

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES OF LOUISIANA

NEWSLETTER, MARCH 1988

P.O. BOX 51213 • MAIN POST OFFICE • NEW ORLEANS • LOUISIANA 70151-1213

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECORDS

The **Presbyterian Study Center**, formerly the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, is the repository for records and papers of agencies and individuals of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). From its establishment in 1927 until the 1983 reunion with the United Presbyterian Church, the Historical Foundation served the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern Presbyterian Church).

The archives and library of the PSC contains materials related to American Presbyterian and Reformed churches, particularly records of groups located in the South. The library also houses a large number of publications about Presbyterian and Reformed churches in the British Isles and about the Waldensians, the Reformed church in Italy.

Three archival collections which may be of interest to researchers from Louisiana include the following: (1) **Records of the Presbytery of New Orleans** (3 cu. ft.) consisting of minutes (1912-1977) of the Home Missions Committee, and accounting and general financial records (1911-1969); (2) the papers (office files and correspondence) of **Edward D. Grant** (24 cu. ft.), an outstanding Presbyterian layman employed by the Presbyterian Church, U.S., in a number of executive positions, founder of the Grant Chemical Company of Baton Rouge, and state leader in the field of education; and (3) the papers of **Benjamin Morgan Palmer** (1818-1902), Presbyterian minister, professor of church history and polity at Columbia Theological Seminary, first Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (1861), and long-time pastor of First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans. The collection (.5 cu. ft.) includes sermons and notes, a diary (1857) which describes Palmer's impressions of New Orleans, and printed materials. Other related materials in the library include printed minutes and reports of the Synod of Louisiana and the Presbytery of New Orleans. The library also has a large number of issues of The Southwestern Presbyterian and some issues of Synod of Louisiana newsletter, The Presbyterian Evangel and The Louisiana Presbyterian.

The **Robert Lee Stowe, Jr., Local Church History and Records Program** encourages church historians to submit an annual written account of the events in the life of the congregation. Since the program's inception in 1930, 143 Louisiana churches have filed an account in the collection. Researchers depend on the reports for information about churches whose official records are not on deposit or unavailable for research. For example, the Fairfield Church in Baton Rouge has reports for 1955-1968, but no Session records or other materials exist at the PSC. From the reports, researchers can find some information about the church's activities, members and pastors.

The **Local Church History Program** maintains the collection of congregation or Session records. The Session is the governing body of the Presbyterian congregation, composed of elders elected from the membership. In the Presbyterian (meaning "elder") system of government, the congregation retains some autonomy from the church hierarchy, though the Session is bound to obey the rulings of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Session makes decisions concerning its congregation. It owns and controls its records. Neither the

continued next page...

PRESBYTERIAN continued...

PSC nor the Presbyterian Church can force a Session to deposit its records with any archival institution. Churches may send their non-current records to the PSC or other approved facility for storage in an environmentally controlled safety vault. The records are owned by the church and can be retrieved from the archives at any time. Records less than 50 years old are closed to general research unless the church gives permission. This 50-year rule applies to microfilmed records as well. Statistical information in church records can be used to prove date of birth, death, baptisms and membership for legal purposes.

Currently, 50 Louisiana churches have deposited their records in the PSC; of these, 18 are no longer in existence or "dissolved." From these records, we learn of the work of Presbyterians among ethnic groups in the New Orleans area (Hungarians, Germans, Italians, Cajun-French). Although the Presbyterian Church has had a reputation as an urban, middle-class church, records show churches have been established in rural areas and small towns, as well as in large cities.

The **Presbyterian Study Center** is open to researchers year-round, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Saturday hours May through November only). Copy facilities and microfilm service are available. The Center's staff is unable to handle the many mail requests that they receive, but assistance is available (for a fee) from an independent genealogical researcher, Miss Elizabeth McNeill (P. O. Box 849, Montreat, NC 28757). The Center is located in Montreat, North Carolina (near the Montreat Conference Center), 20 miles east of Ashville in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Copies of the Center's catalog cards, containing fuller descriptions of the below-listed records, are available at the Louisiana Division of the New Orleans Public Library.

Louisiana Presbyterian Churches that have or are now participating in the Local Church History Collection (those marked * have deposited some records at the PSC; those marked ** have deposited microfilm only). Inclusive dates of records held are in parentheses.

Abbeville - Abbeville PC *

First PC

Albany - Albany PC

Hungarian PC *

Alexandria - First PC *

Jackson Street PC

Alto - Alto PC (1872-1935)

Amite - Amite-Arcola PC

Arabi - Carolyn Park PC

Arcadia (1910-1918)

Archibald - Archibald PC

Athens - Firt PC

Baker - Baker PC

Baskin - Baskin PC

Union PC

Bastrop - First PC

Woodlawn PC

Baton Rouge - Broadmoor PC *

Church of the Way

Fairfield PC

First PC *

Florida Street PC

Monte Sano PC

Northside PC

Sherwood PC

Trinity PC

University PC

Belcher - Belcher PC

Benton - Benton PC (1897-1981)

Bogalusa - First PC (1907-1980)*

Boothville - Boothville PC

Bossier City - First PC

John Knox PC

Centerville - Centerville PC

Choudrant - Alabama PC * (1875-1984)

Clinton - Clinton PC * (1855-1960)

Covington - Covington PC * (1899-1980)

Crowley - First PC

Delhi - Delhi PC

Delta Farms - Bethel PC * (1915-1956)

Denham Springs - First PC

DeQuincy - First PC

Deridder - Broadlands PC * (1939-1953)

Dixie - Dixie PC

Egan - Egan PC

Eros - Eros PC * (1890-1921)

Ferriday - First PC

Franklin - Grace PC

Frierson - Good Hope PC

Red Lick PC *

Grand Cane - Smyrna PC

Gray - Blue Bayou PC

Gretna - Gretna PC

Hammond - First PC * (1848-1960)

Hammond PC * (1909-1923)

Harelson - Grace PC (1879-1925)*

Haynesville - First PC

Homer - First PC

Houma - First PC (1898-1907)*

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MICROFILM PRESERVATION

A Case Study: The Supreme Court of Louisiana Collection of Legal Archives

To know your collection is the fundamental principle for any archivist, but it is essential for effective microfilm preservation or a grant application. Fortunately, records speak for themselves. Out of the commingled mass of the Supreme Court archives, there emerged 14 different record groups, only three of them issuing from the Court sitting in New Orleans. General record books exist for New Orleans, but only a few for other districts. Moreover, one clerk omitted the docket number for all cases listed in the general records between 1815 and 1831.

The first step to prepare for microfilm preservation is to justify the order of each page. The case files have been restored to their original archival order as set by the Clerk of Court, so that historical research is now possible. During this process, case files from another court have been removed to independent locations.

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded its largest grant to UNO to preserve and disseminate by microfilm these fragile MS case files, beginning in 1813. The project, 1985-1988, saves the records in greatest danger from deterioration, which use intensifies.

Case files have a permanent administrative, legal, fiscal, historical, and genealogical value. The testimony offered in the transcripts offers oral history frozen in time. The silent minorities - women, Blacks, ethnics, the poor - are given a voice. Moreover, the traditional major subjects - transportation, architecture, banking, health and medicine, insurance, land use - all have unexplored resources here. Did dividing New Orleans into three municipalities bring political peace? Who pays for parish prison? What is the concern for public safety in the period of change from sail to steam? The antebellum depressions brought many debtors to court, with lists of household property or sources of capital for banks that were also canal companies, railroads, or gaslight companies. Suits over private bills and notes describe trade with Northeastern ports, Bristol, London, Bordeaux, or Nantes.

The primary record is, of course, the manuscript case file, but included as exhibits, there is a wide variety of maps, drawings, newspapers, certificates, licenses, city ordinances, company charters, and a few water colors. The oldest item is the 1769 broadside, signed by the first Spanish governor, O'Reilly, regulating Indian slavery. One of the many interesting maps is color coded to indicate overlapping claims (1810) based on an Indian land sale and a Spanish land grant. A series of drawings outlines the New Orleans water system from the diameter of water mains to location of fire hydrants in 1834. The paper presented at the FAL Annual Meeting (October 1987) was illustrated by a series of slides from the hundreds of exhibits in this collection. Ten percent of the imprints in Florence Jumonville's Bibliography of New Orleans Imprints, 1764-1864, are unique items from the Court archives.

A register in multi-volumes lists each case file in a series, including docket number, title, date of final decree, publication (if any) in Louisiana Reports. On the film, each case file is preceded by a descriptive target card; item inventories give an overall view of each film roll. Finding aids, in addition to a shelf list, include card files: an alphabetical index of litigants (in process); admissions to the Bar, naturalizations, appointments of justices and clerks, notaries public, maps, imprints, newspapers, case files with oversized items, a locator of cases on the film, and a geographical and chronological index of the sessions of the Court.

All microfilm for preservation must conform to the standards set by the American National Standards Institute, concerning the quality of film legibility, resolution, density, freedom from flaws, etc., as well as its complete reproduction of the original documents. The film copy not only preserves the unique originals but also presents a more legible and available resource, although it lacks the ambience of that page from the past.

Marie Windell

THE

Exchange

NEWS NOTES ABOUT THE ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA AND LOWER MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY COLLECTIONS, LOUISIANA
STATE UNIVERSITY, Baton Rouge

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Ronald M. Smith Photograph Collection, n.d., 24 items - glass plate negatives of buildings, groups, rural scenes, and portraits.... Charles East Papers (addition), ca. 1928-1987, .75 lin. ft.... Alison Moore Papers, 1917-1987, 19 lin. ft.... A. M. Conrad Papers, 1863-1866, 94 items - Conrad was a soldier with the 3rd Engineers, Corps d'Afrique in Louisiana.... Naman J. Woodland, Sr. and Olive Coe Woodland Papers, 1936-1981, 10 lin. ft.... Richard W. Leche, Sr. Papers (addition), 1936-1986.... Jackie Andonie Currency Collection (addition), 1814-1863, 53 items.... Emile Barbari Papers - three oral history tapes on his work with the Civilian Conservation Corps... William Williams Colbert and Family Papers, 1859-1877, 16 items.... Nicholas Sandlin Papers (addition), 1863-1865, 5 items.... Turnbull-Bowman-Pirrie-Lyons Papers (addition).

NEW ACQUISITIONS, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES: Political Science Department Records, Newspaper Clippings File, 1939-1940, .25 lin. ft.... Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Office Records, Assistant Vice Chancellor Margaret Jameson Records, 1963-1986, 22 lin. ft.... Journalism School Records, 1935-1961.... Public Relations Office Records, 1950-1985, 4 lin. ft.

EXHIBIT: "Cameos of Black History in Louisiana and the South, 1724-1898," opened on 1 February 1988 in honor of Black History Month. The exhibition will be open through 30 April in the Hill Memorial Library, Monday through

Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday, 9 AM to 1 PM. A catalog of the exhibition has been compiled by M. Stone Miller, Jr. of the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections.

OTHER NEWS: Mr. Lynn Roundtree, Curator of the Russell B. Long Collection, has been elected Vice Chair/Chair-elect of the Manuscripts Section of the Society of American Archivists. Faye Phillips, Head, LLMVC, has been named Chair of the Congressional Archivists' Roundtable of SAA.

Reporter: Faye Phillips

LEDOUX LIBRARY, LSU-EUNICE,
Eunice

STAFF CHANGES: James A. Forester retired as Library Director on 1 December 1987.... Jean B. Forester began as Acting Director on 1 December 1987.... Reference Librarian Susan Marshall resigned on 31 December 1987.... Reference Librarian Anita Marino resigned on 15 January 1988.... Reference Librarian Kenneth Neal began on 1 February 1988.

SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVES AND
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION,
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHWESTERN
LOUISIANA, Lafayette

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Robert Stuart Neitzel Papers, 1955-1980, 2 1/2 ft. - correspondence and subject files of a leading archaeologist in Louisiana and Mississippi; he was involved with Marksville Culture, the Grand Village of the

Natchez, the Tunica Treasure, and other projects....**William H. "Billy" Grout Photographs**, 1970-1978, ca. 6,000 images - collection (mainly negatives) of amateur photographer from Livingston Parish; his interests included historic buildings, rural scenes, and motorcycling....**Mary Alice Fontenot Papers** (addition) - includes correspondence, 1985 and 1986.

EXHIBITS AND MEETINGS: The exhibit, "William the Conqueror's Domesday Book, 1086-1986," will be on display in March and April....The exhibit, "Mardi Gras in Southwest Louisiana," was on display in the Dupre Library lobby during February....**Jean Schmidt** and **Bruce Turner** attended FAL'S annual meeting in October.

Reporter: Bruce Turner

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT, FRAZAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY, MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY, Lake Charles

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Lake Charles High School Collection, 1896-1983, 19 1/2 lin. ft. - photographs, scrapbooks, school newspapers, programs, directories, plaques, and trophies....**Southwest Louisiana Historical Association Collection**, 1950's-, 3 1/2 lin. ft. - membership lists, minutes, correspondence, and photographs generated by the Association since its organization....**Mayo Land Title Company Collection**, 2 lin. ft. - photographs and miscellaneous information about the company which celebrated its 100th anniversary in Lake Charles in 1987....**Gerstner Field Collection**, 1917-1918, 3 lin. ft. - correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and blueprints from an airfield located south of Lake Charles.... Four oral history tapes done in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Charles, 1888-1988....Oral history tapes of discussions by early residents of Old Maplewood, a section of Sulphur, LA, built for and settled by workers at Cities Service Refining Corporation during the 1940's.

EXHIBITS: Exhibit and reception held 13

September in honor of **Claudius Mayo** and the 100th anniversary of the Mayo Land Title Company in Lake Charles. The exhibit was on display at the Frazar Memorial Library through November.

STAFF CHANGES: Part-time workers **Mrs. Maxine King** and **James A. Hooper** have been added to the staff.

OTHER NEWS: The Department has recently received a 3M microfilm camera from the Calcasieu Parish Library. Scrapbooks, short newspaper runs, and other items will be microfilmed for the Archives and for other departments in the Library.

Reporter: Kathie Bordelon

EUGENE WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY, Natchitoches

NEW ACQUISITIONS: **H. G. Hawthorne Collection**, 1940's, 2 boxes - records of the Natchitoches motorcycle racing club....**William A. Poe Collection**, 1 box - writings on Vernon Parish History....**Negreet, LA, Store Ledgers**, 1890's, 4 cu. ft....**Neklutin Collection** (addition), ca. 1900-1925, 3 boxes - personal experiences before and after the Russian Revolution....**Martha Madden Collection**, 1980's, 2 boxes and pamphlet collection - material dealing with environmental quality....**Ebarb Community Collection**, 1980s, 1 box - taped interviews with Louisiana Native Americans (to be used only with permission of the Tribal Council)....**Doris Falkenhiner Collection**, 1980's, 6 boxes - legal papers dealing with environmental problems.

Reporter: Carol Wells

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION, New Orleans

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Letters to New Orleanians, 136 items - including letters from **Andrew Jackson**, **Jefferson Davis**, **Robert E. Lee**, **William Tecumseh Sherman**, **Benjamin Harrison**, and **Thomas A. Edison**....**Daybook of Alexander Miller** - carpenter-builder of Natchez....**Butler Family Papers**, 1787-1950, 125 items -

addition to the existing collection.... Petition in bankruptcy of Benjamin H. Latrobe, 1817.... Report of Juan de Castenado, 1801.... Cammie Henry Papers, 1927-1945, 461 items - addition to the existing collection.... Manuscript map of New Orleans, 1804, by Joseph Vinache, presented to Citizen Laussat.... Les Cenelles - manuscript of a poem by William Faulkner, inscribed by him to Harold Levy.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS: The Collection was host at receptions for the Southern Historical Association and the Southern Association of Women Historians. An exhibit on Louisiana women was assembled for the occasion.

PUBLICATIONS: Manuscripts Division Update, volume 6, appeared in October 1987.

STAFF CHANGES: Laurie DeMarco, of Amherst College in Massachusetts, has been serving as an intern in the Manuscripts Division. A full-time manuscript assistant position is open; please call Dr. Draughon for information.

Reporter: Ralph Draughon, Jr.

LOUISIANA HISTORICAL CENTER, LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM, New Orleans

STAFF CHANGES: Kathryn Page was hired on 2 November 1987, as Archivist/Map Librarian. She is an M.A. graduate of the University of New Orleans (December 1987).

LOUISIANA DIVISION, NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY, New Orleans

NEW AQUISITIONS: L'Union Francaise Collection, 1872-1954, 9 vol. - manuscript minute books and letterbooks of one of the oldest French cultural organizations in the city.... Civil Courts Collection (addition), ca. 1900-1909, ca. 100 cu. ft. - original suit records, ca. #60,000-80,000. Will be available following completion of arrangement and inventory by the Mormon microfilming volunteer staff.... City Planning Commission Records (addition), 1975, 8 vol. - planning and zoning minute books.... Coroner's Office Autopsy

Records (addition), 1977-1978, ca. 8 cu. ft.... Volunteers in Government of Responsibility (VIGOR) Records, ca. 1970-1986, 2 cu. ft. - correspondence, subject files, and program records of city government's volunteer coordinating agency.... Streets Department Bridge Records, ca. 1916-1964, 6 cu. ft. - correspondence, specifications, and plans for bridges built in New Orleans.

Reporter: Wayne Everard

TULANE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, New Orleans

NEW AQUISITIONS: Presidential Papers (3 record groups): Rufus Carrollton Harris, 1937-1960, 77 cu. ft.; Herbert Eugene Longenecker, 1960-1975, 156 cu. ft.; Francis Sheldon Hackney, 1975-1980, 61.25 cu. ft. - personal and official papers, correspondence, awards, and photographs of University Presidents.... Tulane University Theatre Photographs, 1937-1979, 3.5 cu. ft. - mostly 8x10, black and white and color, of various productions.... Office of Affirmative Action Papers, 1980-1985, 11 cu. ft. - historical material, searches and cases.

OTHER NEWS: University Archivist Kennon Garofalo was recently elected President of Greater New Orleans Archivists.

Reporter: Kennon Garofalo

LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY, TULANE UNIVERSITY, New Orleans

EXHIBITS: Currently on display is an exhibit of maps of Latin America from 1700 to present, tracing the development of cartography of the area and European views of the New World.... Planned for March is an exhibit of materials related to Ephraim George Squier taken from the Library's collection of Squier Papers in commemoration of the centenary of his death.

Reporter: Ruth R. Olivera

**ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS/
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, EARL K.
LONG LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF
NEW ORLEANS, New Orleans**

NEW ACQUISITIONS: **Sisters of the Holy Family**, ca. 1892-1987, 1 box - records from the in-house collection of a New Orleans black religious order, including xerographs, and copy negatives and prints of photographs, as well as pamphlets issued by the community.... **Henry Conrad Brote Collection**, ca. 1920's to 1960's, 7 lin. ft. - records of a merchant marine captain based in New Orleans, includes miscellaneous manuscripts and ship logs of voyages from the Crescent City to Central and South America.... **Kay Coffey Collection**, ca. 1960's-1980's, 40 lin. ft. - miscellany, including periodicals, clippings, correspondence, pamphlets, minutes of meetings produced and/ or acquired by Mrs. Coffey as a board member of the National Association for Gifted Children and founder-member of the Association for Gifted and Talented Students.... **Judge John Minor Wisdom Collection**, 1870-1987, 3 lin. ft. - carnival memorabilia consisting principally of ball invitations, admit cards, dance cards, newspaper Carnival editions, souvenir booklets, and ball programs. Also included are items from the Young Men's Gymnastic Association.

EXHIBITS: An exhibition on the history of the department is currently being planned. Included in the display will be samples of less conventional media, such as audio and videotape cassettes, reel-to-reel films, and posters.... An exhibit on the history of the University in honor of the inauguration of **Chancellor O'Brien**, March, UNO Library, 4th floor.

STAFF CHANGES: **Pat Italiano**, professional photographer and UNO graduate, succeeds **Mike Ryan** as photographer for the Supreme Court of Louisiana legal archives project.

OTHER NEWS: The NEH grant to preserve the Supreme Court of Louisiana legal archives, 1985-1987, has been extended for another year.

Reporter: Beatrice R. Owsley

**ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLEC-
TIONS, XAVIER UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY, New Orleans**

NEW ACQUISITIONS: **Gladys Dena Freeman Cahn Collection**, 1940's and 1950's - speeches delivered to various chapters of the National Urban League by a noted New Orleans social and civic leader and civil rights activist. Also includes clippings and an Urban League award plaque.... **Juvenile Cooperators Fraternal Mutual Aid Association Collection**, 1904-1935 - records, minute books, and correspondence generated by an organization founded in 1894 by young Creoles of Color in the Third District of New Orleans. Among the prominent figures represented is **Walter L. Cohen**, founder of Peoples Pharmacy, Peoples Industrial Life Company, and later head of U.S. Customs in New Orleans... **Richard Perrill Adams Collection** - manuscripts, correspondence, and literary miscellany belonging to the former professor of English at Tulane University and noted expert on William Faulkner and Wallace Stephens. Also included are books autographed by a number of important Southern writers, among them James Jones.... **Basile Jean Bares Collection** - musical compositions by Bares (1845-1902), a noted 19th Century Creole composer. Included are several autographed photographs of Bares in New Orleans and Paris and the only known piece of his music in manuscript, along with published sheet music. **OTHER:** The Archives and Special Collections is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. It is administered by **Sister Roberta Smith**, S.B.S. **Lester Sullivan**, Archivist at the Amistad Research Center, has been retained as a consultant.

Reporter: Robert E. Skinner

**UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS, LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY, Ruston**

NEW ACQUISITIONS: **Murphy Tannehill Collection**, Yale Forestry School Camp Records, 1929-1934, 75 items - student notes, diaries, and photographs from the Camp at Urania; reveals impressions of

Louisiana, forestry, and camp experiences of students from the U.S., Russia, England, South Africa, and Norway.... **North Louisiana Chapter, Society of American Foresters, Records, 1946-1986, 5 vol.** - correspondence, reports, and related records.

STAFF CHANGES: Bob Ledford was appointed archivist, September 1987.

OTHER NEWS: The Center for the Study of American Foreign Policy will open in September 1988. This diplomatic research center will operate under the auspices of the University's Department of History and will be administered by University Archives and Special Collections. More than \$100,000 will be spent in the purchase of primary source materials on American diplomatic history from the early days of the Republic to the present.

Reporter: Bob Ledford

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY, Thibodaux

EXHIBITS: Thibodaux Sesquicentennial Exhibit, honoring the 10 March anniversary of the incorporation of Thibodaux, will be on display throughout the Spring in the Ellender Room....In April the Archives will host the Domesday Exhibit, put on by LSU.

PUBLICATIONS: Archivist Michael Foret is now writing a weekly column, "Bayou Newsletter," in the Thibodaux Daily Comet, covering genealogy, local history and culture, and basic archival practices for the family archivist, such as proper storage of materials, etc.... Retired Archivist Philip Uzee's Thibodaux Chronicles: A Sesquicentennial History, a collection of his popular columns on Thibodaux from the Daily Comet, was published by Portier Forman Publications. The 84-page book, with over 40 illustrations, is largely based on materials from the NSU Archives.

OTHER NEWS: Foret is presently working under a grant from the Texas Historical Commission as consulting archivist to conduct research on archival sources pertaining to the French presence in East Texas, ca. 1730-1790.

Reporter: Michael James Foret

CALENDAR

- March 29 - Greater New Orleans Archivists, Miller Hall, Loyola University (6:00 p.m.)
- April 8 - FAL Meeting of Archivists, Hill Memorial Library, LSU, Baton Rouge
- April 9 - LGHS Annual Meeting, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria. Speaker: Jim Johnson, "Tennessee: Crossroads of American Genealogy"
- April 27-30 - NGS Conference in the States, Convention Center, Biloxi, MS
- May 17-19 - Southeast Archivists' Conference (SAC), Oxford, MS
- May 18-20 - Society of Southwest Archivists, Fort Worth
- June 1-5 - American Institute for Conservation, New Orleans
- July 9-14 - American Library Association, New Orleans
- July 20-23 - National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), Annapolis, MD
- August 20-21 - Jefferson Genealogical Society Workshop. Keynote speaker: John C. Head on trans-South migration
- September 14-18 - American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), New York
- September 29-October 2 - Society of American Archivists, Atlanta
- 29 October - FAL Annual Meeting, Earl Long Library, UNO, New Orleans
- 1989 - Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), New Orleans

PRESBYTERIAN continued...

Jackson - First PC
 Jackson PC
 Jeanerette - Calvary PC (1880-1939)*
 Jennings - First PC (1886-1984)**
 Jonesville - Trinity PC
 Keatchie - Keatchie PC
 Kenner - Kenner PC
 Lafayette - First PC *
 Grace PC
 Lafayette PC *
 Vermillion PC *
 Lake Charles - St. Andrew PC
 Lake Providence - Lake Providence PC
 LaRose - Trinity PC
 Luling - First Union PC
 Madisonville - Madisonville PC (1931-80)*
 Mansfield - Hewitt Memorial PC
 Red Lick PC
 Maplewood - Westminster PC
 Metairie - John Calvin PC
 Metairie Ridge PC
 Parkway PC
 Minden - First PC *
 Minden PC
 Monroe - Covenant PC
 First PC *
 Westminster PC
 Morgan City - Atkinson Memorial PC
 Napoleonville - Napoleonville PC
 Natchitoches - First PC (1954-1960)*
 Newellton - Tensas PC
 New Iberia - First PC
 New Orleans - Algiers PC (1951-1958)
 Berean PC
 Bethel PC (1879-1920)*
 Canal Street PC (1847-1948)*
 Carrollton PC
 Chinese PC
 Church of Covenant (1846-56)*
 Claiborne Avenue PC (1924-55)*
 Eastminster PC (1958-1963)*
 Esplanade PC (1914-1939)*
 First PC (1818-1985)*
 First PC (Jefferson City)
 (1869-1888)*
 First Street PC (1853-1984)*
 Fourth Street PC *
 Gentilly PC
 Italian PC (1894-1922)*
 Lafayette Street PC *
 Lakeview PC
 Napoleon Avenue PC (1861-1956)*
 Oak Park PC
 Prytania Street PC (1846-1956)*
 St. Charles Avenue PC (1968-83)*
 Seaman's Bethel Church *

New Orleans (continued)

 Second German PC (1863-?)*
 Second PC (1845-1866)*
 Third PC (1847-1959)*
 Woodland PC (1973-1979)**
 Norco - Good Hope PC
 Norwood - Norwood PC
 Oakdale - First PC
 Opelousas - First PC
 Pineville - Palmer Memorial PC
 Plain Dealing - Cottage Grove PC
 First PC
 Rocky Mount PC
 Ponchatoula - First PC
 Ponchatoula PC *
 Port Allen - West Baton Rouge PC
 Port Sulphur - Port Sulphur PC
 Raceland - Raceland PC
 Rayville - Rayville PC
 Ruston - First PC *
 Ruston PC
 University PC
 St. Joseph - St. Joseph PC
 Scotlandville - First PC
 Shreveport - Broadmoor PC
 Dunlap Memorial PC *
 Fairfield Avenue PC
 First PC
 Hollywood Heights PC
 John Calvin PC
 St. Andrews PC
 Trinity PC
 Westminster PC
 Slidell - First PC
 Springhill - Springhill PC
 Sterlington - Grace PC
 Sulphur - Westminster PC
 Tallulah - Tallulah PC
 Thibodaux - First PC
 Vidalia - Vidalia PC
 Violet - Creedmoor PC
 Vivian - Vivian PC
 Waterproof - Waterproof PC
 Welsh - First PC
 West Monroe - Highland PC
 Memorial PC
 Winnfield - First PC
 Winnfield PC
 Winnsboro - Trinity PC *
 Winnsboro PC
 Zachary - Plains PC
 Zachary PC

CONSERVATION MEETING

The 16th annual meeting of The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works will be held in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1-5 June 1988. General sessions will include the reading of 14 papers along with "update" presentations on new techniques and concepts. There will also be specialty group sessions covering specialized topics in the areas of objects, photographic materials, paintings, wood artifacts, textiles, and books and paper. Among the papers to be presented are: "Evidence for multiple causes of foxing in paper;" "Alternatives to fumigation: a review of techniques for the treatment of mold growth;" "Thomas Jefferson Collection at the Library of Congress - an 18th-Century library preserved;" and "Chicago Historical Society disaster."

Beginning on May 31, AIC also offers a pre-session workshop on conservation surveys for an additional fee. The opening reception at The New Orleans Museum of Art and the AIC annual banquet will highlight the social aspect of the gathering. Full conference registration fees range from \$75 (for students) to \$225 (for non-members "at the door"), with discounts for early bird and advance reservations. Single day registration is \$50 (\$25 for students). For further information write to: AIC, P.O.Box 11502, Washington, D.C. 20008.

NEW ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

Don W. Wilson was sworn in as the seventh Archivist of the United States in ceremonies at Washington, D.C., on 4 December 1987. Prior to his appointment, Wilson had served as Director of the Gerald Ford Library and Museum since 1981. Before the Ford position he worked at the Kansas State Historical Society (1967-1969) and the Eisenhower Library (1969-1978), and served as Associate Director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin from 1978-1981. Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Washburn University (Topeka, Kansas) and received his

master's and doctoral degrees in History from the University of Cincinnati.

During Senate confirmation hearings in October, Wilson stated his intention of conducting studies "to determine whether or not it would be advantageous to give the Archivist specific authority to issue binding regulations relating to the interpretations and definition of records, both paper-based and electronic." He went on to note that "the ability to administer public records in the computer age depends on the ability of the National Archives to adapt to...changes. It must assume a national leadership position. Old archival theories and practices must be reexamined and adapted to present day needs. The passive role of archivists waiting for old files of paper to be transferred by reluctant agencies must be replaced by active participation records management."

ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATION FELLOW AT LSU

Randy Penninger has been named Archival Administration Fellow in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at the LSU Libraries. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Certificate in Archival Administration from Emory University. He is presently Manuscripts Curator of the Atkins Library at UNC-Charlotte.

The fellowship is funded through a project supported by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Mellon Foundation. The program is designed to provide mid-career archivists with advanced administrative training by creating opportunities for them to work in institutions of recognized managerial excellence.

Penninger will hold the position of Fellow through the 1987/1988 academic year. He will participate in the administration of Special Collections and contribute directly to several specific projects. He will return to his position at the Atkins Library in June 1988.

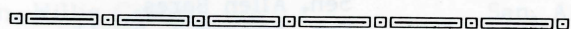
NGS CONFERENCE IN THE STATES COMES TO THE GULF COAST

For the eighth year, the National Genealogical Society will hold its annual conference outside of the Washington, DC, area. The Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi will be the site of the four-day meeting, which opens on the afternoon of 27 April. The L. W. Anderson Library in Gulfport is the host institution, with assistance from many of the genealogical organizations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

This is a working conference, with topics offered on a wide range of subjects for researchers at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. A highlight will be Reid Lewis's recreation of the LaSalle voyage of discovery, which is scheduled for Wednesday evening. Representatives of genealogical and historical societies around the country and books and supplies dealers will be on hand.

The fee for the four days is \$90.00; a one-day fee of \$32.00 is also available. Registration forms can be obtained from NGS Headquarters, 4527 17th Street, North, Arlington, VA 22207-2363. Those who don't decide to attend until the last minute can register at the Conference (headquartered at the Royal D'Iberville Hotel and the Gulf Coast Convention Center in Biloxi).

This is our last opportunity for a long time to have a national-level conference of this type so close to home. We should all take advantage of it.



STATE ARCHIVES REPRESENTATIVE AT NGS CONFERENCE

Friends of the Archives of Louisiana has provided a \$100.00 grant to the Louisiana Department of Archives, Records Management and History to help make it possible for Sandra Hotard-Peairs to attend the 1988 National Genealogical Society Conference as a representative of the State Archives. Because of current economic conditions, funds were not available to pay for such a trip. We were happy to be able to help.

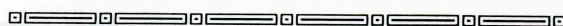
CALL TO ACTION — WRITE YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

Now is the time for all archivists and researchers to come to the defense of the new State Archives building. From the beginning, we supported its construction. Now, we must preserve the building for its original purpose, to house state archives. Those building areas reserved for record growth should be preserved for expanded holdings of state archives which we know will come, and in short order. If other departments, cramped for space, are moved into this building, the state records will again be scattered about in available warehouses. State archives are the record of a culture. We should not have to defend archival preservation.

A list of state senators and representatives for the 1988 legislative sessions, arranged according to parish, is included in this publication. Get in touch with them before the opening of the new session on 18 April. Addresses to be used during the session are:

The Honorable _____
Louisiana Senate
P. O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable _____
Louisiana House of Representatives
P. O. Box 94069
Baton Rouge, LA 70804



NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM FAL

Friends of the Archives of Louisiana has produced new new booklets to help researchers. The first, a Directory of Louisiana Archivists, is a 20-page listing of professionals employed by various institutions. The cost is \$1.00 postpaid.

The second is Guide to National Archives Microfilm Publications in Louisiana Repositories. This 50-page publication is available for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 for postage.

Copies of both booklets can be obtained from FAL at P. O. Box 51213, New Orleans, LA 70151-1213.

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Rep. James David Cain

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Profile of an Archivist

The recent history of the **Cammie G. Henry Research Center** at the Watson Library of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches has been shaped by its archivist, **Carol Wells**. She has helped to develop it into a significant repository for a variety of research materials on Louisiana history and genealogy. Among its more than 500 collections are over 200 maps, 19th century newspapers, rare books, and other materials. The best known segment of the Center's holdings is the Melrose Collection of personal and plantation records, many of them dealing with Mrs. Cammie G. Henry and Melrose Plantation. It is one of the strongest black history resources in Louisiana.

Carol Wells came to Northwestern by way of Penn State University where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and earned a B.A. degree in History. After graduation she worked for a while as assistant art director at Westminister Press in Philadelphia. She later became part of the first class of women midshipmen in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was stationed in Boston. She married a naval officer, Tom Henderson Wells, and together they raised a family of six children.

In 1963 Dr. Tom Wells was appointed to the History faculty at Northwestern and the family moved to Louisiana. Following her husband's death in 1973, Mrs. Wells became an editor on the staff of the Northwestern State University Press and an assistant archivist in the University's archives.

Her 1973 M.A. thesis at Northwestern was on the "Domestic architecture of colonial Natchitoches." She has compiled the Index and Abstracts of Colonial Documents in the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library (1980) and Williamson County, Tennessee, A Genealogical Abstract of the County Court Records, 1800-1804 (1980). Mrs. Wells also prepared the historical text for and edited Cane River Country, Louisiana (1979), a collection of photographs and other historical illustrations of the Natchitoches region. She has had articles published in several historical journals in both Louisiana and Georgia as well as in several gardening and antiques periodicals. Her latest book, a lady's memoir, was recently accepted for publication by the McGinty Fund at Louisiana Tech University. At present Mrs. Wells is pursuing her interest in genealogy by abstracting court records from Maury County, Tennessee.

Mrs. Wells is a member of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Association for Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the Daughters of American Colonists, and the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Aided by strong support from the Natchitoches community, **Carol Wells** continues to develop the archival program at the Watson Library. With one part-time assistant and the help of several student workers she strives hard to keep up with the many new and interesting collections that come into the Center.

NEW ARCHIVAL JOURNAL

Archives and Museum Informatics, a research and consulting firm headed by David Bearman, formerly of the Smithsonian Institute, began publication in Spring, 1987, of a two-part quarterly journal, **Archival Informatics Newsletter and Technical Report**. The Newsletter contains updates on uses of automated techniques in archival repositories and museums, on dealing with automated records, and on collect-

ing software as an artifact. Each Technical Report is a monographic assessment of a particular technology and the opportunities it presents to archives and museum management. Reports for 1987 concern optical media, software collections, management software, and artificial intelligence. For further information contact Bearman at AMI, 5600 Northumberland Street, Pittsburg, PA 15217.

MEETING OF ARCHIVISTS

FAL'S annual meeting of archivists will be held on Friday 8 April at the Hill Memorial Library at LSU in Baton Rouge. Details will follow, but make plans to attend now.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Student/Senior Citizen	\$ 5.00
Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Organization	\$ 25.00
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