue of the *Ohio Archivist* included an article written by three students specializing in archives and records management at the University of Havana. Ohio archivists have also worked to facilitate a trip to the United States by the students' instructor, Professor Carlos Suárez Balseiro, who is scheduled to speak at the Spring meeting of the society in Columbus . . . Ruth Helmuth, one of SOA's five founders and the first archivist at Case Western Reserve, died this past summer. She was 79. Helmuth was president of the Society of American Archivists during the 1980-81 year. (*The Ohio Archivist*, Fall 1997).

## Kentucky Archivists

The Kentucky Historical Society Library and Special Collections Branches are preparing to move to a new History Center later this year. Construction of the center is scheduled to be completed after the middle of 1998. Collections and operations will move into the new facility sometime after that. Meanwhile, Kentucky Historical Society staff continue working on a pictorial history of the state . . . Jonathan Jeffrey, an archivist at Western Kentucky University and editor of *Kentucky Archivist* newsletter, was curator of an exhibit titled "Come to the Church in the Wildwood: Warren County's Rural Churches." The exhibit featured photographs of over 100 churches and provided significant details about architecture and folklore associated with the sites. The significance of music in rural religion was one of several themes highlighted in the exhibit. (*The Kentucky Archivist*, Fall 1997).

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# Archives Nation

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## *History, Archives, and the Public Interest*

## 150th Anniversary of the Oneida Community

The Syracuse University Library has created a website celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Oneida Community. For over sixty years, the Library has assembled data on 19th-century social-religious movements in New York State, with emphasis on collecting materials from the Central New York region. In 1960, Syracuse University Library acquired complete runs of the serial publications of the Oneida Community, including its antecedents and branches, spanning the years 1837 to 1879. In 1983, the Library received a large collection of the surviving records of the Community. The Oneida Community website includes inventories and bibliographies relating to the commune, including materials held at Syracuse and elsewhere. It also includes the

full text of several books written by members of the Community or about it, and 140 selected photographs. The site can be accessed via the Department of Special Collections page at: <http://libwww.syr.edu/aboutsul/depts/speccoll>

## The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures

The Library of Congress has an online exhibit that coincides with the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine. The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures electronic exhibit can be accessed directly at: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/sawhtml/sawhome.html>

Fifty-three films made from 1898 to 1901 of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection are featured in this first release. Fifteen more films will be added in April 1998, along with selected sound recordings related to the war. The Spanish-American War is notable for being the first U.S. war in which the motion picture camera played a role. The films presented were made by the Edison Manufacturing Company and the American Mutoscope & Biograph Company. The films depict locations in the U.S., Cuba, and the Philippines. They show troops, ships, notable figures, and parades, as well as reenactments of battles and other war-time events. A special presentation, "The Motion Picture Camera Goes to War: the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection," lists the films in chronological order and offers essays that provide historical context for the filming of the motion pictures. Comprehensive catalog records are also available for each film title. The motion pictures are available in MPEG and Quicktime formats for downloading and viewing.

## Electronic Exhibits on the Web

The National Archives and Records Administration has placed selections from two presidential collections on its website: correspondence between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, and letters from Harry Truman to Bess Wallace Truman. The 518 documents from the Roosevelt-Churchill correspondence date from the outbreak of World War II in Europe through June 1942. The letters show the friendship of two of the greatest world leaders of this century and detail the nuances of alliance, leadership, and decision-making amid the events of World War II. The Harry S. Truman Library maintains 1300 handwritten letters from Harry S. Truman to his wife Bess Wallace Truman written over a period of 50 years. Of these "Dear Bess" letters, 23 have been digitized by NARA. They date from 1910 to 1919 and document the courtship of Harry and Bess; his farming career and business ventures; and his service as an Army officer in France during World War I. The NARA home Page is at <http://www.nara.gov>. (Press Release, Jan. 14, 1998).

The British Columbia Archives web site had more than 2.4 million items accessed in 1997--double the number of items accessed in 1996. About half of those visits were by people doing genealogical searches of the database. This searchable database consists of information about B.C. marriage registrations from 1872 to 1921, and death registrations for the years 1872 to 1976. The archives also continues to build its visual records database. Over 12,400 high-resolution scans of historical photographs were added in 1997, bringing the total number of

images available on-line to 34,452. A searchable database provides direct "links" to the on-line images so that clients can then view and print the image. The site is located on the electronic highway at <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/> .

The Center for Electronic Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has updated the "Title List: A Preliminary and Partial Listing of the Data Files in the National Archives and Records Administration." The "Title List"--as of December 31, 1997--now has entries for approximately 13,500 of the over 100,000 electronic records files in NARA's custody. The "Title List" is available via the NARA information server. The general URL is <http://www.nara.gov/> with information about the electronic records program and holdings available at <http://www.nara.gov/nara/electronic>. Updated versions of a number of reference reports and descriptive handouts are also available.

The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tenn., now has a web site at: [www.sbcnet.org/sbhla](http://www.sbcnet.org/sbhla) . The State Archives of Michigan web page, recently revised, is at: <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/archive.html>

## Nelson Rockefeller's Art Papers Opened

The Rockefeller Archive Center in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., has opened nearly 100 cubic feet of material documenting Nelson A. Rockefeller's extensive art collection and his activities as a patron of the arts. The Art files record the acquisition, placement, maintenance, and in many cases, the disposition of works of art that Rockefeller collected between 1930 and 1979.

Rockefeller's collection was diverse. As it grew, he became enamored with contemporary artists and had an extensive collection of modern paintings, prints, and sculpture. He favored Picasso, yet other contemporary European artists like Matisse and Miro were also represented in his collection, as were such members of the American modern art movement as Hopper, Weber, and Calder. He also collected North and Latin American folk art, Chinese ceramics, English fine china, and "primitive" art produced by the indigenous peoples of Africa, Oceania, and Latin America. Some of the works were commissioned by Rockefeller, such as a series of tapestry reproduction of paintings by Picasso. In the 1960s and 1970s, Rockefeller focused on modern sculpture. He placed many of his collected works within the gardens of the Rockefeller family home in Tarrytown, N. Y. (Press Release, October 3, 1997).

## Archivists Preserved the Amistad's Story

According to an Associated Press article by writer Roxana Hegeman, archivists played a key role in preserving the records of the Amistad case, which was explored in a recent film by Stephen Spielberg. Evangelical abolitionists in New York City spearheaded the defense committee that supported the Africans in their bid for freedom. The Amistad case moved through the court system and eventually reached the U. S. Supreme Court. The records saved by the abolitionists were eventually stored at Fisk University in Nashville and later transferred to New Orleans, where they were eventually placed in the Amistad Research Center. Another body of Amistad-



related documents is housed at Yale University. The Amistad Research Center's Internet address is: <http://www.arc.tulane.edu>. (Associated Press, Thursday, December 11, 1997).

## NARA & DOD Work on Electronic Standards

On December 17, the National Archives and the Department of Defense signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" to improve the archiving of electronic records. The project's goal is to promote the full life-cycle management of electronic records. The agreement involves developing and enhancing standards and specifications for automated records management systems. The National Archives will review the Department of Defense's recently developed standard for defining the basic requirements that must be met by records management products purchased by the DOD. Along with the standard, the Department of Defense will implement a test and certification program in which vendors can submit electronic records management software. Those whose performance complies with the standard will be certified for DOD use. Once the review is completed, the National Archives will explore ways to apply the benefits of the DOD initiative to other federal agencies. (Page Putnam Miller, NCC Washington Update, December 23, 1997).

## LC To Gain Audiovisual Preservation Facility

On December 15, President Clinton signed a law authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to acquire 41 acres in Culpepper, Virginia, now occupied by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The building, a high-security storage facility for gold and currency, would be converted into a state-of-the-art National Audiovisual Conservation Center. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation are providing funds for acquiring the property, valued at \$5.5 million. The foundation will also contribute \$4.5 million to upgrade and equip the facilities. The Center will enable the Library of Congress to continue its important work as the nation's major conservator of its national film, television and audio heritage. The Center will also make it possible for the Library to consolidate its collection, presently dispersed, in a cost-effective, centralized entity where audiovisual materials would be processed, stored, preserved and made accessible via fiber optic links to the Library's reading rooms in Washington. The Library's collection includes more than 150,00 film titles, 85,000 television titles, and 2.5 million sound recordings. In many cases, items in the Library's collection is the only extant copy. (Page Putnam Miller, NCC Washington Update, December 23, 1997).

## Archivists Share Tales of the Unexpected

*Michale Ravnitzky recently invited members of the Archives Listserve to confess the most unusual object or artifact in their repositories. The many interesting responses included the following:*

A murderer's ashes (National Library of Australia)

Business records of a local patent medicine company that claimed their formulas and business directions were given to them through automatic handwriting in seances of the directors (Dean DeBolt, West Florida Archives)

A portion of an elephant's toenail, and a 19th century circus wagon wheel (the toenail is bagged and cataloged as part of a circus collection, the wheel is in remote storage). Also a collection of ceremonial/whimsical gavels used by the presidents of the local chapter of the American Chemical Society: everything from carved (human?) bone to plastic pill bottles (full) attached to handles (Ed Frank, Mississippi Valley Collection)

Hitler's phone from the bunker--reliable provenance. (Bobs Tusa, Univ. of Southern Miss.)

A dozen anal polyps in plastic, and a family of dead mice on sticks, from a geneticist at Utah State University. Great conversation pieces! (Roy Webb, University of Utah)

Many years ago when I was working with the Allied Military Government in Italy records from WW II, I had to send a couple of documents to the conservation lab because they were stuck together by a condom—presumably used. The records also contained lists of prostitutes from known brothels who were treated for venereal diseases. They had names, addresses, and ages (ranging from 9 years to 60 years of age). (Jennie Guilbaud, NARA)

A skeleton with organs attached (filled with latex or some other substance) of a small child used as a teaching model in the late 1800s. Also the ashes of a man and his wife who donated large sums of money to the medical school. The skeleton is on loan to the Anatomy Department. (Sebrina Mabe, Dorothy Carpenter Medical Archives)

Menstrual items, belts and cloths, of the late 19th and early 20th century. (Debra Westerman, Florida Park Service)

Documents from the 1857 divorce case file of John F. Rague, architect of the old State Capitol buildings in Springfield, Illinois and Iowa City. The evidence included shredded notes his mistress wrote to him (apparently Rague met her on Sundays, after church), which someone carefully re-assembled and pasted back together. Mrs. Rague's suit was successful. (Thomas Wood, University of Illinois at Springfield)

A former archivist lost portions of his left-hand's middle and ring fingers when he was a young man working in a print shop. He kept the fingertips in a small, green glass jar and formaldehyde. Over the years the liquid evaporated and the stubs mummified. During his earlier tenure as an English professor, he kept the jar in a desk drawer and brought it out now and then to unnerve the students. When he died the jar and its stubs were among his papers. In the course of processing these items, my immediate predecessor---being a religious man, former missionary, seminary professor, and someone with a sense of humor---decided to create a separation record and keep the jar in his desk drawer. It was, he explained, his own "early warning system." If he heard tinkling in the jar he knew that the stubs were about to be reunited with their original owner and that other, quite awesome, things were about to happen. The fingers are still in my desk drawer, although they were once "fingernapped" and held for ransom by some overwrought

seminarians. I refused to pay, and the fingers were eventually returned, unharmed. If you want to know more you can "read more about it" in an article entitled "Giving 'Em the Fingers: or Two Thumbs Up for a Covenant Reliquary." (Timothy J. Johnson, North Park University)

Not in my collection, but . . . one of the better known artifacts is the "Auto-Icon" of English philosopher Jeremy Bentham, which consists of "Bentham's preserved skeleton, dressed in his own clothes, and surmounted by a wax head. Bentham requested that his body be preserved in this way in his will made shortly before his death on 6 June 1832." Since 1850 it has been displayed in a glass cabinet at University College London, where Bentham's papers are housed. You can see a picture of the Auto-Icon, an excerpt from the will, and lots more, on the Web at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Bentham-Project/jb.htm> (Mike Widener, U.T.—Austin)

The Western Jewish History Center in Berkeley has a slice of wedding cake from 1902. The cake has been in the archives for 25 years, shows no sign of further deterioration, and has not attracted any vermin (which is more than one can say for some paper collections) (Laura O'Hara, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center)

We declined the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transfer a group of Objects Removed from the Stomachs and Intestines of Patients in the State Mental Hospital that were offered to the State Archives a few years ago. (Lydia Lucas, Minnesota Historical Society)

## Archive Acquires Iraqi Secret Police Files

The Human Rights Initiative of the University of Colorado at Boulder Archives has acquired 18 tons of Iraqi Secret Police Files. The materials document Iraq's use of chemical weapons and its campaign against the Kurds in northern Iraq. The materials are being held off-site at an undisclosed location. The Iraqi Secret Police Files detail Iraq's top leadership, internal security and intelligence agencies, military operations, war with Iran, political entities, policy concerning population groups, and a broad range of other issues regarding Iraq's security apparatus. The acquisition is the latest in the Archives's six-year old Human Rights Initiative, which also has secured the archives of many of the world's preeminent international human rights organizations. (Press Release)

## National Archives of Australia

The Australian Archives is formally changing its name to National Archives of Australia, a move that will help it "be more clearly recognized as the keeper of the nation's memory and one of the key organizations in the process of government," according to Senator Alston. The change occurs at a time when the National Archives of Australia also is preparing to move into its prominent new building in Canberra. (Press Release, Archives Listserv)

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*The SAA Chicago Office has moved! It's new address is:*

**The Society of American Archivists**

**527 S. Wells Street, 5th Floor**

**Chicago, IL 60607**

*SAA's telephone, fax, email, and web addresses remain unchanged.*

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# Opportunities

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## *Employment, Research, Internships*

### **MANUSCRIPT SPECIALIST: WHMC, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI--COLUMBIA**

**Job activities:** primary duties are to assist in-house patrons use manuscript collections and to answer mail, e-mail, and telephone inquiries; make oral presentations to classes, genealogical groups, and other organizations; assist with the state History Day contest; participate in official office functions; & process small collections as time permits. Occasional evening and weekend hours. This manuscript specialist will be one of four staff on duty in the reading room, assisting about 2000 patrons yearly and answering 1000 letters & 600 telephone inquiries. **Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree in history or other social science required; preference given to candidates whose master's degrees include archival training; an internship highly desirable. Position requires interpersonal skills--including patience, consideration for the needs and feelings of others, judgment, willingness to listen, and ability to maintain professionalism in interaction with patrons. Analytical abilities, excellent oral and written communications skills, and computer literacy are expected. Must be able and willing to lift and carry 35- to 40-pound boxes of papers and maneuver book trucks. **Compensation:** Salary is \$22,200. Position carries University of Missouri academic non-regular status; 26 days annual leave, 8 holidays, and 24 days sick leave per year; standard benefits package including medical and dental insurance and other options. **To apply:** Send letter of application, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to Nancy Lankford, Associate Director, WHMC, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201-5149. Deadline March 16, 1998. For further information on WHMC visit our world wide web site at <http://www.umsystem.edu/whmc> The University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri are equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employers.

## **SCHOLARSHIP: MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE**

The Midwest Archives Conference is soliciting applications for the annual MAC Scholarship for Minority Students in Archival Administration. The scholarship provides financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival administration and encourages ethnic diversification in the membership of the Midwest Archives Conference and the archival profession. This year, two \$500 scholarships will be awarded.

Eligibility: the applicant must be a student of African, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Island descent, currently enrolled in, or accepted into, a graduate, multi-course program in archival administration listed in the SAA Directory of Archival Education, and must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their academic program. Applicants are not required to be a resident of or attend school in the Midwest region. Applications are available from the Minority Scholarship Committee Chair: Michael Flug, Archivist, Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History & Literature, 9525 South Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60628; or call (312- 747-6910). Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. Awards will be announced no later than June 1, 1998.

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## **KCAA OFFICERS**

### *Co-Chairs*

Bobbi Rahder (Haskell Indian Nations Univ)  
(913) 749-8470

Lynn Ward (Liberty Memorial Museum)  
(816) 221-1918

### *Secretary*

Jelain Chubb (Kansas State Historical Society)  
(913) 272-8681

### *Treasurer*

Mary Hawkins (University of Kansas)  
(913) 864-4274

Kansas City Area Archivists is a local non-profit organization serving archivists in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. Annual membership dues: \$15 individuals, \$25 institutions, \$10 students, \$50 sustaining institution, \$100 supporting institution.

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*THE DUSTY SHELF*

*Editor*

Stan Ingersol

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Nancy J. Hulston & Alan Perry

*The Dusty Shelf* is published three times a year by Kansas City Area Archivists. We honor exchanges with other organizations. *The Dusty Shelf* is compiled and edited by staff of the Nazarene Archives and mailed by staff of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-KC.

Materials for publication should be sent to: Stan Ingersol, Nazarene Archives, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131, (816) 333-7000, or via e-mail to [singersol@nazarene.org](mailto:singersol@nazarene.org).

Memberships and address changes should be sent to: Jelain Chubb, Kansas State Historical Society, Center for Historical Research, 6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS 66615 (913) 272-8681, ext. 307.

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# 1998

# CALENDAR

**MARCH 19, 1998**

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Rhineland Restaurant, Independence, MO

208 N. Main (Truman Road & Main, Across from the Old Jail)  
12:30 P.M. ---- (816) 461-5383

**MARCH 19, 1998**

**KCAA SPRING MEETING**

Jackson County Historical Society Archives  
112 W. Lexington, Independence, Mo.  
3:00 P.M.

**APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1998**

**MAC SPRING MEETING**

Midland Hotel, Chicago

**JUNE 6, 1998**

**KCAA ANNUAL MEETING**

Kansas State Historical Society  
Center for Historical Research  
6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, Ks.

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