

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

LAMA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT LOYOLA IN NEW ORLEANS



The 2008 LAMA annual meeting was held November 14, 2008 in The Audubon Room at Loyola University's Danna Center in New Orleans. Members turned out to discuss group business (see minutes on page 9) and listen to presentations and panels that highlighted the diverse archival interests throughout

the state.

Mark Cave, Curator of Manuscripts and Oral Historian at The Historic New Orleans Collection, presented "Through Hell and High Water: Katrina First Responders Oral History Project." THNOC is currently conducting an ongoing oral history initiative to compile recollections from

Mark Cave, Curator of Manuscripts and Oral Historian at The Historic New Orleans Collection, presented "Through Hell and High Water: Katrina First Responders Oral History Project" at the annual meeting. The project is part of an ongoing effort to tell and preserve the stories of Hurricane Katrina emergency personnel. (Photo courtesy of Neil Guilbeau)

Hurricane Katrina first responders, especially the New Orleans Police Department and the New Orleans Fire Department.

According to Cave, the NOFD records, per a confidentiality agreement with THNOC, will remain restricted for 25 years from the date of the interview due to the fact that many

NOFD individuals are critical of the department's leadership in the oral histories. The NOFD is also using the histories to compile an "after action" assessment report to be released at a future date.

Cave said that the oral histories cannot be protected from a court ordered subpoena and as a result it has been difficult to garner the full cooperation of the NOPD, as many officers and the organization's leadership are extremely defensive about actions taken and the events surrounding Katrina. Cave noted that the phenomenon of "Parallel Provenance" has also been an issue. In conducting these oral histories, Cave noticed several in-

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LAMA REPOSITORY DIRECTORY NOW ONLINE

The directory of repositories holding historical materials in Louisiana is now available online. The database includes the information published as a web page in the 1990s and presents it in a new searchable format. The directory currently resides on the developer's

server, ready for live testing. Readers are encouraged to test it, understanding that the actual data contains many errors, such as missing repositories, misnamed repositories, repositories that have disappeared, wrong telephone numbers, bad spelling, etc.

Errors in the data or "bugs" in the program should be reported to Elizabeth Dow. LAMA anticipates a general cleanup of the data in the directory as the second phase of this transformation.

The directory's home page has two links in

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *LHRAB Meeting Summary (page 9)*
- *Upcoming SSA & SAA Annual Meetings Information (pages 4, 7)*
- *LAMA Institution News (pages 2, 5, 7)*

HILL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACQUIRES WILLIAM C.C. CLAIBORNE ARCHIVE

The LSU Libraries Special Collections recently acquired a small but important William C. C. Claiborne archive that contains very useful sources on the territorial post at Natchitoches, relations with the Creole French and Spanish and Native Americans in the Natchitoches area, and efforts to establish American rule and governmental structure in territorial Louisiana.

The bulk of the eighteen item collection dates from 1805, but documents from 1805 to 1812 are included. It is comprised primarily of letters from and affidavits taken by Dr. John Sibley, Justice of the Peace at Natchitoches and U.S. Indian Agent.

Sibley's letters are newsy and descriptive, and they pro-

vide both a sense of the danger and uncertainty on the ambiguous border between Spanish Texas and Louisiana and local attitudes toward the new American government, so recently established in New Orleans.

For example, two affidavits forwarded by Sibley describe instances of "Spanish depredations" against citizens in which they took horses and goods. Additional affidavits record Natchitoches residents' experiences living at and knowledge of the location of "ancient" French posts and Caddo settlements, apparently in an attempt to identify lands useful for further settlement. Sibley addresses topics from the need to regulate weights and measures to dis-

putes about how to handle runaway slaves, how national politics are playing out locally, and the sense of those in the "Interior of the Territory" that they are being neglected in favor of New Orleans.

In addition to the Sibley letters, the collection includes miscellaneous documents related to Claiborne's family, a letter from Claiborne to his father recommending Gen. James Wilkinson (whom he describes as having served his country with fidelity), and two letters from Captain Edward Turner, Civil Commandant of the District of Natchitoches.

Turner's letters further illustrate the uneasy relations between the Creoles and the Americans. He reports the

Creoles' "wait and see" attitude about embracing the Americans, with them apparently hoping for the territory to be taken by the Spanish, and the role religion played in the mingling (or not) of the two populations.

This brief description gives only a hint of the rich sources in this collection. Though the documents are few in number, their writers were articulate, politically savvy, and, luckily for us, eager and able to convey a sense of the challenges of their duties and of the place in which they found themselves. For additional information on this acquisition, contact Tara Laver at tzachar@lsu.edu.

-Tara Laver

LAMA DIRECTORY (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

a left-hand column. Choosing View/Find link takes the user to the search interface. The top section of the search interface allows the user to view the database contents numerically by zip code or alphabetically by Parent Organization, Repository Name, or City. A sort by Parish will soon be added. Below "radio button" with which the user chooses a sort, the user will find a box which will Limit the search.

By limiting the search, the user actually creates a Boolean "and" search for two elements in one field. For instance, the user can ask for a list by Repository but limit the search to repositories with the term "Lafayette" as part of their name by typing

"Lafayette" into the Limit box. The limit feature applies only to the field upon which the particular sort is based. If you test the search described in the previous sentence but change the sort to City limited by "Lafayette" you will get different results. Below the sort section, the user will find a search box that provides full-text searching. Users can ask for any numerical or alphabetic data in a repository record. The database returns the results sorted alphabetically by repository name.

The directory itself has a long history. In 1984 the Friends of the Louisiana Archives (which became LAMA) published a directory to archives of academic and large

public or private collections and repositories in Louisiana. In 1993 the Society of Southwest Archivists published a directory to archival repositories in its six state region.

Alfred Lemmon compiled the entries for Louisiana adding information on more repositories than had appeared in the earlier guide, but omitting many smaller repositories.

The SSA guide did not include contact information such as e-mail addresses or Internet URLs. Therefore LAMA decided to support the compilation of a more detailed guide. The expanded guide went onto LAMA's website in 1998, and remained there unchanged until 2006. That year the student chapter of the Society of

American Archivists at LSU-SLIS decided to take on the project of updating the information in the Directory. They turned to a programmer the group advisor Elizabeth Dow had worked with in her days as an archivist in Vermont.

The programmer, James Tranowski, developed the database free of charge, relying completely on the information contained in the previous directory.

-Elizabeth Dow

LAMA Directory Web Address:
<http://www.vt-openings.com/nutrias/lama1.php>

2008 LAMA ANNUAL MEETING (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

stances where differing accounts were often given by officers and firefighters of higher and lower rank, and discrepancies emerged between the oral histories and official departmental records.

The panel for “Jewish Louisiana” consisted of Catherine Kahn, Archivist at the Touro Infirmary Archives, Irwin Lachoff, Associate Archivist at Xavier University Archives, and Mary Linn Wernet, Head Archivist and University Records Officer at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Kahn spoke about Judah Touro and the settlement of Jews in New Orleans. According to Kahn, Touro was the second Jewish settler in New Orleans. He became a recluse after he was wounded at the Battle of New Orleans and all of his papers were burned at his death. Kahn also discussed a collection of meeting minutes for the Touro Infirmary board and hospital registers dating from 1854-present. They have been organized in an Access database, which allows researchers to search by a patient’s name, disease, date, etc. According to Kahn, these will eventually be transferred to Archon, which will allow for the display of related finding aids.

Lachoff discussed the development of congregations, and Orthodox and Conservative sects in New Orleans and Metairie. Lachoff said that modern scholarship on Jewish life in New Orleans needs to emphasize how integrated



The “Jewish Louisiana” panel presentation by Catherine Kahn, Irwin Lachoff, and Mary Linn Wernet discussed the long and rich history of Jewish communities in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana. The panel also provided information on Jewish archival resources and issues of documenting Jewish communities in the future. (Photo courtesy of Neil Guilbeau)

Jewish individuals were in the larger civic associations and fabric of the city. Jews were not just merchants, but also sugar planters, businessmen, musicians, architects, social activists and philanthropists.

According to Lachoff, the state of Jewish community records varies between institutions. For example, the Jewish Community Center holds records dating back to the 1920s and they were spared. Unfortunately, despite being raised 15 feet, Temple Beth Israel’s records were destroyed. One of Tulane’s major record collecting focus continues to be Jewish community records; they hold papers from four synagogues, prominent rabbis, the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, and the National Council of Jewish Women.

Wernet concluded the discussion with information on Jewish history and archival sources in Northern Louisiana. According to Wernet, the Cammie G. Henry Research Center in Natchitoches holds a significant number of Jewish collections cataloged by name. Several collections predate the Civil War, indicating a richer Jewish heritage for the region than many researchers might expect.

The third and final panel discussion was entitled “Intern-al Medicine: Optimizing the Experience of Student -Workers,” and was presented by Howard Margot and Aimee Everett from THNOC, Neil Guilbeau from Nicholls State University, and Bruce Turner from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. The panel discussed intern-

ship experience from both the student and supervisor perspective. According to Margot and Turner, the parameters, goals, and objectives need to be well-established on each side in order for the internship to be productive.

-Brad Wiles & Lisa Werling

FYI...

-A copy of the “Through Hell or Highwater” presentation is available at: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/oral_history_review/v035/35.1.cave.pdf

-For more on Jewish Louisiana archival resources see: Lachoff and Kahn’s, *Images of America: The Jewish Community of New Orleans*

-For an example of student archival internship guidelines see: <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/classes/294/libr294guide.htm>

LAMA MEMBERS ON BOARD FOR SSA 2009: FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Local Arrangements is on course to deliver a warm Louisiana welcome to all attendees of the Society of Southwestern Archivists Annual Meeting, May 20-23, 2009, in Shreveport. Make your plans now to attend SSA's annual meeting and enjoy wonderful hotel accommodations, Shreveport-Bossier metro area entertainment and attractions, preconference workshops, historic tours and local landmarks, and a variety of meetings complete with vendor and exhibitor displays—plus a chance to visit and network with old and new friends.

LAMA, a Deckhand sponsor, is well-represented on what promises to be an outstanding program headed by keynote speaker Bruce P. Montgomery, whose address is entitled "From Richard M. Nixon to George W. Bush: White House Materials & Executive Branch Secrets." Montgomery is Faculty Director of Archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder and



founding director of the UCB Human Rights Centers and Archives. He has served as an analyst of classified documents for the U.S. government, and is currently a consultant for the Institute for Defense Analysis, a Pentagon-funded think tank, to help set up and make available electronic copies of captured al Qaeda, Taliban, and Saddam Hussein-era records. He is the author of three books including *The Bush-Cheney Administration's Assault on Open Government* (Praeger, 2008),

Subverting Open Government: White House Materials and Executive Branch Politics (Scarecrow Press, 2006), and *Richard B. Cheney and the Rise of the Imperial Vice Presidency* (Praeger, 2009). Bruce Turner, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, will head up a panel discussion on State Historical Records Advisory Boards in the SSA region. Judy Riffel of Baton Rouge will present "A Genealogist's Perspective on Archival Research." Pati Threatt, McNeese State University,

will describe the LOUISiana Digital Library project for a session on Managing State-wide Digital Libraries. Keli Rylance, Tulane University, will present "The FEMA 106 Process and its Impact on Regional Archives" and chair the session on architectural records. Brad Wiles, LSU-Baton Rouge, will present "Refiguring Post-modernism in Archival Appraisal: Lessons from the Literary Canon Debate," in a session on Appraisal and Acquisition chaired by Tara Laver, also of LSU. The program addresses the broad spectrum of archival practice with sessions for just about every interest. Preconference workshops offer intense courses in Film Archives, Paper Conservation, and Implementing DACS in Integrated Content Management Systems using Archon, a 2-day workshop offered by SAA, May 19-20. Conference rates will be available at Sam's Town on May 18 for those attending that workshop.

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COMMENTARY: NEW ARCHIVES POLICIES UNDER A NEW ADMINISTRATION?

The election of Barack Obama was in many ways a repudiation of the previous administration's adherence to secrecy and political expedience. Change, accountability, and transparency became buzzwords in a campaign that raised expectations for a new approach to governance.

But what does this mean for those in the archives and re-

ords professions? Though it's still very early in the new administration, the initial indications are favorable if still a bit unclear. On the one hand, Obama has reasserted the importance of vital records legislation by revoking Bush's executive order limiting access to presidential records and by firmly committing to open-

ness and promptness in the execution of FOIA requests. On the other hand, he has continued the Bush administration's attempt to block a lawsuit requiring the recovery of millions of emails, previously believed to be lost.

It will be interesting to see who Obama selects for the U.S. Archivist job (see page 9), and how much support

the administration will throw behind pending legislation for PAHR — not to mention archives and records-related initiatives under the aegis of the NHPRC, IMLS, Save America's Treasures, and other national programs that address long-term preservation. As everyone is acutely aware, the Obama admini-

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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY RECEIVES NEH PRESERVATION GRANT

Loyola University-New Orleans received a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant funded a preservation needs assessment of the Monroe Library's Special Collections and Archives. Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions help small and mid-sized institutions, such as libraries, museums,

historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections.

Awards of up to \$5000 support preservation related collection assessments, consultations, training and workshops, and institutional and collaborative disaster and emergency planning. Grants cover consultant fees, workshop registration fees, related

travel and per diem expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies and equipment. All applications to the NEH must be submitted through Grants.gov. See the application guidelines for details.

The 2009 guidelines for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions are available at www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html. You will also find sample project

descriptions, sample narratives, and a list of frequently asked questions. The deadline for applications is May 14, 2009.

Small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the staff of NEH's Division of Preservation and Access at 202-606-8570 and preservation@neh.gov.

-Trish Nugent

IMLS GRANT FUNDING SUPPORTS ARCHIVAL TRAINING COLLABORATIVE

The Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS), a federal funding agency, has granted LSU \$280,000 to support a three-year effort to establish a sustainable program of archival training for staff and volunteers in historical repositories in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. In this Gulf-Coast region, historical repositories of all sizes depend in part, and

in some cases completely, on the work of staff who have little or no formal training in the proper management of historical documents.

For the sake of its historical record, this region needs an organization dedicated to addressing the need for affordable training in the management of historical documents. The project, which calls itself the Archival Train-

ing Collaborative (ATC), began in July 2008 and runs through June 2011. During its first 18 months, the ATC will focus on arranging for and offering archival training opportunities in all three states. During the second half of the grant period, it will continue to offer archival training, but it will focus on developing the organizational and financial structures of one

or more organizations that will continue to offer training opportunities after grant funding has ended.

Elizabeth H. Dow, Archives Educator in the School of Library and Information Science at LSU, will serve as Principal Investigator. Dow, Laura McLemore, Head of Archives and Special Collec-

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ELLENDER ARCHIVES COMPLETES CLAUDE B. DUVALL PROCESSING PROJECT

The Archives & Special Collections department at Nicholls State University has recently processed the papers of former Louisiana Senator, Claude B. Duval. A native of Houma, Duval graduated from Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans in 1937, and eventually became the senior partner in the law firm Duval, Ar-

ceneaux, Lewis & Funderburk. Duval began his political career in 1956 as a candidate for state representative in the Louisiana Legislature. In addition to serving as campaign manager for Chep Morrison's first bid for governor of Louisiana, Duval ran and lost a bid for lieutenant governor as Morrison's running mate in the 1964 state elec-

tions. He subsequently served three terms as state senator from 1968-1980, during which time he spearheaded the renovation of the Louisiana State Capitol, creating Senate committee rooms and staff offices. Upon his retirement, the Senate honored him for his efforts in this project by passing Resolution No. 23 designating the Senate

Committee Wing in the west basement of the Louisiana State Capitol as "Duval Hall."

The collection covers 55 linear ft., spans 1822-1989, and is divided into two main groups: Claude B. Duval and Easton Family Papers. The Claude B. Duval Group primarily covers Duval's political career, but

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ARCHIVES UNDER A NEW ADMINISTRATION (CONT. FROM PAGE 4)

stration has been busy in its first few months attempting to tackle the recession while simultaneously pushing one of the most ambitious policy packages in history. Only time will tell how this plays out, but the string of financial bailouts and restructuring of program entitlements will have profound implications for the archives and records professions. First off, it appears that unprecedented amounts of money will be



spent on increasing internet bandwidth and connectivity,

which should have a huge impact on government offices, schools, libraries, and other institutions that routinely deal with hybrid document formats. Secondly, part of the massive overhaul of the national health care system will involve the transition to electronic medical records, which will potentially impact every American citizen.

Thirdly, the restructuring of the financial system will likely usher in a new era of over-

sight, creating more complex relationships between government bureaucracies, public interests, and private enterprise. Obviously, the archives and records professions need to position themselves to effectively roll with whatever changes occur. Yet it appears that if reforms adhere to the administration's vision, archives and records professionals should have plenty of opportunities to ply their trade.

-Brad Wiles

IMLS GRANT (CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

tions at LSU-Shreveport, and Michelle Riggs, Archivist and Director of Special Collections at LSU-Alexandria, will represent Louisiana on a Steering Committee which will establish schedules and procedures.

Julia Marks Young, Director of the Archives and Records Services Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Jennifer W. Ford, Head of Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library of the University of Mississippi, and Shugana Williams, Manuscript and Digitization Specialist at the Katrina Research Center at Southern Mississippi University, will represent Mississippi.

Tracey Berezansky, Assistant Director for Government Records in the Government Records Division of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Martin Olliff, Director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Cul-

ture and Assistant Professor of History at Troy State University Dothan, and Reagan Grimsley, Assistant Prof. in the Department of History at Auburn University, will represent Alabama.

In its three initial workshops (in Baton Rouge, LA, Columbus, MS, and Birmingham, AL), ATC used free, Web-based educational materials as the basis of its workshops. The workshops brought together diverse practitioners representing the full scope of records-creating and collecting institutions.

An experienced professional guided them through the Web-based materials, answering questions, clarifying concepts, and generally offering support to the participants. Though some traveled as far as two hours, the ATC hopes to provide enough workshops that no participant will need to travel more than an hour from home, creating a supportive local network.

The ATC expects the training opportunities to cost little enough that repositories or individual workers can afford to take them on a regular basis. The grant pays for the extraordinary costs of creating this project which includes support for the organizational meetings, publicity materials, administrative assistance, etc. It does not include funds for the cost of providing the training.

The ATC Steering Committee will develop a pricing structure based on the actual cost of presenting them, estimated in the proposal to IMLS as \$20-\$50 per participant. This need for archival training isn't unique to Mid-Gulf Coast region; if successful, the ATC will develop a model that could very well apply to any region with similar needs. For more information visit www.archivaltraining.org or email edow1@lsu.edu.

-Elizabeth Dow

ABOUT THE IMLS...

- ◆ The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.
- ◆ The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.
- ◆ The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.
- ◆ To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

SSA 2009 (CONT. FROM PAGE 4)

There will be plenty of entertainment and amusements to suit every taste as well, whether it be eating crawfish (in traditional and original ways), mixing and mingling over cocktails, touring museums, ghost hunting, taking in an independent film or live music, or playing a game of chance. Saturday offers an opportunity to tour a Cane River plantation and charming Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, and, of course, SLOTTO!

Contact Emily Hyatt, ehyatt@consolidated.net, if you have items to donate. Registration packets will be arriving soon, or go to the SSA Annual Meeting website <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Meeting.htm> for details and to make your hotel reservations or pay registration through PayPal. The hotel is luxurious, the parking is free, and the atmosphere is festive. So all hands on deck. Make plans early to find out what that “other” Louisiana is all about and extend famous LAMA hospitality to our colleagues and friends in the Southwest region.

-Laura McLemore



SAA 2009 IN AUSTIN!!!

Just a reminder—members can now register for the Society of American Archivists 2009 annual meeting in Austin, Texas, August 9-16. Those wanting to participate in the Research Forum have until May 1, 2009 to submit poster and presentation proposals. For more details visit <http://www.archivists.org>

LAMA 2009 SET FOR ALEXANDRIA

The 2009 LAMA annual meeting this fall will convene in Alexandria, the Heart of Louisiana. Never been to Alexandria? Come to this year’s LAMA meeting and see the only city in Louisiana to be burned to the ground by the Yankees!

Alexandria is home to the Louisiana Museum of Art, the Louisiana History Museum, Kent House, and the Arna Bontemps African-American

Museum; across the Red River in Pineville you’ll find the historic sites of Civil War battles at Fort Buhlow and Fort Randolph, as well as the original site of LSU. Plan to attend THIS FALL!!!

If you would like to present a paper or a poster contact Michelle Riggs at LSU Alexandria, 318.619.2960 or mriggs@lsua.edu.

-Michelle Riggs

MEMBER NEWS: FLORENCE JUMONVILLE

Florence M. Jumonville, chair of the Louisiana and Special Collections Department at the Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans, has been named a member of the board of the Louisiana Library Foundation. She presented a paper, “Formerly the Property of a Lawyer’: Books that Shaped Louisiana Law,” at an international colloquium celebrating the bicentennial of the Louisiana Civil Code, which was

held at Tulane University in November 2008. Florence also spoke on “Start the Presses!: An Overview of Early Printing in Louisiana” at the LSU Rural Life Museum’s Fifteenth Annual Ione E. Burden Symposium and on “Yesterday’s Lawsuit, Today’s History: Using the Archives of the Supreme Court of Louisiana in Research” at the Louisiana State Archives Genealogical Seminar, both in March 2009.

-Florence Jumonville

CLAUDE B. DUVAL COLLECTION (CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

also includes some information on his personal life, law practice, and other business dealings. Material on his political career covers the different aspects of his campaigns along with his work in office. One of the more sensational aspects of Duval’s political papers consists of the Legislature’s investigation of Carlos

Marcello and the Louisiana Mafia during the early 1970s. This includes a transcript of Marcello’s testimony before a special committee, reports to Governor McKeithen, and the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31. The second group in this collection consists of materials from the Easton family who

were related to Claude Duval through his paternal grandfather. It documents activities of various family members during the 1800s to early 1900s including correspondence, Civil War documents, German bank stock certificates, autograph albums, campaign speeches, notarial records, and essays on local

history. The papers as well as funding for processing were generously donated to Nicholls by Duval’s daughter, Dorothy Duval Nelson of New Orleans. For more information on this collection, please go to http://www.nicholls.edu/apps/library/archives_collections/MS00202.pdf

-Neil Guilbeau

HISTORIC RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2009



The Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board met January 26, 2009 at the State Archives Auditorium to discuss ways of implementing the priorities established in the Strategic Plan. Louisiana State Archivist, Dr. Florent Hardy, opened the meeting with a description of some of the ongoing projects at the State Archives, including the successful Louisiana Archives Roadshow events, a recently-produced Archives orientation video, a new "Friends of the State Archives" group, and different maintenance efforts at the state archives building and storage units.

The gathering of board members Hardy, Faye Phillips, Dr. Bruce Turner, Johnny Crain, and Frank Borne and approximately twenty other archives and records professionals from

across the state discussed the improvement of governmental recordkeeping and public education as major priorities. It was agreed that LHRAB in cooperation with LAMA and the State Archives will assemble regional teams of LAMA members and other willing, professional archivists (aided by students whenever possible) to amass a general inventory and condition report of Clerks of Court/Parish Council records in all 64 parishes.

This general inventory will lay the groundwork for a number of LHRAB goals. It will provide a structure by which LHRAB can begin to interact with Clerks of Court and other record-holding politicians in a helpful and non-threatening manner. Records officials at the local level would be less likely to argue with state-sponsored

volunteerism that costs them nothing and will ultimately free up time, money, and storage space for their individual offices. It will also provide concrete information on just how bad the situation is in many parishes. This information can then be leveraged into action in the Legislature.

The inventory will likely follow the model of other states and potentially lead to the creation of regional record centers for the oldest and most vulnerable historical records. If not removed, records would be scanned and/or microfilmed. Individual parishes would still 'own' the originals, but said originals would be housed properly, out of harm's way, in the aforementioned record centers. The cutoff date for records to be removed to

safer storage has yet to be determined; likely the cutoff will be sometime between 1812 and 1865. Other criteria for removal will need to be evaluated as well; if records are already housed safely and the facilities are deemed "archivally sound" there may be no need to remove them to a different records center.

The inventory will also help out with another LHRAB objective: to create a finding aid website that incorporates all Louisiana repositories. Such a website will initially be a list of links to the various repositories that already have websites with finding aids posted on them. Ultimately it will become a large database that can be accessed and updated by institutional members at their leisure.

Lee Leumas and Carrie Fager volunteered to organize personnel on the inventory project, possibly starting in the eight New Orleans metro-area parishes. The inventory teams will donate their time and expertise, although it is hoped and planned that the State will subsidize the effort by paying all or at least part of travel and housing expenses. The Secretary of State will be approached for funding as the project plan develops.

The problem of many or most of these records offices not being accessible on weekends was not broached, so LAMA volunteers will either have to obtain special access to the records or take time off

IN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ARCHIVES, RECORDS, AND HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS SET OUT CRITERIA FOR NEW UNITED STATES ARCHIVIST

Upon the resignation of Dr. Allen Weinstein as the Archivist of the United States on December 19, 2008, more than 60 history- and archives-related member organizations signed a letter to president-elect Obama sharing their thoughts regarding the qualifications deemed essential for the next appointee.

Signees included presidents and executives of the Society of American Archivists, ARMA International, NAGARA, the Council of State Archivists, The Academy of Certified Archivists, and the National Coalition for History, among others.

Referring to part of a speech where Obama said, “Our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared,” the letter stated: “Our stories are preserved and our destiny is recorded in the archives of the United States. It is within the archives that we document our democracy, our liberty, our opportunities and, most importantly, the hope of our nation’s people. The Archivist of the United States is among the most senior individuals in the archives profession. He or she is invested with many legal obligations, but perhaps most importantly with the moral responsibility to see that this great mission of preserving and remembering our nation’s history is accomplished in a way from which our citizens can and will learn.”

The entire text of the letter and an accompanying list of criteria can be found at <http://www.statearchivists.org/news/2008-12-19-LtrReAUS.htm>.

-Brad Wiles

SHRAB MEETING (CONT. FROM PAGE 8)

from their own jobs to do this. However, the condition reports will be minimal so they should not require an inordinate amount of time to complete. Reports will utilize standardized condition check-lists for all teams in all parishes. It was indicated that some parishes have already done inventories and/or condition reports but many of these may be out-of-date by now.

More information about the LHRAB inventory project (and related projects) will be distributed to LAMA members as it becomes available. Those interested in volunteering please contact Trish Nugent, Carrie Fager, or Lee Leumas. For more on LHRAB go to: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.
-Howard Margot and Brad Wiles

LAMA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 14, 2008

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Annual Meeting, November 14, 2008 Audubon Room, Loyola University New Orleans.

President Trish Nugent called meeting to order.

I. Officer's Reports:

A. Move to accept 2007 meeting minutes by Lee Leumas; second to motion by Ann Wakefield.

B. Trish Nugent, congratulated Lee Leumas on scholarship trip to Indonesia.

C. Treasurer’s report by Bruce Turner.

D. Cliff Theriot moved to accept report; second to mo-

tion by Lee Leumas. Motion carried; No secretary report.

F. Newsletter/editor report: Phyllis Kinnison moved to Texas; need someone to take her place.

II. Old Business:

A. LAMA directory—Tara Laver & Bruce Turner presented report in absence of Dr. Dow.

B. Test website: vt-openings.com/Nutrias/Aama1.php; interactive site allows individuals to update info on their own will send email to everyone to check it out.

III. New Business:

A. Election of officers:

Lee Leumas & Laura McLemore going off board; Michelle Riggs for Vice President; Hans Rasmussen and Ann Boltin on board; Bruce Turner to stay treasurer.

B. Cliff Theriot moved to accept slate; second to motion by Ann Wakefield. Motion carried.

C. Laura McLemore brought up SSA to occur in Shreveport; Bruce Turner asked if we should produce memento for event (rulers?); Laura McLemore asking for sponsors for conference; Bruce Turner makes motion for LAMA to contribute \$500 for memento; Second to motion by Cliff Theriot; Motion carried.

D. Discussion on State Historical Records Advisory Board: Who’s on it?

E. Bruce Turner asks if we have emails for everyone in LAMA to keep apprised of situation of SHRAB. May need to revise registration forms to obtain email addresses for organizational members of LAMA to ensure everyone gets notified of updates on organization business.

F. Cliff Theriot makes motion to adjourn meeting; second by Mary Allen Johnson; Meeting adjourned.

-Submitted by Neil Guilbeau



Louisiana Archives & Manuscripts Association

P.O. Box 40199
Lafayette, LA 70504

LAMA MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association promotes the role of archives in the preservation of our national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, conserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance. In 2009 LAMA currently has 43 dues paying members compared to 72 in 2008. There are now 23 individual members while in 2008 there were 41. There are 3 organization members who have paid memberships for 12 individuals while in 2008 there were 10 organizations who paid memberships for 21 individuals. In 2008 there were 6

student members while in 2009 there are 5. In 2008 there were 4 senior members while in 2009 there are 3. The only category reversing this trend is sustaining membership. In 2009 there is 1 while in 2008 there were none. The LAMA membership year is from 1 December to 30 November. Reminders will soon be sent to those who paid dues in 2008 but have not yet paid for 2009. If you want to pay before receiving the reminder, the printable membership registration form can be found on the LAMA website [<http://louisianaarchivists.org>] - click on Joining LAMA. Please encourage people in your area who work with historical records to consider joining the organization. -Bruce Turner, LAMA Treasurer

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VISIT LAMA ONLINE AT

WWW.LOUISIANAARCHIVISTS.ORG



LAMA offers the following membership categories:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 people, \$5 for each additional member) | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$10 for each additional rep) | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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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