

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

Records of Chemist and Inventor Ruth Benerito Received by the Newcomb Archives

The Newcomb Archives, part of Tulane University's Newcomb College Institute, is dedicated to collecting records that document the history of women and gender in the Gulf South, especially those that reflect the history of the former women's coordinate college of Tulane. Newcomb College, now the Newcomb-Tulane College, was once home to some of the most influential women scientists of the South. While primarily known for fostering an internationally celebrated artistic ceramics tradition, Newcomb also educated women beyond the fields of the liberal arts. The Department of Science at Newcomb College encouraged not only innovation in the hard sciences, but innovation in those fields by women. Notable alumnae include Clara de Milt, Marion Fay Spencer, and Joan Bennett. Recently, the Newcomb Archives received a donation of archival records reflecting one of Newcomb's greatest examples of women's achievement in the sciences: the Ruth Benerito papers.

Ruth Rogan Benerito enrolled at Newcomb College at the age of 15, graduating with a B.A. in Chemistry in 1935 and almost immediately after earning her M.S. from Tulane University in the same field. Benerito later received a PhD from the University of Chicago, also in chemistry. Her success was fueled by the camaraderie and encouragement of Newcomb College. She was mentored in the lab by Newcomb alum-



Ruth Benerito

na Dr. Rose Mooney and later by Clara de Milt, another alumna and then head of the Department of Chemistry, who later hired Benerito to teach at Newcomb and to build up the Department's collaborative research efforts. Benerito worked as a professor of physical chemistry at Newcomb for ten years, simultaneously earning her doctorate over summer breaks and leaves of absence. She rose within the department and upon de Milt's death in 1953 was offered the position of head of the Department of Chemistry. She declined the promotion, choosing to seek innovation outside of academia.

Benerito started working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Research Laboratory in 1953, where she began experimenting with cotton fabric. It was there that her most widely recognized contribution to the field of chemistry took place: her research on cross-linking in cotton molecules was one of the prime chemical revelations that led to the invention of permanent press (or wrinkle-free) fabric, as well as stain and flame resistant cotton fabrics. Her achievements in chemistry continued throughout her career, resulting in over fifty patents and numerous honors and awards, including the Lemelson-MIT Award for Invention and Innovation, as well as induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2008. Benerito remained with the U.S.D.A. until retiring in 1986, after which she joined the faculty of the University of New Orleans and continued teaching until the age of 81.

"Chemist" Continued on page 2

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LAMA has a new Listserv!

The LAMA Listserv is a new venue for members to share their news and announcements, ask questions, and connect with colleagues across the state. It is intended to be an open forum for all topics related to archives and archives issues.

Join today

LAMA LISTSERV TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

The principal audience for the list is archivists, special collections librarians, archival educators, and students enrolled in graduate archival education courses and programs. The list is open to all individuals with an interest in the archives profession, archival practice, and the preservation and promotion of archival materials.

The purpose of the list is to foster discussion of archives and archives issues, including all aspects of the theory and practice of the archives profession. Please refrain from off topic discussions. LAMA reserves the right to block or permanently remove participants if off-topic or abusive messages threaten to disrupt the functioning of the list.

The following email addresses are used for the specified purposes:

- To send an email to the list: LAMA-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU
- To unsubscribe from the list: LAMA-L-signoff-request@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU

The following URLs may also be useful:

- The list home page: <https://listserv.lsu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=LAMA-L>
- The list subscription page: <https://listserv.lsu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=LAMA-L>

SUBSCRIBING TO THE LAMA LISTSERV:

1. Send an email to listserv@listserv.lsu.edu
2. Leave the subject line blank
3. In the body of the message, type SUB LAMA-L [your first name and last name]. For example: SUB LAMA-L John Smith
4. The message cannot contain any other information, or formatting, or signature

UNSUBSCRIBING TO THE LAMA LISTSERV:

The instructions are exactly the same, except replace SUB with UNSUB in the message

*Katie Oubre
LAMA President*

“Chemist” continued from page 1

Benerito died in 2013 at the age of 97. Her nephew, William Rogan, contacted the Newcomb Archives regarding a donation of her lectures, manuscripts, patent files, honors, and awards, with the hope that researchers might find a complete record of Benerito’s accomplishments at a single repository. The Archives were honored to receive the donation and are currently working to process the collection, approximately seven linear feet of records. All processing work should be completed by August 2016, at which time a complete finding aid to the collection will be made available to researchers online.

Inquiries regarding the collection can be sent to Chloe Raub, Head of Archives and Special Collections at the Newcomb College Institute, at craub1@tulane.edu or (504) 314-2723.

*Cara Becker, Graduate Assistant for Reference and Public Services
Chloe Raub, Head of Archives and Special Collections*

Repository Announcements

Louisiana State Archives

The Louisiana State Archives was selected to receive the Historic Preservation Leadership Award at the 2016 Louisiana Culture Awards. The Louisiana Culture Awards recognize the best efforts to highlight and cultivate Louisiana's rich cultural resources and is put on by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The awards ceremony took place May 24, 2016 at the Capitol Park Museum in downtown Baton Rouge.

Louisiana State Archives celebrates Archives Month each October in coordination with the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archivists. Activities that make an impact on the recognition and preservation of history by celebrating archives, genealogy, history, and records management have been conducted by the State Archives since 2001. Last year's programming included a lecture by *New York Times* best-selling author Gary Stewart and a presentation on The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Florent Hardy, Jr.
Director of Archival Service



Loyola University New Orleans

The Special Collections & Archives of Loyola University New Orleans have extended their spring exhibit, Media Traditions: Scrapbooking, Memory Archives, and Self-Presentation, through August 8th. This popular exhibit provides an overview of the evolution of the scrapbook, including forerunners of the genre such as commonplace and autograph books, while engaging the viewer to draw connections between the handmade memory archives of the past and their contemporary social media counterparts.



Tallant, Lise Mary Magdalen (1888-1972). Scrapbook, 1890-1910.
Ben C. Toledano New Orleans Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Loyola University New Orleans.

The exhibit includes materials from various collections such as the Anthony J. Stanonis Travel Scrapbook and Diary Collection, the Basil Thompson Papers, the Benjamin C. Toledano New Orleans Collection, and the Loyola University Publications Collection.

Located on the 3rd floor of the J. Edgar and Louise S. Monroe Library at Loyola University New Orleans, the exhibit can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

Here is a link to the online digital library for these collections: <http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll91>

Kure Croker
Special Collections Registrar & Archivist

Tulane University

Mississippi Steamboat guide

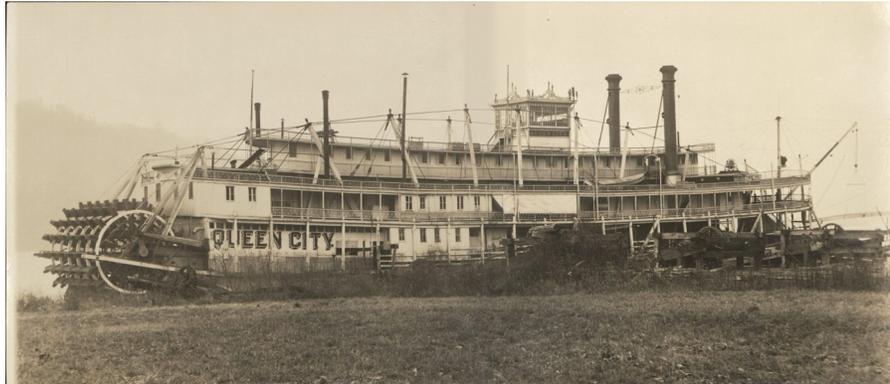


Photo: The Queen City, photo by James R. Mullens (undated).

Tulane University's Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) is pleased to announce the [online guide](#) to its Steamboat Image Collection. Measuring over 60 linear feet, the collection preserves thousands of images of riverboats of all kinds (sternwheelers, sidewheelers, tugs, packets, showboats, and more), from their construction to their wreckage, providing a fascinating view of the country's steamboat era in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of the larger collections of steamboat images in the world, it was purchased for Tulane by the Joseph Merrick and Eugenie Penick Jones Foundation in 1966 from the estate of Capt. Donald T. Wright, editor and publisher of the *Waterways Journal*. Stored in filing cabinets and accessible only through a paper finding aid since that time, the collection has been completely rehoused and upgraded by intern Kyle DeCoste, who also created the collection's first online index. The project was one part of LaRC's larger program to upgrade its extensive image holdings. The guide to the entire image project, including the steamboat section, is available [online](#).

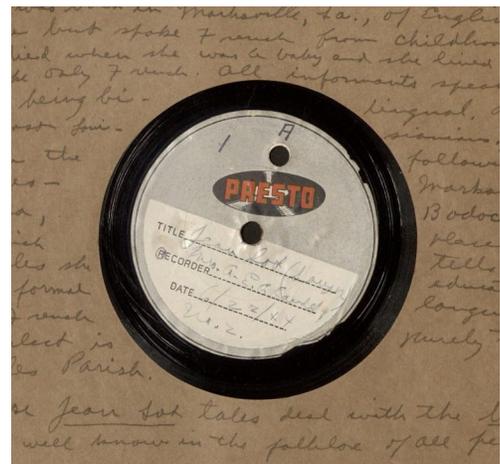
Louisiana French-language folktales online

Audio recordings of seventy-nine folktales recorded by Calvin Claudel in Avoyelles Parish in the 1940s comprise the Louisiana Research Collection's most recent [online collection](#).

All recordings are by persons who were natives of Avoyelles Parish and were bilingual in French and English. Claudel had a special interest in magic tales and numbskull tales (about the humorous misadventures of fools) and sought to demonstrate a connection between Louisiana and French folk traditions.

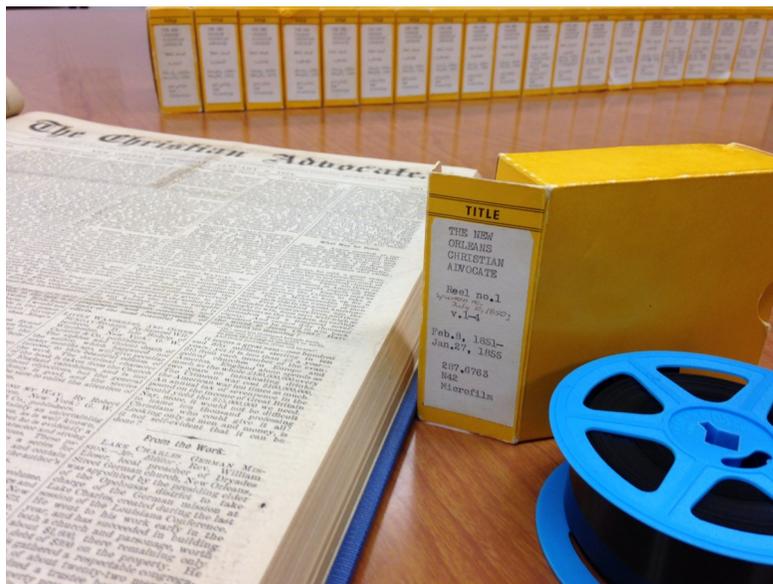
According to Thomas Klingler, Associate Professor of French, the recordings "are a treasure trove for linguistic studies that give us a rare window onto Louisiana French from over 70 years ago." Barry Jean Ancelet, folklorist and emeritus Granger & Debaillon Endowed Professor in Francophone Studies at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, said the collection is "an important one in the history of Louisiana French oral tradition studies."

A folklorist and professor of romance languages, Calvin Andre Claudel (1916-1988) was born in Avoyelles Parish. He completed his dissertation, "A Study of Louisiana French Folktales in Avoyelles Parish," at the University of North Carolina in 1948. He used Presto recording equipment to record the interviews. Presto was an instantaneous recording technique using aluminum plates coated with a cellulose nitrate based lacquer. LaRC sent the plates to an audio conservator in Philadelphia who created the archival digital files that are now available online.



Leon Miller
Head of Louisiana Research Collection

Centenary Archives digitizes Louisiana Methodist newspaper, 1850-1946



The New Orleans Christian Advocate microfilm

The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections has completed a project restoring online access to nearly 100 years of a Methodist weekly newspaper, *The New Orleans Christian Advocate*. The online issues span 1850 to 1946 and total more than 46,000 pages of content. Researchers can now access these online, page through each volume, download a complete PDF, or search the full text version.

The newspapers help people explore many aspects of history – certainly Methodism, but also community news, education, travel, advertising, social customs, racial and ethnic relations, marriage announcements, obituaries, and more. The history of the publication itself reveals numerous collaborations through the years. In the 1850s, members of the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South (MECS) began publishing the *New Orleans Christian Advocate* by partnering with other MECS conferences: Alabama (1850-1881), Arkansas (1850), Mississippi (1850-1946), Mobile (1866-1870), Montgomery (1866-1870), and North Mississippi (1883-1946).

The project to digitize the newspaper also involved years of collaborations. In the 1960s, Centenary acquired the newspaper on microfilm from originals preserved by the J.B. Cain Archives of Mississippi Methodism at Millsaps College. Then, in 2008, Timothy Hebert, the chair of the Commission on Archives and History of the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, led efforts to scan Centenary's

microfilm collection. Hebert created a website to host the online issues, but the site disappeared after Hebert died in 2012. During spring 2016, Centenary Archives student workers Olivia Brignac '19 and Harrison Folse '19 assisted by proofing the digital issues to correct scanning errors and helped catalog the online volumes.

"*The New Orleans Christian Advocate* was an essential source for my book," says Dr. Ellen Blue, author of *St. Mark's and the Social Gospel: Methodist Women and Civil Rights in New Orleans*. "The best way to research Methodist women's history is to read material women wrote, but almost all of it has been discarded. Because space was devoted in every issue to the women's society, I learned not only women's names and what kinds of work they did but also how they chose to present their activities to the larger church. This information is not available in any other source."

For more information about this project, contact the Centenary Archives at 318-869-5462 or archives@centenary.edu. To view the newspapers online, visit <http://www.centenary.edu/library/archives/methodist/digitalcollections>

Chris Brown, Archivist
Centenary College of Louisiana



LPB Receives AAPB NDSR Grant

Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) is one of seven public media stations selected as a host institution for the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR) Project. The other host institutions are CUNY TV in New York City, Minnesota Public Radio, the Pacifica Radio Archives in California, Howard University Television in Washington, D.C., Wisconsin Public Television, and WYSO Radio in Ohio. Through the AAPB NDSR project, seven recent MLIS graduates will receive training in digital audiovisual preservation and serve ten-month residencies at their host institutions to help in the ongoing effort to preserve public media content from around the country.

LPB selected Eddy Colloton to serve as their AAPB NDSR resident. Colloton is a recent graduate from the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program at New York University. He also holds a BA in Critical Studies of Cinema from the University of Southern California. From August 2016 through May 2017, Colloton will be responsible for documenting LPB's current digital workflows and creating a digital preservation plan for the long-term sustainability of LPB's digital assets. Colloton will work under the supervision of LPB archivist Leslie Bourgeois. He will also be mentored by George Coulbourne of the Library of Congress and Ann Boltin of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

The AAPB NDSR is the first NDSR program to place residents at geographically distributed locations throughout the United States. Previous programs have taken place in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Boston. The Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Art Libraries Society of North America will also be hosting an NDSR program focused on art information management. All of the NDSR projects have received funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. For more information on the history of the program, visit <https://ndsr-program.org>. And to keep up with the progress of the AAPB NDSR, visit <https://ndsr.americanarchive.org/>.

*Leslie Bourgeois, Archivist
Louisiana Public Broadcasting*

Benoit Receives Grant From Society of American Archivists Foundation

Dr. Edward Benoit, III was selected to receive funding from the SAA Foundation Grant Program. His project, "Genre-Based Analysis of User-Generated Descriptions of Moving Image Materials," is the first funded under the new grant program. Benoit recently presented his research on the impact of video length for social tagging at the annual meetings of Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) and Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). The new project will continue his analysis of social tagging, user-generated description, and participatory archives by focusing on the difference between tags generated for amateur and professionally produced digitized films. Five hundred study participants will view a short online video and create tags for the video. Participants will be equally and randomly divided between amateur and professional videos. The high number of participants will produce a large population of tags whose subsequent analysis will identify the strengths and limitations of moving image tagging through open-coding analysis and descriptive statistics.

The resulting analysis will highlight differences between professional and amateur videos. Subsequent comparison with previous tagging studies of photographs and textual documents will further differentiate the findings.

Conference Overviews

LAMA Continuing Education Scholarship Write-up

In April of this year I became the proud recipient of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association's Continuing Education Scholarship. The scholarship monies went towards the registration fees for the Digital Archives Specialist workshops held at East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library. The two workshops were *Digital Forensics for Archivists: Fundamentals* and *Digital Forensics for Archivists: Advanced*. The purpose for signing up for these courses was to help build a greater understanding of the tools needed to process and preserve electronic records. The prevalence of electronic records is only going to increase in the coming years. No type of electronic records presents more of a challenge than those housed on legacy media. It is important for archivists who manage processing and preservations programs to have comprehensive knowledge of how to preserve and provide access to all types of archival materials no matter the format.

The courses were full of extensive information for how to deal with processing electronic media. They are very practical, hands-on courses that allow participants to gain the skills needed to process the born-digital materials stored on legacy media within collections. Often these materials are potentially deteriorating and the equipment to manage this material requires a highly specialized set of skills and equipment. Though a lot of the hardware and strategies for forensically analyzing electronic data were developed for the world of law enforcement the companies manufacturing this equipment are starting take note of the potential customer base represented by the archives community and market their machines to repositories.

The fundamentals course is a single day course which presents the basic background information for building a digital forensics program within your institution. There is also a brief overview of some tools and software an institution can use to manage legacy electronic media. This subject can be more than a little intimidating with the level of technical expertise needed to fully grasp course content. The course starts off with a reminder that many of the underlying principles of provenance that inform our standard practice still apply to electronic records.

Following the first day fundamentals course the workshops continued with the two day advanced class. Though this workshop covers some of the same ground as the fundamentals class it covers everything in much greater detail and depth. A full two days to cover the material allows for greater opportunity to complete hands-on exercises and test the different software you will need to use in order to properly handle electronic records. Though three days seemed like a lot of time to spend on a single aspect of managing electronic records when the course is underway and you realize how much ground there is to cover you begin to wonder if three days will be enough!

Along with the course material the hands on experience with the software is the most valuable part of these workshops. The majority of time is spent discussing and demonstrating the BitCurator environment but the course instructors did put some effort into demonstrating individual tools which can be used to accomplish some tasks. All of the tools tested were open source which is good news for those with a small budget but open source tools require the expenditure of much great resources in the realm of technical staff to support the software and keep things running smoothly. The practice exercises and course materials will prove useful in the future as we begin to implement some of these procedures at our institution. Though I have been waiting for someone to just write a step-by-step manual for handling electronic records on legacy media after taking these workshops I feel like I at least have a better idea of where to begin.

Jennifer V. Mitchell, Head of Archival Processing
LSU Libraries Special Collections
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Upcoming Events

An Update from Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane

The group's African American Special Interest Group (SIG) is holding an all-day seminar at The Whitney Plantation, Wallace, Louisiana, July 19th. The morning activities will begin with a panel discussion – The Whitney Plantation: Preserving the Histories of Our Slave Ancestors. Participants include John Cummings, Owner/Founder; Dr. Ibrahima Seck, Director of Research; and Dr. Caryn Winters, Moderator.

Other speakers and their topics are: Judy Riffel, An Update on the Georgetown Memory Project; Leonard Smith, III, Creating a Family Documentary; Sally Reeves, Using Civil Records to Locate Slave Ancestors; Antoinette Harrell, Importance of Finding Slave Ancestors; and Dr. Claire H. Watson, What Killed Our Ancestors, Can We Avoid their Fate?

Optional activities include a tour of The Whitney Plantation and How-to-Workshops on various topics.

The seminar is free to current members, but space is limited and preregistration is required. The form, available **here** http://www.lecomite.org/docs/2016-african/aa_seminar-2016.pdf, must be returned by July 5th.

The society has announced that its 2016 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, September 25th, at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. The speaker will be Mark Martin, Photographic Processing Archivist at LSU Libraries Special Collections. He will give a presentation on identifying, dating, and preserving old photographs. Members of Le Comité will also give a short presentation on various portable scanning gadgets, such as Flip-Pal. The meeting is free to members.

Judy Riffel

LAMA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! LAMA's annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2016 at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Programs and registration forms will be distributed to members via e-mail in August.

Want to participate in the following session? Contact Chris Brown at cbrown@centenary.edu or 318.869.5462.

Lightning Talk -- Assistants in the Archives

Many repositories undertake projects utilizing student workers, interns, and volunteers. This session highlights such projects from several institutions. In 5 minutes or less, speakers will address the benefits and challenges of the recent contributions from assistants. Learn tips about project management as well as how to effectively achieve goals for your repository and your assistants.



Nicholls State University

Helen Thomas
LAMA Vice President

NOLA Information Literacy Collective's New Orleans Information Literacy Forum

Have you had an inspirational or innovative experience with information literacy? Do you have expertise in an area of library instruction? Share your knowledge with fellow librarians in the greater New Orleans area.

The NOLA Information Literacy Collective seeks proposals for the 5th annual NOLA Information Literacy Forum. Topic suggestions include, but are definitely not limited to:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| *Assessment | *Implementing the Framework |
| *Collaboration/ Partnerships | *Online Learning |
| *Communities of Practice | *Pedagogy |
| *Critical Theory | *Teaching with Archives/ Primary Sources |
| *Embedded Librarianship | *Teaching with Technology |

Proposals for Lightning Talks (10 minutes), Round Table Discussions* (45 minutes) or Presentations (30 minute presentation with 15 minutes for questions) are welcome. Proposals should include the title of the presentation, the name(s)/ title(s)/ institution(s) of the presenter(s), the preferred type of presentation, and a paragraph-length description of the presentation. Proposals are due **Monday, June 27, 2016**. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by Monday, July 11, 2016. Submit proposals to: <http://goo.gl/forms/VAPwAQFRxm31mQop1>

The forum will take place on **Friday, August 19, 2016** at the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University. We plan to have multiple concurrent sessions. Registration will be FREE! Further details forthcoming.

*Round Table Discussions will be held in rooms that are conducive to small group work. These sessions require a topic, a few discussion questions, and possibly a handout.

Questions? Please contact a member of the Executive Board:

Bea Calvert, Loyola University: bcalvert@loyno.edu

Germaine Carey-Palmer, Dillard University: gpalmer@dillard.edu

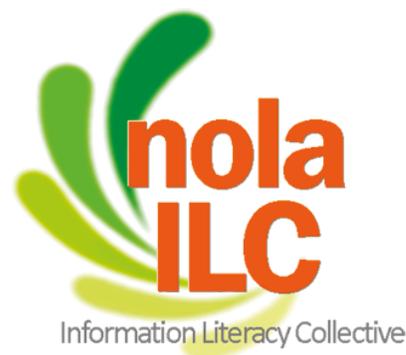
Jennifer Corbin, Tulane University: jcorbin@tulane.edu

Sonnet Ireland, St. Tammany Parish Public Library: sonnetireland@yahoo.com

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Louisiana

Archives & Manuscripts Association

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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.

If you have not paid your LAMA dues for 2015, 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.

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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: _____

Total: _____

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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