

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FALL/WINTER 2014

Old US Mint Hosts 2014 Annual Meeting



Meeting attendees enjoyed a tour of the Louisiana State Museum's research room in the Old US Mint

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association held its 2014 annual meeting on November 7 at the Old US Mint in New Orleans. Fifty-four members attended and four sessions were held at the meeting. Samantha Bruner, Tulane University, introduced the audience to the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. The purpose of the LGBT+ Archives Project is to identify, promote, encourage, and preserve LGBT+ history and culture in Louisiana. To learn more about the project, visit their web site: www.lgbtarchivesla.org.

Tara Laver and Jessica Mlotkowski, both of LSU Libraries Special Collections, presented the second session, entitled "Free People of Color in Louisiana: Revealing an Unknown Past Through a Collaborative Digital Project." Laver and Mlotkowski explained that the Free People of Color Project, a granted-funded project through the National Endowment for the Humanities, was developed with the purpose of digitizing, indexing, and providing access to the papers of free people of color in Louisiana. This multi-institutional effort has resulted in a better understanding of free people of color because the digital environment makes it possible to unite previously separated collections and examine collections in ways that could not be done in the analog world. For more information on the Free People of Color Project, please visit their website:

www.lib.lsu.edu/special/fpoc/.

In the third session, Carrie Fager, of the Records Services section of the Louisiana State Archives, discussed record services the Secretary of State provides to state agencies.

In the last session of the day, Mary Linn Wernet, Nolan Eller, and Dr. Charles Pellegrin, all from Northwestern State University, discussed the processing of Northwestern's Kent Courtney Collection. Wernet discussed how a strange call from a conspiracy theorist first alerted her to the Kent Courtney Collection and her first efforts at processing this collection. Eller discussed how he arranged pamphlets, written by Courtney and his wife Phoebe, which had been separated from the collection. Pellegrin talked about how he converted radio addresses Courtney made from tape to digital format and how he used these tapes to conduct further research on Courtney and his wife.

After the presentations, President Chris Brown conducted LAMA's business meeting. Elections were held and the positions of vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and four board memberships were filled. Michelle Riggs volunteered to serve as secretary. LAMA members elected Katie Oubre as vice-president/president-elect, and Sean Benjamin, Edward Benoit, Helen Thomas and Remesia Shields were elected to the Executive Board.

Annual Meeting cont. on p. 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

- INSTITUTION AND MEMBER NEWS, 3
- MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, 7

Photographs from the Annual Meeting



Mary Linn Wernet of Northwestern State University presents her talk on the Kent Courtney Collection.

Carrie Fager of the State Archives gives her presentation on records management.



Photos by Chris Brown

Annual Meeting cont. from p.1

The new board will look into updating LAMA's by-laws and using social media. Michelle Riggs, on behalf of Treasurer Aimee Everett, reported that LAMA has \$10,197.92 in its bank account. Barry Cowan, newsletter editor, reported that expenses for printing the newsletter have decreased because many members prefer receiving an electronic copy rather than a paper copy.

Following the business meeting, Greg Lambousy led members on a tour of the Old Mint. The annual meeting ended with a wine and cheese reception at the Old Ursuline Convent. If you have any comments, concerns, or issues, please feel free to contact Mike Courtney at: mcourtney@arch-no.org,

The large turnout and success of the annual meeting was the result of the hard work of numerous individuals. Mike Courtney would like to thank Greg Lambousy and his staff at the Old Mint for agreeing to host the LAMA annual meeting. Thanks also to Aimee Everett of The New Orleans Historic Collection for serving on the host committee, and Dorenda Dupont, Remesia Shields, and Kimberly Jochum, all of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for processing registration forms, helping to set up, and working the registration desk at the meeting.

Mike Courtney, LAMA President



Digitizing Centenary College of Louisiana's Student Newspapers (1902-2014)

The earliest extant volumes of the *Maroon and White* (1902-1905) were published during Centenary's final years located in Jackson, Louisiana. It functioned as a monthly literary society magazine containing student essays and poems as well as news about alumni and local residents. It, too, contains unique advertisements promoting local physicians, Baton Rouge banks, and regional railroad companies.

The project to digitize the newspapers consisted of three phases, each funded by a different organization. The first began in spring 2012 when the archives received a grant from Centenary's Women's Endowment Quorum to digitize volumes of the newspaper published between 1959 and 1975. The second phase occurred in fall 2012 when the Centenary Muses awarded a collaborative grant to the archives and the student newspaper staff to fund the scanning of volumes published from 1976 to 1990. The final phase took place during summer 2014 when the archives received a grant from the Noel Foundation, Inc. to digitize the remaining volumes – 1902 to 1958 and 1991 to 2014.

Scanning the original newspapers consisted of two methods. Volumes published after 1958 were scanned by Digital Conversion Solutions, a vendor partnered with the LYRISIS library network. Due to the large number of fragile and rare issues published before 1958, Centenary archives staff scanned these older newspapers at a nearby institution. This occurred by renting use of a large-format scanner at the LSU-Shreveport Archives and Special Collections.

For more information about this project, contact Chris Brown at 318-869-5462 or archives@centenary.edu. To view the newspapers online, visit www.centenary.edu/library/archives/college/digitalcollections

Chris Brown

The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections has completed a two-year project to digitize its collection of the college's student newspaper, *The Conglomerate* (1922-2014) as well as its predecessor publication, *Maroon and White* (1902-1921). Researchers can now access these online, page through each volume, download a complete PDF, or search the full text version.

As noted in the October 13, 1922, inaugural issue of *The Conglomerate*, the publication aimed to be "a paper of the students, for the students, and by the students." Throughout the years, its content has offered a unique student perspective on Centenary, the region, and national events. For those interested in Shreveport history, the paper contains advertisements for a wide range of local businesses such as early motion picture theatres, clothing stores, restaurants, and venues for music performances. *The Conglomerate* also includes articles by editorial staff members including Algje Brown '34 (Louisiana State Representative), John William Corrington '56 (author and attorney), and Paul Greenberg '58 (Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist).



Chatsworth Plantation Featured in ULM Exhibit



Exhibit "Sharing the Sweet Life" as it is being prepared by Beverly Clement of LSU Rural Life Museum.

the LSU Rural Life Museum, was guest speaker for an accompanying program, "Searching for the Sweet Life," held on the ULM campus October 23.

The exhibit featured artifacts, visual displays, and a short media presentation about the Chatsworth Plantation, a major sugar producer in south Louisiana from the 1830s through the 1920s. Archaeological investigations at Chatsworth Plantation began in 2012 when L'Auberge Casino partnered with LSU to document the history of the property as required by the National Historic Preservation Act. The program provided information on the plantation and the production of sugar as well as the process involved in uncovering the history and artifacts at the Chatsworth site.

Cyndy Robertson

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Library Special Collections hosted an exhibit and program in recognition of Archaeology Month 2014. The exhibit, "Sharing the Sweet Life: 100 Years at the Chatsworth Sugar Plantation" was on display during the month of October and was presented by the LSU Rural Life Museum. Julie Doucet, an archaeological consultant with



News From Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane



The Catholic Life TV crew prepares to film Renee Richard and Leonard Smith, III, for an episode of *Roots of Faith: Ancestry*.

Members Renee Richard, Judy Riffel, and Leonard Smith, III, co-hosted 11 episodes of a new genealogy series called *Roots of Faith: Ancestry*, appearing on Catholic Life TV. For three epi-

sodes, the team visited the Louisiana State Archives, the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, and the Iberville Parish Clerk of Court's office in Plaquemine to discuss basic genealogical research and methods. A second series focusing on Louisiana's ethnic groups is currently in the works, to be followed by a third series exploring individual genealogies. The series appears on cable television stations in Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes, and episodes are available on the Catholic Life TV website (<http://www.catholiclifetv.org>).

The winner of the society's War of 1812 essay contest, Ann Stirling Weller, was announced at the annual meeting held on October 5th. Weller's essay on her ancestor, Pierre Joseph Landry, was published in *Le Raconteur* along with four other entries in a special War of 1812 issue. The society has announced a new essay contest called "My Ancestor Comes to Louisiana."

The society is also planning an African American Genealogy seminar for Saturday, June 20, 2015, in Baton Rouge. Details will be published on the society's website (www.lecomite.org) and in its journal and newsletter.

Judy Riffel

State Archives Hosts Archives Month Activities



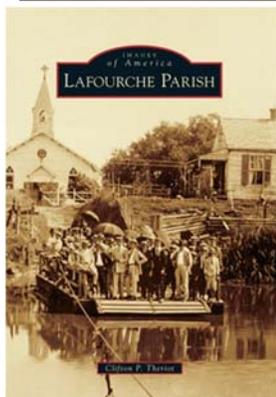
On October 7, Alfred Lemmon, David Hammer, and Howard Margot of The Historic New Orleans Collection gave presentations on the Surrey Calendar and the archives of German New Orleans.

The State Archives of Louisiana hosted a series of lectures in recognition of Archives Month this past October. Topics included the Bataan Death March, the Battle of New Orleans, Basques in Louisiana, the Surrey Calendar (French manuscripts



Friends of the Louisiana State Archives board members (from left) Pat Alford, Linda Lightfoot, and Bill Miller join Jeffery Guice of the State Museum Board after his October 2 lecture on the Battle of New Orleans

relating to Louisiana), the archives of German New Orleans, the National World War II Museum, Poverty Point, six-man football in Louisiana, and Julien Poydras. *Florent Hardy*



Theriot Publishes *Lafourche Parish*

Clifton Theriot, Archivist and Co-Director of Ellender Memorial Library at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux recently published a pictorial history of Lafourche Parish. The book is part of the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing. The book contains over 200 photographs, many from the collections available at the Nicholls Archives. Lafourche Parish is located in the Southeastern portion of the state and is named for Bayou Lafourche which bisects the parish from its northern boundary to its southern boundary at the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the continuous pattern of homes and businesses built along the bayou, many refer to the bayou as the "Longest Street in the World." The book is available through Arcadia Publishing's website.

Cliff Theriot

News from LaRC

This year, LaRC was honored with the responsibility of permanently preserving the records of the First Unitarian Church of New Orleans. After several months of organizing the collection, it is now open to the public and [an online guide is available](#).

Since 1833, the First Unitarian Church has played a major role in our city's history. The church was closely tied to the Tulane Medical School and the school's first graduation ceremony was there. Of particular interest are the records of Reverend Albert D'Orlando. Under his leadership in the late 1950s and 60s, the church became a strong advocate for the Civil Rights movement, leading to the Ku Klux Klan bombing the church twice.

LaRC's archival collection "Freemason Lodges in Louisiana, 1807-1995" has been updated and has a new guide, which is [available online](#).

Although the collection contains archival records for more than a dozen lodges, the bulk of the collection is comprised of records for Persévérance no. 4 (1807-1924), Concorde no. 3 (1825-1870), and Friends of Harmony no. 58 (1848-1995). Notably, Louisiana lodges have the peculiarity of following multiple Masonic rites simultaneously—French, Scottish, and York—while maintaining a distinct French culture; a rare occurrence in the United States.

Lee Miller



Louisiana Archives & Manuscripts Association

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New Orleans, LA 70130

LAMA MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) promotes the role of archives in the preservation of national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, preserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance.

Currently LAMA has 64 members, 47 of which are individuals. This is down substantially from 84 members last year.

If you have not paid your LAMA dues for 2014, please consider doing so. Also encourage those who work with historical records to join the organization if they are not members.

Membership forms are available in this newsletter and on the LAMA website.

Aimee Everett, LAMA Treasurer

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VISIT LAMA ONLINE AT
WWW.LOUISIANAARCHIVISTS.ORG



LAMA offers the following membership categories:

- Student \$5.00
- Senior Citizen \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family (2 people, \$5 for each additional member) \$20.00
- Organization (\$10 for each additional rep) \$30.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- Patron \$100.00
- Life \$1000.00

Subtotal: _____

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Membership in LAMA entitles you receive the *LAMA Newsletter* and invitations to the Association's annual meetings. LAMA members also automatically become members of the Southern Archives Conference (SAC), an umbrella organization of Southeastern state archival organizations, encompassing the state organizations of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. SAC meets every other year in one of the membership states.

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