

KCAA --- *The Dusty Shelf* --- 2000

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On the War Front in Korea

The Letters of Lieutenant Gilbert Marsh Cordes

Korean War soldiers were notoriously poor at recording their experiences during this long and difficult war. Academics have suggested several theories—sociological and psychological—to explain this truth. It can be blamed to some extent on the very character of this war—a war that was never declared, never acknowledged, and poorly celebrated. But whatever the reason, there are very few informative collections of letters or diaries available from this period.

Like all service men and women, those who served in the Korean War wrote a lot of letters

home. Unlike the veterans of World War I and II, however—and to some extent the Vietnam conflict—few of these letters are located in public archives or libraries.

These facts make the letters and diary of Second Lieutenant Gilbert Marsh Cordes, United States Marine Corps Reserves, extremely valuable. This collection was donated to the Center for the Study of the Korean War by his parents, Marian Marsh and William J. Cordes. This record, written during service in Korea, provides one of the best day-by-day accounts of a serviceman's life during periods of battle. Lieutenant Gilbert Marsh Codes was killed in action on April 9, 1952.

Marsh was the second of the Cordes sons to be killed in action. An older son, Second Lieutenant William Cordes, commanded an infantry platoon in the 97th Infantry during World War II. Will was killed April 12, 1945 in Germany and was awarded the Silver Star posthumously.

Mary Louise, the Cordes only daughter, served in World War II in the Chemical Warfare Service, and Phil, a Lieutenant (jg), commanded an LST during World War II.

Marsh Cordes was born in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1929. When he was five the family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Georgia Military Academy (College Park, Ga.) and Emory University. Upon graduation he and his friends lost their educational deferments. Marsh acknowledged his obligation and entered the Marine Corps Reserves. He was assigned to officer's candidate school. His letters begin with his schooling at Paris Island, S.C., April 24, 1951.

The collected letters contain few references to his training or early experiences. After completing OCS he was sent to the Marine Corps Cold Weather Warfare training center, and then on to San Francisco for transportation to Korea.

His letter of January 31, 1952 tells of his flight to Korea by DC-6 and his assignment to the First Marines, then attached to X Corps. At this point his letters begin in earnest. Cordes was a highly literate man with a good eye for detail. He describes his location, the conditions, and his own thoughts. He appears positive and informed, speaking well of other persons and the units with which he was attached.

In an undated letter, about February 1952, he wrote: "Next day we took up the trail and climbed a peak which was about 1200 feet above the valley. This isn't too high in altitude but ridges leading

up to it were miles from our starting point and the angles of the ascent to the peak were quite steep sometimes 60% grade.”

Later he commented on the unreality of many of the events he was facing. On February 20, 1952 he wrote to his mother: “This is, as you have probably heard, a crazy war. Today as I was standing up in plain sight of the enemy I looked over at their positions with the black scars of artillery and mortar fire contrasting the white snow on the hills and I figured probably there were a few N. Koreans doing the same thing I was, only in reverse—they looking at us.”

By the end of the month he was concerned about his mail. “Where the hell’s the mail from you two? [his mother and father, and his sweetheart, Helen] Huh? Get off your fannies and over to the writing desk and give me the scoop. Now! Not two minutes from now.”

His letters over the next several months describe military life in the midst of war. He commanded a unit that was often on patrol and found itself under heavy fire more than once. He never complained other than to ask, occasionally, for canned fruit or to speak with some envy about the artillery units that remained back behind the line.

On April 5, 1952 he wrote the final words in a letter received by his sweetheart and shared with his parents. “I couldn’t ever love anyone but you or be better suited to love anyone but you. My heart and soul are one with yours. Always, forever, I love you, Marsh.”

The next item held by the Collection, and listed chronologically, is a telegram from C.G. Thomas, Lt. General, Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps, dated 14 April 1952: “Deeply regret to inform you that your son Second Lieut. Gilbert Marsh Cordes, USMCR, was killed in action 9 April 1952 in the Korean area in the performance of his duty and service of his Country. If recovered, remains will probably be returned to the United States in near future.”

Later Second Lieutenant Jules E. Gerding, USMCR, a friend of Marsh Cordes, wrote on April 27: “I do want to tell you that Marsh died while saving his men from enemy fire. The men that were with him owe their lives to his bravery, his quick thinking and to his leadership. I hope they can live up to his standards.”

Marsh Codes was a fairly typical American from a family that accepted responsibility. He accepted the call of his country and, like his brothers, entered the service. His training was hard but he accomplished what was needed. He entered Korea at a period when the war had become a stale line from which patrol and combat units moved into harm's way. He died without a great deal of fanfare, doing his job, and protecting his men.

For those who wish to better understand war in general, the Korean War in particular, or about men in battle and the spirit of American youth, there is no better source than the letters of Gilbert Marsh Cordes. They are available, with other collections, at the Center for the Study of the Korean War, Graceland University, 1401 W. Truman Road, Independence, Missouri, 64050.

Paul M. Edwards, Director
Center for the Study of the Korean War

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The Corner Chair

Cynthia Laframboise, Junior Co-Chair

Well – I'm starting off with a bad precedent by having Stan prompt me to do what I had promised! For those KCAA members who are unacquainted with me, I am the State Records Manager/Assistant State Archivist at the Kansas State Historical Society. I have been in my current position for seven years and with the Historical Society for a total of twelve years. Time flies when you're having fun!

It is a privilege to serve this year as KCAA's junior co-chair and work with Deborah Dandridge, the senior co-chair. Through her tutelage I am acquiring the skills necessary to conduct an efficient meeting in the allotted time. And I'm quite confident that there are other valuable lessons to learn from KCAA colleagues.

Permit me to thank two staffs for their gracious hosting of our recent meetings. The fall meeting was held at the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection. It was a rare treat for KCAA members to gather, visit among ourselves, eat pizza and salads, and swap stories in such a beautiful setting. The fall meeting was my first visit to the campus of the University of Missouri—Kansas City, and (imagine this!) we even found a decent parking place. Our winter meeting was conducted at the Kansas Collection, on the University of Kansas campus. Becky Schulte demonstrated the web components of that wild and wacky Wilcox Collection. Thanks for the informative and entertaining session.

Our spring meeting is scheduled to be held at the Johnson County Archives and Records Center so that we can give Jerry Motsinger a grand farewell. Plan to be there.

The Steering Committee recognizes that this year's Spring Symposium is more responsibility than one can reasonably expect from the Education Committee, so it will become a group effort of the entire Steering Committee. Your ideas are welcome. Call or e-mail members of the Steering Committee.

Hope you enjoyed the Holidays!

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Membership Committee Report

November 15, 2000

by Marilyn Burlingame

The membership drive began around the first part of July. A new directory has since been completed and mailed to members. Please welcome the following new members who are either completely new to KCAA or new to an existing position:

Paul Goudy, Wyandotte County Museum
Rebecca Cumins, Bristow, VA
Ann Baker, Museum Springfield/Greene County, MO
Kelly Pfannenstiel, American Century Investments
Liberty Memorial Museum, Doran Cart
Peggy Smith, Prairie Village, KS
Sara Ogilvie, Johnson County
Frontier Army Museum, Steve Allie
Marshall, MO Public Library, Karl Brockfeld
Nancy Piepenbring, Western Historical Manuscript Collection KC
Janet Russell, Johnson County Museum
Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Columbia, Laura Bullion
Cynthia Edwards, Truman Library Institute

We also are grateful to those who contributed to our scholarship fund or to the general fund:

- Eliot Berkley
- Carol Dage
- Deborah Dandridge
- Margaret Helner
- Neil Johnson
- Bob Knecht
- Eugene Pearce
- Cynthia Rogers

- Harold Smith
- Robert Walter
- Wayne Warner
- Amy Williams

Mini Report: Sales of *Keeping Your Past*

Sales of *Keeping Your Past* have lagged. I have seen some results from ad requests send out in the late spring for newsletter insertion. Any good ideas for future sales will be appreciated. A full report of sales will be given at the December meeting.

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MidAmerican Archives

News of KCAA People & Repositories

Kansas City Public Library

After 6½ years, Katherine Long retired as Manager of the Special Collections Department at the Kansas City Public Library. During her tenure the department made great strides developing an online presence and providing greater access to its resources. Katherine plans to take time now to enjoy her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the rest of her family. She'll catch up on her reading and on the many projects set-aside over the past fifteen years, including research and writing that were sidetracked along the way. And, she'll finally finish the quilt she started twenty-five years ago! She will be missed sorely by Special Collections personnel, Kansas City Public Library staff, and library patrons. (Stuart Hinds).

The Harry S. Truman Library

The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum volunteers were awarded a Victor E. Speas Foundation Award for Excellence in Volunteer Management. The award was presented through the Volunteer Coordinator's Council for the Greater Kansas City area on April 5, 2000. The program received the award based on several criteria, including "significant and innovative achievements through volunteers' involvement to improve the community," and the positive role of library volunteers in defining, implementing and evaluating the program. Donna Denslow, volunteer and intern coordinator who oversees the Library's volunteer and intern programs, nominated the volunteer program for the local award last November. "The Truman Library has a very dedicated group of volunteers, who are directly responsible for many aspects of a visitor's experience while they are at the Library," Denslow said. "From greeting visitors, to educating them through guided tours, to giving outside presentations to groups and individuals, to working behind the scenes, our volunteers contribute a great deal to the overall public awareness about the Truman Library and Museum." A blue-ribbon panel of independent volunteer managers and

civic leaders representing business, non-profit, and public organizations served on the 2000 Awards Selection Committee for the Victor E. Speas Foundation Award.

The Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs selected *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire* (Random House, Inc.1999), by military historian Richard B. Frank, as its 2000 Harry S. Truman Book Award winner. The award recognizes the best book written within a two-year period that deals primarily and substantially with some aspect of United States history between April 12, 1945 and January 20, 1953, or with the public career of Harry S. Truman. The award is given biennially. Mr. Frank's book was selected from among twenty-five submitted entries. "This book addresses what is arguably the most important decision that President Truman made, to use nuclear weapons to end the war in the Pacific," said Dr. Ronald Peters, chair of the book award subcommittee. "While in the immediate aftermath of World War II most commentary supported Truman's decision, later revisionist scholarship has called into question the necessity and the wisdom of using the atom bomb against Japan. Frank challenges these revisionist interpretations by carefully researching each key aspect of the decision. He takes the reader into the heart of the Japanese people, the souls of its leaders, and into the minds of American policy makers. His account will set a new benchmark for scholarship on this question, one to which revisionist scholars will have to respond. The book is clearly and interestingly written, and convincingly argued. It deserves wide notice and merits the Harry S. Truman Book Award."

After 43 years of operation and over 8 million visitors, the Truman Library and Museum is getting a \$22.5 million facelift. Construction began last summer on a two year, three-phase restoration of the Independence landmark. The Museum remained open during the early stages of work, but closed to the public in September for a few months as heavier construction gets underway. The entire project will take two years, but visitors will be welcome back early next year to experience the first of three major new additions to the Presidential museum and library. Researchers will continue to have access to the Library archives throughout construction.

The restoration will bring to the Museum exciting new exhibits and activities that broaden the facility's scope and make it more relevant to new generations of visitors. "Exhibit on the Truman Presidency," scheduled to open next summer, will feature extensive audio-visual components and interactive decision theaters that engage visitors in the most important decisions of the Truman presidency, such as the recognition of Israel, the loyalty investigations during the McCarthy period, and desegregation of the Armed Forces. A concluding section of the exhibit will show visitors how

Truman's programs and decisions still affect our citizens and the world fifty years later. "The White House Decision Center" will open in Fall 2001. It will be a fully immersive "behind-the-scenes-of-the-White House" facility where students assume the roles of President Truman and his aides. They will focus on a major policy issue Truman faced, then spend several hours studying, debating and considering it. At the conclusion of the period, they will announce their decision in a mock White House news briefing. "The Life and Times of Harry Truman Exhibit" is set to open in Spring 2002. It will use the vast collection of artifacts to tell the story of President Truman before and after his years in the White House.

A two-level courtyard addition and a 3,200 square foot changing exhibition gallery are included in the restoration. "The new Truman Library will do more than tell the story of a President and a Presidency. It will challenge visitors to explore the events and issues of the Truman era that continue to shape our lives and our future," said Larry Hackman, former Library Director. "We want people to really explore the tough decisions Mr. Truman faced and the lasting impact they continue to have on our nation and the world." Funding for the project comes from nearly \$14 million in private contributions, \$8 million in federal funds and \$2 million from the State of Missouri.

Additional information about the restoration project is available at www.trumanlibrary.org. The public can return to the Truman Library starting in February to see "Presidential Portraits" from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery. In the late Spring, the permanent new Presidential Gallery will be set to open.

Liberty Memorial Museum of World War One

A recent acquisition of the Liberty Memorial Museum of World War One contains three-dimensional objects and archival materials from 1st Sergeant Harry N. Kendall. While not unusual in itself, the acquisition includes materials from his mother, Estella Margaret Kendall of Shenandoah, Iowa, a Gold Star Mother and an unwilling participant in the Great War.

On the morning of July 15, 1918, 1st Sergeant Kendall, 168th Infantry, 42nd Division, was moving his men to a safer position during the opening hours of the Champagne sector battle northeast of Suippes. A shell exploded, killing him instantly. Not long afterwards, a telegram reached Shenandoah, Iowa, informing Mrs. Kendall of her son's death. Other documents that followed included a letter, dated Aug. 30, 1918, from Chaplain Roscoe C. Hatch, 168th Infantry. Chaplain Hatch expressed condolences and related that "his [Harry Kendall's] grave is marked by a cross with his name and other data upon it."

During the war in the United States, a Blue Star flag in a window told passersby that a man or a woman from that house was serving the country. If they died in the war, a Gold Star replaced the blue. In the 1920s and 1930s, after U. S. military cemeteries were fully established near the battlefields of France and Belgium, the War Department sponsored pilgrimages to these cemeteries for Gold Star mothers, widows and sisters.

Estella Kendall kept all of the documents and ephemera related to her pilgrimage in 1933. Her invitation read: "the Government of the United States extends an invitation to Mrs. Estella M. Kendall to make a pilgrimage to the Cemetery in Europe where the remains of her son are now interred. Leaving New York on the Steamship *President Harding* on May 17, 1933." She was supplied with travel vouchers, hotel reservations, and passage on the ship. The War Department also issued her a War Mothers and Widows Official Certificate of Identification for the pilgrimage.

On May 23, 1933, prior to their arrival in France, the commander of the *S.S. President Harding* presented participants with a farewell dinner. The printed menu lists an impressive array of foods in many courses. An official letter welcoming them to France stated: "We are sure there is nothing that can give more peace and joy to your children than to know that both your country and ours are still closely united for the defense of the common ideal, for which they sacrificed their lives. You

have won the gratitude of the women of France and their hearts feel and sympathize with yours during these days of emotion and souvenirs." Each woman received a little silk sack containing the "earth of France, which is sacred to you, as it is to us, because of all the young heroes who rest in our soil."

In the ensuing days, the women were guided to various sites and to the cemeteries. They were photographed on numerous occasions and Mrs. Kendall later told her granddaughter that on most days she wore a particularly striking hat which is easily spotted in the photographs. Mrs. Kendall also kept a brief diary and a few entries still remain.

"Sunday - May 28 - left Paris for the cross-country trip. Arrived at Verdun - a distance of 155 miles. Had lunch at Reims - a very old city. Here we visited the cathedral where Joan of Arc was tried for breach of promise - she failed to keep her parents' agreement with the man she was supposed to marry. Later the bishop pardoned her. This same cathedral was where the French kings came to be crowned. Passed through the Champagne sector, through No Man's Land, saw the trenches, shell holes, barbed wire entanglements, saw a British tank captured by the Germans during the war - the Germans were all killed later and the tank was never moved. So much of the war-torn area has never been reclaimed."

"Monday - May 29 - Went to the Meuse-Argonne cemetery where we placed large wreaths on our sons' graves. May 30 - On Memorial Day, services were held at this cemetery. Three thousand people attended with French officers and French children taking part in the program. The cemetery was beautiful with its decorations of United States and French flags and poppies. Visited the grounds of the Lost Battalion. At this place six hundred men had been completely surrounded by Germans. We also saw the Bayonet Trench. Here 250 soldiers were buried where they fell. Could see their bayonets and part of their muskets sticking out of the ground."

“May 31 - visited the St. Mihiel cemetery. This ground was captured by the 42nd Division. Visited Mount Sec - a hill four hundred feet high. This hill was captured by the Germans in 1914. It affords a splendid view of a large part of the front held by various American units.”

The collection also includes many other items, like maps and descriptions of the American cemeteries, postcards, luggage tags, and a French identity card. They are all poignant reminders that not just the people who went “over there” during the war were affected by its events and outcome. (Submitted by Doran Cart, Museum Curator).

Archives for Family Practice

For the first time in seven years, Archivist Angela Curran has some assistance in the Archives. Pat Gray, a retired employee of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, is working two days a week in the Archives. Her first project is to produce a complete shelf list, which has been lacking since the move to our new building in October 1999.

An endowment has been established for the Archives, with an original goal of \$1 million to make the Archives self-sustaining. That goal will probably go up to \$2 million. Funds raised since 1998 total just under \$200,000 as of September 30, 2000.

Several notable items were donated in 2000. A doctor’s bag, used from the 1950s-1970s, was donated by Thomas L. Stern, M.D., of Sun Lakes, Arizona. The bag is essentially as it was when Dr. Stern left practice in the early 1970s—complete with medications, bandages, minor surgical instruments, and other supplies. Narcotics were removed, as required by law. Dr. Stern has a long history in family practice. He operated a private practice in Oregon and later in Southern California, and he was President of the California Academy of Family Physicians, Director of the American Academy of Family Physicians’ Division of Education, AAFP Vice President for Education and Scientific Affairs, and a founder of the International Center for Family Medicine. One of his more visible roles was Technical Advisor to the *Marcus Welby, M.D.* television show, which aired on ABC from 1969-1976. Dr. Stern also donated a pill case originally owned by Dr. J.T. LeFevre, of Oregon. The case dates from around the 1920s-30s, and was a gift to Dr. LeFevre from The Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan (now known as Pharmacia & Upjohn). It contains seventeen pill bottles, all retaining their original labels.

And last, Angela is relieved that she passed the Certified Archivist examination given in Denver last August. Whew! (Reported by Angela Curran).

Leavenworth County Historical Society

The Leavenworth County Historical Society (LCHS), in Leavenworth, Kansas, recently acquired a collection of 34,000 negatives (glass plates, nitrates, and safety film) dating from 1858-1968. Mary Everhard, for whom the collection is named, purchased a photography studio from

Harrison Putney in 1924. Putney's stepfather, E. E. Henry, had established the studio in 1864. Henry and Putney created thousands of images over the years, and Putney left those negatives with Everhard. In 1940, Harrison Stevenson closed another photography studio, the city's oldest, which was originally opened by his father Richard in 1858. Before moving to California, Stevenson arranged to transfer his and his father's negatives to Everhard. Everhard arranged and categorized the negatives into subject categories such as "women," "babies," and "soldiers." Everhard also created evaluative categories ranging from "important people" to "very, very, very important people," with the greatest labeled "the glory hole." As she approached retirement, Everhard began searching for a new owner for the collection of approximately 100,000 negatives. In 1968, David Phillips, a photographer and collector from Chicago, bought the entire collection. Phillips eventually sold portions of the collection to the Amon Carter Museum and the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. The Autry sold their 30,000 negatives to LCHS in 1997. LCHS purchased an additional 4,000 negatives from Phillips in 1999. The collection is comprised mostly of portraits. They depict the city's elite and founding fathers, but they also portray shopkeepers, clerks, laborers, traveling showmen, and farmers. LCHS has received a Kansas Humanities grant to catalogue the collection and create an initial exhibit. (Rebecca J. Phipps, Grant Cataloguer LCHS; Intern, Truman Presidential Library).

KSU Department of Special Collections

The Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections has received new cases in which to stage exhibitions outside the department on the 5th floor of Hale Library, Kansas State University. When older sections of the library were renovated and a new addition built in 1997, funds were not available at the time to furnish the Special Collections gallery. This past year the Friends of the KSU Libraries stepped forward to fund the design and construction of the cases by a local cabinetmaker. The inaugural exhibition for the gallery, "Knowledge is a Rich Storehouse": Selections from Special Collections," opened October 16 and will run through December 8, 2000.

On a sadder note, Richard L.D. Morse, for whom the department is named, passed away this summer. Dr. Morse had supported Special Collections since 1987 when he donated his papers leading to the establishment of the Consumer Movement Archives within the department. In addition to assisting with the acquisition of collections from consumer leaders and organizations, he provided funds for new tables and chairs for the research room, salaries for student employees, publications, scholarships, and public programs. In appreciation for his support to a repository in the region, the Midwest Archives Conference presented Dr. Morse with its highest honor, the President's Award in 1996. In 1997 the Morses created a major endowment for the department. In recognition of their long and significant support, the department was named in honor of Richard and Marjorie Morse.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection—KC

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection—Kansas City has received a major accession that adds a new dimension to its built environment holdings. Whitney Kerr has donated more than 150 cubic feet of records of the V.O. Jones Company and his own real estate and property management companies. The collection includes all manner of records concerning the sale and

lease of hundreds of buildings and tracts of land in Missouri and Kansas. Many of the property files include descriptive promotional items and photographs of buildings that heretofore have gone virtually undocumented. The collection spans the 1930s through the 1990s and includes a large amount of material related to the unrealized City Center project south of the Bartle Hall expansion. The Jones/Kerr collection joins the Schmelzer Realty Company Records in providing extensive information about the Kansas City region's growth.

Jackson County Historical Society

David Jackson recently joined the JCHS staff as Archives/Education Director. He graduated magna cum laude from Southeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Historic Preservation in 1993. David worked previously at the Unity Archives (Unity School of Christianity). He founded The Orderly Pack Rat, an historical research and consulting service, in 1996. He is releasing a new self-published book in December 2000 titled *Direct Your Letters to San Jose: The California Gold Rush Letters of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852*.

Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center

A wealth of historical information on the Assemblies of God and other early Pentecostal movements is now available online through a web site launched by the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center at the Assemblies of God Headquarters Archives in Springfield, Mo. According to Wayne Warner, director of the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, accessible data includes issues of the "Pentecostal Evangel" magazine from 1913 to 1979 with 1980-1999 available by the end of September. Keyword searches enable visitors to research articles by theme and topic. An additional 20,000 issues of other early periodicals are available, including "Word and Witness," "Latter Rain Evangel," "The Pentecost," and "Confidence." Two Spanish periodicals also can be researched. Overall, some 120,000 pages of information can be accessed through the FPHC Web site. Some 2,000 photos also can be viewed through the site, with 13,000 more images scheduled to be added in the near future. There are also 75 hours of oral history available for listening in real audio and MP3 formats. Shopping cart technology, a virtual museum, and a bulletin board will be made available later. The new FPHC web site can be accessed through the following URL: <http://www.agheritage.org>. Once registered online, users will not only be able to research periodicals, photos, and audio resources, but also open a catalog through which a number of informative items can be ordered.

National Archives—Central Plains Region

NARA's Central Plains Region is on the move—or at least some of its records are migrating. We are in the process of moving just over 2,000 cubic feet of records from our Bannister Federal Complex stacks in Kansas City, Mo., to the NARA records center housed in underground space in Lees Summit, Missouri. The migrating records consist of such little used series as Act of 1867 bankruptcy files, Geological Survey field notebooks, and Agricultural Marketing Service fruit and vegetable reports. The reason for the move is simple: we have run out of space for new accessions. The Lees Summit facility currently holds about 1.5 million cubic feet of records, but capacity can be expanded virtually as needed. (Given the universal application of the Law of Unintended Archival Consequences, of course we recognize that this move will generate a surge of interest in these very records.) Stowing of regional archives in off-site storage is, sadly, a likely harbinger of the immediate future of several of NARA's regional

archives. The Central Plains Region is not the only one of the regional centers running out of space, with little prospect of new or expanded archival storage in the near future.

The Center for the Study of the Korean War and the National Archives-Central Plains Region are co-sponsoring a winter symposium on war poetry at Graceland University's Independence, Missouri, campus. The symposium will take place February 23-24, 2001. The planners have sought proposals for papers addressing any aspect of war poetry, including work by soldiers, veterans, protesters, and noncombatants. Consideration of poetry linked to any and all wars, American or otherwise, is welcome. Contact Tim Rives at 816-823-5031 or

Beginning January 10, the Central Plains Region's microfilm research room will permanently extend the hours it is open for public access. The new extended hours are: Monday, Thursday & Friday, 7:30-4:00; Tuesday, 7:30-5:30; Wednesday, 7:30-9:00. The research room will also be open 9:00-4:00 on the third Saturday of every month. While these hours have been extended for the convenience of our current researchers, the Archives staff anticipates a surge of attendance when the 1930 Census is opened on April 1, 2002.

The Central Plains Region has acquired 16 of the 18 segments of an early Army Corps of Engineers chart of the lower Missouri River. The 1879 survey of the river from its mouth to northeastern Kansas provided the baseline for many subsequent charts. All sixteen segments require professional conservation; the first to be completed has been returned to the region by the NARA conservation laboratory in Washington. Access to the untreated segments is restricted, but the completed segment—a superb example of the conservator's art—is receiving admiring visitors during our regular business hours. (Submitted by Alan Perry)

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Around the Web

Online Resources & Exhibits

The Academy of Certified Archivists has redesigned its website: <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org>. The site offers detailed information and application forms for the Academy's certification program, guidelines for how to maintain your certification, an introduction to the Academy's Class of 2000, answers to frequently asked questions, and selections from the ACA's newsletter.

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NEDCC Offers Digital Handbook On-line

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) announces the on-line availability of its latest publication: *Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access*. The Handbook was published to meet the needs of libraries and museums, and other collections holding institutions for basic information about planning and managing digital projects. In an effort to make this timely information available at no cost to anyone at anytime, NEDCC has posted the text on its Web site at www.nedcc.org. The Handbook is also available in hard copy and ordering information is on the Web site.

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Opportunities Employment, Fellowships, Grants

MANUSCRIPT SPECIALIST: WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION-COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia, at the University of Missouri, has a full-time, permanent, entry-level position available. The collection includes the manuscript holdings of the University of Missouri and the State Historical of Missouri. For further information about the Collection, visit the web site at www.umsystem.edu/whmc/. **Responsibilities:** Duties include processing manuscript and archival collections; HTML coding; and assisting with National History Day in Missouri, reference service, and outreach activities. **Qualifications:** BA in history or another social science is required. Preference will be given to candidates holding MA degrees, with emphasis in archival training and/or archival experience. Demonstrated ability to process (arrange and describe) manuscript and archival collections is required. Experience with National History Day, reference service, HTML coding and Web applications, and database management is desirable. Effective oral and written communications skills and interpersonal skills are necessary. Willingness and ability to lift and carry 35 to 40-pound boxes is mandatory. **Compensation:** Annual salary is \$23,500. Position carries University of Missouri benefits, including vacation, sick leave, and personal days; retirement; medical and dental insurance; educational assistance; and other options. **Application:** Send letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to Laura Bullion, Associate Director, WHMC-C, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri,

Columbia, MO 65201-5149. Deadline: January 31, 2001. The University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri are equal employment opportunity institutions.

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KCAA OFFICERS

Co-Chairs

Deborah Dandridge (Kansas Collection)
(785) 864-4274
ddandrid@ukanvm.cc.ukans.edu

Cynthia Laframboise (Kansas State Historical Society)
(785) 272-8681 x515
CLaframboise@kshs.org

Secretary

Letha Johnson (Kansas State Historical Society)
(785) 272-8681 x515
ljohnson@kshs.org

Treasurer

Mary Hawkins (University of Kansas)
(913) 864-4274
mhawkins@mail.lib.ukans.edu

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

Preservation Notes Editors

Alan Perry

Printing and Distribution

David Boutros
Marilyn Burlingame
Jennifer Parker
Bonnie Cozad

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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.

Memberships and address changes should be sent to: Marilyn Burlingame, UMKC Archives, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499.

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2000 CALENDAR

MARCH

KCAA SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING
Olathe, Kansas
Johnson County Archives and Records

MAY 3-5

MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE, SPRING MEETING
Chicago, Illinois, Midland Hotel

JUNE

KCAA ANNUAL DINNER
Time & Place To Be Announced

AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS 65TH ANNUAL MEETING
Washington, D.C.**

OCTOBER 18-20

**MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE, FALL MEETING
Indianapolis, Indiana**