

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

SENATOR ROBERT ADLEY TALKS PUBLIC RECORDS AT LAMA 2009



Robert Adley (R-Benton) discussed his ongoing efforts to promote greater transparency in state government recordkeeping.

The 2009 annual meeting was held in Alexandria, bringing several folks to the city who previously had only a passing acquaintance with it. This year's meeting featured guest speaker Senator Robert Adley of District 36 in northwest Louisiana. Senator Adley spoke about public records, an area of growing concern for many LAMA members. Although a Republican, Senator Adley has sharply questioned Governor Jindal's public records policies. The Senator handed out information about RS 44:5 (ACT 765 and ACT 495) pertaining specifically to governors' records. Senator Adley appreciated LAMA's interest in and support of greater transparency in public records laws.

The theme of public records legislation awareness continued with Bradley Wiles' presentation on his appearance at Louisiana House of Representatives committee hearings, along with fellow LAMA members Tara Laver and Ann Boltin. The trio represented LAMA's interests regarding

SB 278, legislation that allowed for the exclusion of documents from the public record produced by the "deliberative process" of legislators.

Other presenters included Heather Kramer of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston and Felicia Thomas from the Archival Training Collaborative. Ms. Kramer's presentation, entitled "From Hobby to Methodology: Understanding Genealogy as a Research Method to Provide Reference Service in Archives" prompted a lively discussion. Many LAMA members confront genealogy questions regularly, and Ms. Kramer provided useful tips for assisting family historians.

Ms. Thomas presented information about Dr. Elizabeth H. Dow's IMLS-funded initiative, the Archival Training Collaborative (ATC). Dr. Dow wrote the grant to create two sets of workshops. One set would be a series of workshops for historic records workers and practitioners throughout

(CONTINUES ON PAGES 6 & 7)

2010 ANNUAL MEETING: CALL FOR PAPERS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning for the 2010 LAMA Annual Meeting is in the initial stages and the LAMA leadership would like your help. The meeting will be held at LSU's Hill Memorial Library in Baton Rouge in early November. Brad Wiles will be coordinating the planning efforts and is seeking 2-3 individuals to form an ad hoc committee to provide input and assist with the details.

An official call for papers will be distributed this summer, but all ideas for panel discussions, guest speakers, or other activities are welcome. Volunteers, potential presenters, or those with suggestions for the event should contact Brad Wiles at bwiles1@lsu.edu or 225-578-7714 or Michelle Riggs at mriggs@lsua.edu.

-Brad Wiles

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Pictures and Minutes from the Annual Meeting (pages 6, 7, 9)*
- *ATC News (pages 4 & 8)*
- *LAMA Institution News (pages 2, 3, 5)*

DOMINICAN SISTERS TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY, SEEK VOLUNTEERS

The Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary in New Orleans, formed from humble beginnings in 1860, will mark on April 12, 2010 the first anniversary of joining with six other religious congregations of Dominican women. This birth of the Dominican Sisters of Peace was the happy conclusion to a beginning carefully prepared through study and prayer for more than ten years.

Since the new congregation's Foundation Day last year, most of the Sisters who called New Orleans home have remained in place, continuing to live, work, and pray together as they have through the years, but with a renewed spirit and an expanded outlook on their mission and ministry. A few have been called to serve in new locations, bringing the same enthusiasm with them.

Former St. Mary's Sister Therese Leckert, an experienced and gifted leader, was elected to the new leadership team by the voting members, representing the 600+ Sisters of the former congregations, including the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic, known to New Orleans, and congregations formerly based in Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.

Therese joins the leadership team of five sisters working out of Columbus, Ohio. Aside from making the rounds in visits, the leaders create monthly webcasts, accessible over the internet, to address Sisters and Associ-



(Photo courtesy of the Dominican Sisters of Peace archives)

ates (lay women and men, partners in mission: 500+ and growing) who live and minister all over the world. (The Dominican Sisters of Peace have Sisters and Associates in 36 states and in Honduras, Ireland, Nigeria, Peru, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, and New Zealand.)

Other sisters from New Orleans who have relocated include Sister Robin Richard, who is teaching English as a Second Language at the Dominican Learning Center in

Columbus. Six Sisters, the revered "elders" of the New Orleans group, who had evacuated after Hurricane Gustav in 2008, were transferred by air to a warm welcome at the Columbus motherhouse. They later chose to stay, adjusting gracefully to their new home.

Many religious groups of women and men are moving toward amalgamation or merger of one form or another, responding to the signs of the times as each has from

the beginning of their respective foundations. In the case of the New Orleans Dominicans, it became clear with time that the members could pool their strengths for the sake of the ongoing mission, thus expanding their service to the people of God as they continued to heed the call to Mission, which for Dominicans is about proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel, the Good News.

An important question, among many, was how to deal with the seven archival collections, and how to proceed in this new direction. Happily, nothing has been lost in the consolidation.

The documents and artifacts that reflect the 150-year history of the former Congregation of St. Mary, now Dominican Sisters of Peace – New Orleans, remain at their location in New Orleans. A central archives office at the new congregation's Columbus location will collect what pertains to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, their government, ongoing functions, and other history even now being made.

The local archivist still in New Orleans, now a lone arranger, is seeking volunteer help from friends, and high-school students looking for "service hours." She is fond of quoting a medieval nun: "All is well. All will be well. And all manner of things will be well." – Julian of Norwich, 14th century.

– Sister Dorothy Dawes, O.P.

EXHIBIT AND DISCUSSION TO COMMEMORATE LAKE CHARLES FIRE OF 1910

On Saturday afternoon, April 23, 1910, a fire destroyed seven city blocks in Lake Charles, Louisiana, causing over \$750,000 in property damage. The fire started behind a row of buildings on Ryan Street including the unoccupied Opera House, Gunn's Bookstore, and a soft drink stand.

The fire spread down Ryan Street to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Historic City Hall, and the Parish Courthouse, eventually destroying a swath of downtown two blocks wide and half a mile long to the south-east. The fire raged for four hours and consumed 109 commercial buildings, residences, government offices, and churches.

In April 2010, Lake Charles will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great Fire with an exhibit, a lecture program, and a walking tour of the fire's path. The exhibit at the 1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center will feature photographs documenting the fire, from the initial stunned reactions amid the devastation



(Photo courtesy of Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University)

to the triumphant re-birth of our city's finest structures. In addition to the photographs, the exhibit will include artifacts from the time of the fire unearthed during the recent re-landscaping of the 1911 City Hall. Local historians and civic leaders will discuss the fire and its impact on the city.

For more information about the commemoration, see the 1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center website. For list of resources, please see the Fire of 1910 Bibliography available at: <http://library.mcneese.edu/depts/archive/1910fire.htm>.

-Pati Threatt

STATE ARCHIVES EXHIBITS FEATURE WEST FLORIDA AND CIVIL WAR STATESMAN



(Photo courtesy of www.sonofthesouth.net)

♦ March through April 10, 2010:

The 200th Anniversary of the West Florida Republic - The exhibit highlights East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, and West Feliciana Parishes. The exhibit shows past and present contributions these parishes have brought to Louisiana.

♦ April 1 through April 31, 2010:

Judah P. Benjamin - Called the "brains of the Confederacy", Benjamin was a statesman and jurist in the US, the Confederate States, and Great Britain. Benjamin held more official positions than any other man during the Civil War. Born in the British West Indies to Jewish parents, Benjamin was admitted to the Louisiana bar, elected US Senator representing Louisiana, and became the first Attorney General of the Confederate States of America. Benjamin later practiced law in Liverpool England.

-Florent Hardy

ATC COMPLETES 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' WORKSHOPS



The Archival Training Collaborative hosted the final "Train the Trainer" workshop in Alexandria on March 5-7, 2010. (Photos courtesy of Michelle Riggs)

With the intention of capitalizing on the wealth of archival information on the Web, the Archival Training Collaborative (ATC) launched 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 using the many well-developed training sites on the Web.

To assure an abundance of trainers to continue the program after grant funding has run out, the ATC has completed one 'Train the Trainer' workshop in each of the three states. Elizabeth H. Dow, archives educator at LSU, lead the workshops in Montgomery, AL, Jackson, MS, and Alexandria, LA.

In the workshops Dow cov-

ered the basics of the psychology of adult learners, followed by the basics of developing learning and performance objectives, lesson planning, and managing a classroom. Each participant received three books on training and a notebook of information.

In the workshops, Dow had each student create a lesson plan applicable to archival staff and volunteers and founded on free Internet-based information. The lesson plans provide the basis for the two workshops each of the trainers has agreed to present before July 1, 2011.

Louisiana participants included Gerald Patout, Library Director, LSU Eunice, Yvonne Loiselle. Archivist for Mignon Faget in New Orleans, Christina Bryant, New

Orleans Notarial Archives, Pati Threatt, McNeese State in Lake Charles, Mary Linn Wernet, Northwestern University in Natchitoches, Brad Wiles of Hill Memorial Library at LSU Baton Rouge, and Michelle Riggs, at LSU Alexandria. Chris Brown, from Centenary College in Shreveport, attended the workshop in Jackson, MS.

In April 2009, Dow conducted a one-day 'alpha' session of the workshop. There she worked with Lisa Lewis of the Diocesan Archives of Baton Rouge, Becky Smith of the Historic New Orleans Collection, Laura McLemore of LSU Shreveport, Bruce Turner of UL Lafayette, and Michelle Riggs of LSU Alexandria.

-Elizabeth Dow

SHORT LIST...

- ◆ The 2nd Annual Conference on Louisiana Studies will be held September 24-25, 2010 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The Conference is co-sponsored by the Folklife Society of Louisiana, the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the NSU College of Liberal Arts. The Conference Committee is now accepting presentation proposals for the upcoming conference. The theme is "Louisiana on Film." Additional information is available on the website for the Louisiana Folklife Center at www.nsula.edu/folklife.
- ◆ Laura McLemore, Michelle Riggs, and Mary Linn Wernet are presenting a session at the Louisiana Historical Association meeting: "Secret Lives: Sources on Women in Louisiana Archives." The meeting is in Lafayette, March 25-27 at the Holiday Inn, 3032 NE Evangeline Thruway. Their session is Friday, 26 March 9:00-10:15.
- ◆ Since LAMA officially endorsed the PAHR legislation much progress has been made in getting it passed through congress. The House of Representatives now has over 50 sponsors for the bill (though more are needed) and in the U.S. Senate Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Carl Levin (D-Michigan) have signed on as co-sponsors. With some prodding it might be possible to get some of Louisiana's delegation on board, so please visit the SAA PAHR website (www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp) to see how you can help.

HNOC INTRODUCES NEW ONLINE CATALOGUE AND USER INTERFACE

The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) introduced a new version of its Online Catalogue in January. The new catalogue offers three ways to search the institution's holdings: keyword, "Advanced Search" and "Collection Themes." The "Collection Themes" is a hierarchy of 188 topics on which THNOC actively collects materials and was developed by the staff.

Search results are divided into three categories: "Bibliographic Records," "Manuscript/Collection Records" and "Artworks/Artifacts." Result may be sorted in a variety of ways.

The catalogue allows the bookmarking of items to create a temporary list of items across multiple searches. At present bookmarked items are not saved once the catalogue is closed in your browser.

There are over 17,000 images in the catalogue at present. Images may be sent into an image gallery that allows



(Screenshot courtesy of Carol Bartels at the Historic New Orleans Collection)

the comparison of multiple item images. The image gallery also has a zoom to full size function.

The new online catalogue is generated from the MINT

Collection management system by MINISIS Inc. MINT is an integrated library, archive, and museum collections management system that THNOC helped to develop.

Visit <http://hnoc.minisisinc.com/thnoc/index.htm> to view the new online catalogue and to learn more about the institution and its holdings.

-Carol Bartels

LOC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION GRANTS AID LA INSTITUTIONS



The Library of Congress and the Foundation Center have published "Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums." This guide lists 1,725 grants of \$5,000 or more awarded by 474 foundations from 2003 through 2007.

The publication includes hotlinks to free online grant writing tutorials, a statistical analysis of grant funding, state-by-state descriptions of projects funded in preservation, indexes of recipients, and a list of all foundations that have donated to preservation. Grant funds were distributed through established foundations to various institutions of culture, information, and education throughout Louisiana.

Descriptions of projects in Louisiana are included in the guide and can be found on pages 21-22 of Section I at: <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/foundtn-grants.pdf>. For more information on the preservation grant program go to: <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/>.

LAMA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...)



(from page 1) the tri-state areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The other set of workshops would provide training for professional archivists interested in conducting workshops. Additional information about the ATC can be found on the Website:

www.archivaltraining.org. Ms. Thomas is currently enrolled in LSU's School of Library and Information Science and serves as Dr. Dow's graduate assistant. Dr. Dow had a conflict and could not attend the meeting; Ms. Thomas stepped in for Dr. Dow and did a fine job.

During the business meeting two items of note emerged. Members voted to create a second \$300 scholarship for continuing education. Bruce Turner, LAMA Treasurer, suggested naming the second scholarship for former Louisiana archivist Marie E. Windell. All LAMA members are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. Please see the Website for additional information.

Additionally, LAMA member Laura

McLemore introduced the idea of a Louisiana poster celebrating Archives Month for submission to the Society of American Archivists event. This idea met with enthusiasm. Those present thought LAMA should assemble and submit a poster. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Michelle Riggs at mriggs@lsua.edu or call 318.619.2960.

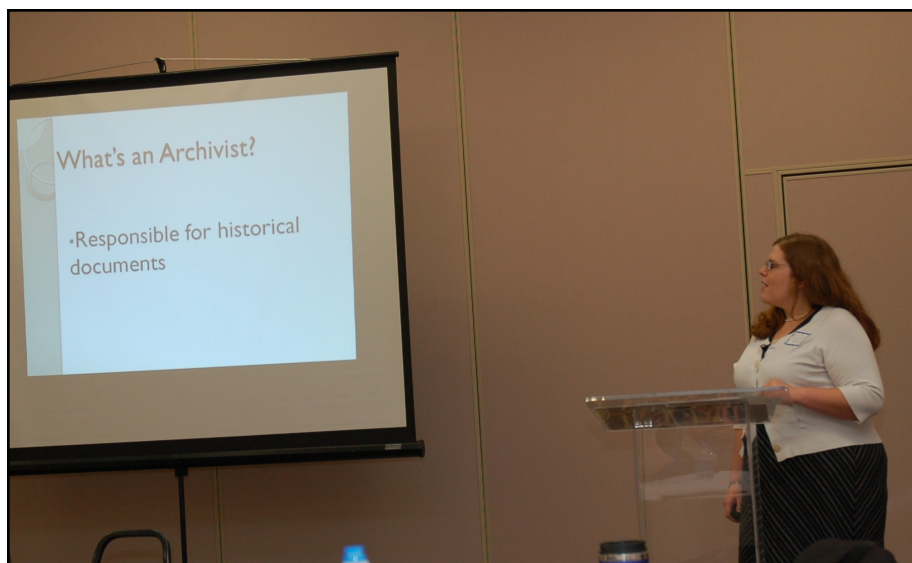
The meeting concluded early enough to allow some folks to tour the Kent House Plantation. This plantation was built in the Creole style of architecture, and it remains the only antebellum plantation house in the city limits and one of the few in the area that escaped burning by the Yankees in 1864.

-Michelle Riggs





Images from the
LAMA 2009
Annual Meeting
All photographs
courtesy of
Neil Guilbeau.



LAMA COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE WORK OF THE ATC

LAMA President Michelle Riggs has created an ad hoc committee to pick up and continue the work of the Archival Training Collaborative (ATC) after its grant funding runs out. The committee, currently referred to as the LAMA-ATC Committee, consists of the following five LAMA members: Michelle Riggs of LSU Alexandria, Laura McLemore of LSU Shreveport, Keith Finley of Southeastern University in Hammond, Charlene Bonnett of the State Library, and Pati Threatt of McNeese University in Lake Charles.

In its first meeting, the committee developed the following charge and structure :

Charge: The Archival Training Committee of LAMA will be responsible for arranging 2 workshops every year in each of 5 regions of the state: Southeast (Hammond, New Orleans, Baton Rouge); Southwest: (Sulphur, Lake Charles, Lafayette); Central: (Alexandria, Natchitoches, Winnfield); Northwest: (ArkLaTex); Northeast: (Monroe, Tallulah, Winnfield).

The examples identify the intent of the concept, not the specifics of the regional designations.

“Arranging” for workshops will include: 1) finding someone to present a topic, 2) arranging the venue; 3) offering such support of publicity and local arrangements as the presenter requests, 4) evalu-

ating the results, 5) varying the topics of workshops from across the state and the years. The committee will be responsible for assessing the training needs around the state.

Membership: The commit-

tee will consist of five members, representing all regions of the state. Each member will serve for three years and may serve two consecutive terms. Members’ terms will be staggered so that no more than two members leave the Committee at any one time.

Initially the committee serves as an extension of the ATC’s Steering Committee. While under the aegis of the IMLS grant which funds the ATC project, the committee will have three members working plus the Louisiana members of the ATC Steering Committee. When the grant disappears (July 1, 2011), the LAMA-ATC committee will expand its numbers to five.

Governance: The committee will elect its own officers and create its own policies, subject to approval by LAMA’s Executive Board. The committee members will recruit replacements and suggest them to the Nomination

training sites on the Web.

Elizabeth H. Dow, archives educator at LSU, wrote the grant and serves as its Principle Investigator. Along with Dow the ATC Steering Committee consists of Michelle Riggs, Archivist at Louisiana State University at Alexandria and President of LAMA and Laura McLemore, Head of Archives and Special Collections at LSU-Shreveport, who represent Louisiana.

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 the University of Southern Mississippi, represent Mississippi.

Tracey Berezansky, Assistant Director for Government Records in the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Martin Olliff, Director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture and Assistant Professor of History at Troy State University Dothan, and Reagan Grimley, Assistant Prof. in the Department of History at Auburn University, represent Alabama.

For more information, contact Elizabeth H. Dow at LSU: edow1@lsu.edu.

-Elizabeth Dow

ATC Archival Training Collaborative



Committee.

Budget: The Committee will inherit one third of the money generated by the activity of the ATC project. That money will remain in the LAMA treasury, noted as a distinct account to support the work of the LAMA-ATC committee. The committee will make all decisions about its use.

The ATC, funded by a \$280,000 grant from the IMLS, launched 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 using the many well-developed

2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by president Michelle Riggs.

I. Motion by Lee Leumas to approve minutes from 2008 meeting; seconded by Cliff Theriot; motion carried.

II. Old business

A. Scholarship nominating committee; Report by Michelle Riggs; no applications for scholarships, no scholarships awarded.

B. No secretary report.

C. Treasurer report by Bruce Turner; motion by Cliff Theriot to accept report; seconded by Robert Schaadt; motion carried.

D. Newsletter report by Brad Wiles.

III. New Business:

A. Michelle Riggs discussed LAMA online directory; Neil Guilbeau to send URL to members in order to check for errors and submit ideas to enhance website.

B. Motion by Michelle Riggs to nominate Brad Wiles for vice president of LAMA; seconded by Howard Margot; motion carried.

C. Neil Guilbeau to continue term for another year

D. Elizabeth Dow to continue on board for another year

E. Howard Margot rotating off board; Michelle Riggs made motion to nominate Cyndi Robertson for board; seconded by Lisa Lewis; motion carried.

F. Posters for Louisiana Archives Month; Laura McLemore proposed contest for people to submit photo from their collection for a poster; discussion on whether to create a new committee and whether only one poster or several to create a collage; suggestion to partner with Louisiana State Archives in promoting this competition; executive committee to brainstorm and decide on how to proceed; discussion to link poster competition to scholarship in some way to increase visibility for both.

G. SHRAB survey; IMLS is offering \$40,000 non-competitive grant to every state; discussion on how to proceed with preservation survey of clerk of court records throughout state; dis-

cussion on how the Archival Training Collaborative might help by training existing staff in clerk of court offices to perform surveys of their own materials; motion by Lee Leumas to sponsor IMLS grant and volunteer people to perform site survey; seconded by Michelle Riggs; motion carried.

H. ATC ad hoc committee report by Michelle Riggs; proposal to create committee to promote the Archival Training Collaborative and solicit volunteers to help with training.

I. PAHR (Preserving American Historical Records Act); discussion of current legislation in U.S. Congress; LAMA members requested to solicit support from their respective Louisiana representatives to sponsor and/or support this bill; motion by Bruce Turner for LAMA to officially endorse PAHR; seconded by Lisa Lewis; motion carried.

J. Credit Cards; Bruce Turner suggested that accepting credit cards for payment to LAMA is not currently feasible (perhaps if ATC gains

momentum & LAMA receives many new members).

K. LAMA Scholarship revisited; motion by Howard Margot to discuss LAMA's ability to support two scholarships; seconded by Michelle Riggs; discussion on whether LAMA should offer one scholarship in the spring and one in the fall, and what deadlines to put in place; motion by Robert Schaadt to create two scholarships; seconded by Michelle Riggs; motion carried; motion by Bruce Turner to name scholarships after Marie Windell and Kathie Bordelon; seconded by Mary Linn Wernet; motion carried.

L. New Announcements; Bruce Turner discussed member dues; thanks to Michelle Riggs for organizing the LAMA conference/meeting

Motion by Cliff Theriot to adjourn; seconded by Laura McLemore; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Neil Guilbeau, LAMA Secretary, October 23, 2009.



400 YEARS OF SANTA FE AT SSA ANNUAL MEETING

Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in North America, the oldest European city west of the Mississippi, and the site of the oldest continuous government building in the United States—the Palace of the Governors. Its culture reflects many ethnic influences including Native American, Mexican, and European. SSA's annual meeting will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico from April 28 through May 2, 2010. The Local Arrangements Committee is planning on providing ample opportunity for participants to share in the cultural and historical life of the city. For registration and program information visit: <http://southwestarchivists.org>.



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.

LAMA membership for 2010 is well below numbers of previous years. This year we have 37 members compared to 68 in 2009. Numbers are down in every membership category: 23 individuals (34 in 2009); 3 organizational members (5); 5 members through organizations (15); 5 students (7); 1 senior (4); and no sustaining (1). Since fewer dues have been received, the treasury is down also. The 2009 annual meeting in Alexandria made a small profit which, of course, benefits the treasury. Archival

Training Collaborative funds have been placed in the LAMA treasury while the ATC grant is active.

Each of the workshops held in Louisiana during the fall made small profits after expenses and trainer fees were paid. Funds held by the ATC operation in Mississippi have been placed in the ATC treasury. E-mail dues notices were recently sent to LAMA members who paid dues in 2009 but had not renewed their membership in 2010. A number of people have responded to that request. Hopefully more will do so in the near future. If you have not paid your LAMA dues for 2010, please consider doing so. Also encourage those in your area who work with historical records to join the organization if they are not members. Membership forms are available on the LAMA website.

-Bruce Turner, LAMA Treasurer

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VISIT LAMA ONLINE AT

WWW.LOUISIANAARCHIVISTS.ORG



LAMA offers the following membership categories:

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

Subtotal: _____

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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LOUISIANA ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

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