STA Annual Meeting Guide

The Society of Tennessee Archivists’ Annual Meeting will be in Memphis, Tennessee, October 15-17, 2014.

Accidentally on Purpose: Acquisition, Care, and Promotion of Unusual or Specialized Collections

Fogelman Executive Conference Center and Hotel
University of Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee

2014 Tennessee Archives Month Poster, designed by Sam Cockrell

Tennessee Archivist
The Newsletter of the Society of Tennessee Archivists
Pre-Conference Workshop—Shelby County Archives

8:30 am—Noon  “Paper Records in a Digital Age: Some Things Never Change”
Presenter: Vincent Clark, Shelby County Archives

In keeping with this year’s theme, Vincent L. Clark will discuss digitization of records and how some record series, either in short runs or as one-of-a-kind, make the move to digital even more difficult. Using the Shelby County Register / Archives website as a starting point, Vincent will discuss all of the various pitfalls and caveats of placing unique, unusual or specialized collections online—and when it is not practical to do so.

Vincent Clark has worked on the Mississippi Civil Rights Oral History Bibliography project and the Adams County Courthouse Papers project in Natchez, Mississippi. He served as the Curator/Historian of the Tipton County Museum from 1998 to 2000. In 2000, he joined the Shelby County Archives staff and became the Shelby County Archivist in 2007. Vincent teaches U.S., Military, and Tennessee History at the University of Memphis, where he earned the History Department’s Adjunct Faculty of the year award for 2005-2006 and again in 2011-2012. He has served as the Editor for the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers since 2010.

1:00-1:30 p.m.  Conference Registration—Fogelman Executive Conference Center & Hotel

1:30-1:45  Welcome

2:00-3:00 p.m.  Concurrent Session 1

Session 1a:  “A Little Trip Down the Mighty ‘Mississip’: Remembering the Battle of New Orleans
Room 315
Panelists: Myers E. Brown, Archivist, Archives Development Program, TSLA; Tom Kanon, Archivist, TSLA; Dr. Edward Skeen, Emeritus Faculty, Department of History, University of Memphis. (tentative)

January 8, 2015 is the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans, the final significant battle of the War of 1812 and introduces General Andrew Jackson as a significant military and political leader in the history of the United States. This panel will discuss the events leading to the Battle of New Orleans, the battle itself, and the aftermath of the Battle of New Orleans.
Myers E. Brown II is an Archivist III in the Archival Development Program, at TSLA. He is a Governor and Fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a former president of the Tennessee Association of Museums. He is a graduate of Oglethorpe University and Middle Tennessee State University. He is author of Tennessee’s Union Cavalrymen; Tennessee Confederates, and Volume Five Editor, Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee in the Civil War. Myers is also a member of the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

Considered the foremost expert on Tennessee’s role in the War of 1812, Tom Kanon is an archivist for the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Dr. Kanon is a graduate of the Public History program at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the author of Brief History of Tennessee in the War of 1812 and Regimental Histories of Tennessee Units during the War of 1812.

Dr. Edward Skeen is a retired professor emeritus from the History Departments at the University of Memphis.

Session 1b: Opening Doors: Documenting and Serving the Hearing and Visually Impaired Room 323

Presenters – Taffey Hall, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives; and Ruth Hemphill, Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Moderator – Jim Havron, Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU

Documenting the Ministries of Blind and Deaf Baptists: Resources at the SBHLA. The lives and ministries of blind and deaf Baptists are under-documented, under-researched, areas of social and religious history. Dr. Taffey Hall, archivist at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, describes unique collections and resources from the SBHLA that aid in telling the important stories of blind and deaf persons in Baptist life. Dr. Hall also addresses processing and preservation challenges of Braille and sign language materials and offers suggestions for scholarly research opportunities on blind and deaf Baptists in America and abroad.

Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped. Persons with disabilities visit and use archives and libraries. Ruth Hemphill, director of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, shares information about the work and services of the TLBPH. Hemphill discusses how you can provide reading materials to your students with print disabilities.

Taffey Hall is the archivist at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville.

Ruth Hemphill has been Regional Librarian for the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped for 15 years. She will share how you can go about registering eligible Tennesseans with print disabilities to borrow audio, braille and large print books from the library’s collections, either by downloading or through the U.S. Postal Service…and, the service is entirely free!

3:00—3:30 Break (Refreshments provided) Third Floor Hall
3:30-4:30  Concurrent Session 2

Session 2a: Alive and Well: Historical Collections at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Room 323
Presenter—Jennifer Welch, University of Tennessee Health Science Center Library and Biocommunications Center

Health Sciences Historical Collections at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center are a wealth of resources on the history of medicine and health science in Memphis, Tennessee, and the Mid-South region, as well as the history of UTHSC and the original institutions from which it was founded. The collections include rare published materials, photographs, manuscript collections and artifacts. Specific subject areas represented in the collections include Memphis pharmacies, the 1878 Memphis yellow fever epidemic, medical practice in Tennessee, nursing theory and education, and sickle cell disease research.

This presentation will highlight collection materials and discuss the unique situation of UTHSC’s historical collections. The presentation will also include an overview of the challenges inherent in managing historical collections in a scientific learning environment and tested strategies the UTHSC library is undertaking to overcome these challenges.

Jennifer Welch is the archivist for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Library and Biocommunications Center. She previously served as the digital archivist for the Waring Historical Library at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She received her MLIS from Florida State University, and is the co-recipient of the 2014 Best Online Resource Award from Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS).

Session 2b: American Vernacular Music Manuscripts  Room 315
Presenter: Lucinda Cockrell, Assistant Director and Archivist at the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University

Handwritten music manuscripts by common people contain first hand evidence of their musical preferences during a particular time and in a particular place. To see, play from, or study one of these old manuscripts brings us as close to that person’s musical life as we are allowed. The Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University in collaboration with the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to digitize, catalog, and provide web-based public access to their American vernacular music manuscripts. A far-reaching aspect of the project is that it will establish vernacular music manuscript cataloging guidelines so that hundreds of other archives, libraries, and historical societies with similar manuscripts may catalog and make available their holdings.

Lucinda Cockrell is the Assistant Director and Archivist at the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University. She holds an M.A. in Museum Education from The College of William and Mary in Virginia and a B.S. in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. She is also a certified member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Prior to coming to the Center in 2001, she worked as Director, Curator, and Consultant in various museums in Tennessee, Virginia, Massachusetts, Illinois, Alabama, and Kentucky. Ms. Cockrell has 35 years’ experience in acquiring, preserving, curating, interpreting, archiving, and making accessible historic materials.

5:00 p.m.  Dinner on your own

Memphis has a plethora of local eateries from college dives to upscale fine dining. If that isn’t your thing, just about every major American chain has at least one restaurant here. So, fire up Urban Spoon, go out, and enjoy some Memphis food and sights. Check out “Memphis Travel Guide” in the app store.
7:30-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast (included with your registration)     Third Floor Hall

9-10 a.m.  Concurrent Session 3

Session 3a: Money for Something: An Overview of the Grants Available from Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board     Room 323
Presenter: Myers Brown, Archivist, Archives Development Program, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Grants to local county archives and other historic record holders have long been a part of the Archives Development Program of TSLA. This session will: (1) explain recent changes for both ADP and SNAP grants (2) provide examples of quality reporting (3) explore the temporary expansion of ADP grants to a wider applicant pool (4) look forward to the anticipated changes in NHRPC regrant funds and (5) provide a basic overview of the application process and the application requirements and (6) provide examples of eligible projects. This session should prove useful to either the seasoned archivist of those new to the field. As this session addresses significant changes to both of the grants administered by the Archives Development Program at TSLA, even organizations who have received grants in the past should consider attending.

Session 3b: Archiving the Ephemeral: The Toomers Oaks and the Nature of the ‘Spontaneous Shrine’ at Auburn University     Room 315
Presenter: Tommy Brown, Archivist, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

In 2011, officials from the Horticulture Department at Auburn University confirmed that the two live oak trees commonly referred to as the “Toomer’s Oaks” had been poisoned and likely would not survive. For decades, thousands of Auburn students and fans had gathered at Toomer’s Corner to celebrate football victories and participate in the customary rolling of the trees. Although the exact origin of the tradition remains unclear, one theory suggests that it began in the 1960s when fans rolled the utility lines at the four-way intersection just outside of Toomer’s Drug Store. The ritual expanded to include celebrations of major victories in other sports. Following the university’s announcement that the trees would eventually die, a steady flow of people began showing up to commemorate the oaks, leaving mementos such as rolls of hand-decorated toilet tissue, letters, cards, beads, and art work.

University officials soon contacted Auburn University Libraries Special Collections and Archives, asking for help in preserving and storing the growing number of items accumulating around the trees. This presentation documents the efforts of archival staff to preserve these artifacts and make them available to the public. It also looks at the widespread interest the collection generated from both the press and the public at large, and the department’s efforts to accommodate requests for access to the materials. Finally, it explores other “spontaneous shrines” of a much more serious nature and the ways in which archivists have addressed the preservation, processing, and access to artifacts related to these events.

Tommy Brown is Assistant Archivist at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia, and his Masters in History from Georgia Southern University. He is in the final stages of completing a dissertation under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Noe that focuses on south-central and southeastern Alabama during the era of the American Civil War. Brown will graduate with the PhD in History in December, 2014.
10:30-11:30  Concurrent Session 4

Session 4a: Adding a Dash of Sauce to Arkansas: Creating a Foodways Journal at the University of Arkansas  Room 323
Presenter, Tim Nutt, Head of Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Building on the success of the collection of Arkansas cookbooks, the Special Collections at the University of Arkansas started a journal to document and highlight the state’s historic and contemporary food culture. This presentation will focus on the process involved in establishing the journal Arkansauce, its reception, and continuing success.
Tim Nutt is the Head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville. He served as the founding Managing Editor and Staff Historian of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture from 2003-2005, and Special Projects Editor from 2005-2010. He has been employed at the University of Arkansas since 2005, holding the positions of Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian and Assistant Head of Special Collections. He received a B.A. in history from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master’s in library science from the University of Oklahoma. He has been a Certified Archivist since 2005, and currently serves at the President of the Arkansas Historical Association.

Presenter: Matthew H. Gore, Senior Editor, Grand Comics Database; Coordinator of Resource Development, Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Providing a unique window into American popular culture since the 1930s, comic books reflect and exaggerate the fears, hopes, and interests of American youth. Through stories, editorial matter, and even advertising, comic books offer a look at aspects of youth culture often undocumented in other media. We will look at preserving comic books for research and at the research process in four colors.
Matthew H. Gore is an historian, popular culturist, and educator residing in Memphis, Tennessee. He is best known for his book The History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Kentucky to 1988 (2000). He served for nine years on the board of directors of the Grand Comics Database (GCD), a volunteer organization devoted to indexing all world comic books, and is currently a GCD senior editor. For over twenty years he has been employed by the Board of Christian Education of the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination

11:30-1:00  Lunch on Your Own (Look for a guide to nearby restaurants in your registration packet.)
Session 5a: Out of the Vault: Engage Your Community With User-centered Displays  Room 315
Panelists: Jennifer Schnabel, Gerald Chaudron, Edwin Frank

Many of us pull photographs, documents, and ephemera from our institution's archival collections to build physical and digital displays around a specific theme, such as Black History Month or a historical event. Often, we select the items which most interest us and provide convenient narratives. However, for whom should we curate displays? Three faculty members from the University of Memphis Libraries will discuss methods for choosing themes, mining collections, providing contextual information, and planning programs to encourage a user-friendly experience. The presentation will also explore preservation issues, publicity strategies, and ways to assess impact on the community.

Jennifer Schnabel is the assistant to the Dean for Community Engagement, University of Memphis Libraries
Dr. Gerald Chaudron is the Preservation Librarian, University of Memphis Libraries
Edwin Frank is the curator of Preservation and Special Collections, University of Memphis Libraries

Session 5b: Noble Savages, Indian Princesses, Drunken Indians and Vanishing Americans: Resources for Countering Stereotypes and Prejudices  Room 323
Presenter: Erin Fehr, Archivist, Sequoyah National Research Center, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The Hirschfelder-Molin Native American Stereotypes Collection was donated to the Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) in 2012. The collection, which dates from the early 20th century to the present, contains over 1500 artifacts and archival documents that include advertisements, mascot memorabilia, children's toys, and figurines. Using images from the collection, the presenter will discuss the categories of stereotype represented within the collection that depict Native Americans in the roles of Noble Savage, Indian Princess, Drunken Indian, and Vanishing American that lead to the dehumanization and marginalization of Native Americans. The presenter will also discuss the history of the collection as well as the purpose and importance of such a collection.

Erin Fehr is the Archivist at the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she has been since 2011. Prior to this position, she was an Archival Technician at the Arkansas History Commission. She received her BA in Music from Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, and her MM in Musicology and MLIS from the University of Oklahoma. Erin is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Southwest Archivists and an active participant in the Association for Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums.

2:30-3:00 p.m.  Break (Refreshments provided)  Third Floor Hall

3:00 p.m.  Tour of Special Collections, University of Memphis, Gerald Chaudron  Location TBA

6:00 p.m.  Society Banquet and Business Meeting  Fogelman Dining Room
7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (included with your registration)  Third Floor Hall

9:00-10:30 a.m.  Concurrent Session 6

Session 6a: Are You Scared of the Dark? A 40 Year Journey from Darkness to Dawn  Room 315
Presenter: Kathy Cuff, Archivist, Department of Museum Program and Studies, Tusculum College, Greeneville, TN
In the 1970s, Tennessee’s oldest college began a concerted effort to organize their archival collections that date to the late 1700s. With the assistance of alumni, dedicated professors, community volunteers, and grants, the Tusculum College Archive went from scattered forgotten documents to an organized system available to researchers. This session will discuss how Tusculum College got started with their archive, what was done right and what was done wrong.
Kathy Cuff began work at the Tusculum College Archives in 2008. During this period, she has worked to preserve and organize the archive’s 18 year backlog. She also trains future museum and archival professionals at Tusculum College. She has earned a Masters in Archival Studies from ETSU and a Certified Archivist designation. She is active with campus activities, area archives and museums.

Session 6b: Let the Music Play: Unusual Sound Recordings in the Archives  Room 323
Presenter: Martin Fisher, Curator of Recorded Media Collections at the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University.
Obsolete or unusual sound recordings turn up in many archival collections, such as cylinders, piano rolls, recordings made on paper, wire, on the back of cereal boxes, picture-discs, and other uncommon sound recordings. How do you safely play them and on what device? How do you care, preserve, or make them accessible? Martin Fisher will demonstrate and speak on the history, care, and access of various audio formats. He will also bring a cylinder recording machine to demonstrate the way early home and commercial cylinder recordings were made.
Martin Fisher is Curator of Recorded Media Collections at the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University. He has a B.S. in Broadcast Communications with a minor in Music from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Martin joined the Center staff in September 2005 with 18 years’ experience in the field of television production. For over 30 years, he has also accumulated and maintained a private collection of sound recordings. His responsibilities at the Center include preserving, maintaining and augmenting the Center's sound recordings collection, assisting researchers in locating and obtaining copies of recordings, and conducting acoustical “wax” cylinder recording demonstrations as part of the Center's outreach program.

10:30-11:30: STA Authorfest & Chat 2014!
Before you go, take some time to chat with some talented authors and at least one self described hack writer. The authors will have their works available for you to purchase and will be happy to sign for you. Help the STA promote the use of archival collections in academic writing (or any writing, for that matter).
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Please print this form and mail by September 30 to:
Carol Roberts, STA Treasurer
MTSU Box 242
130 East Main St.
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Make checks payable to: Society of Tennessee Archivists

1. Personal Information

Name and Title:

Organization:

Address, City, State, Zip Code:

Phone Number, Fax Number: Email Address:

Other Information (Special Needs):

2. Registration Information

Please Enter Amount on the Line to the Left:

$_________ Annual Conference Registration, $100.00 (includes pre-conference, breakfasts, breaks, and banquet)

$_________ Conference Banquet, $25.00 (additional guest price)

$_________ Total

Please Check All That Apply:

___ Pre-Conference, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014 (part of overall registration fee)

___ Optional Tour of University of Memphis Special Collections, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014, 3:00 pm
The 2014 Annual Conference of the Society of Tennessee Archivists will be held at the Fogelman Executive Conference Center and Hotel. The group rate for the STA Annual Meeting is $79 a night, and this does not include the current tax rate of 9.25% sales tax and the 6.7% occupancy tax. A block of thirty rooms has been reserved for STA. Please make sure to reference the “Society of Tennessee Archivists” to get the group rate. The block of rooms reserved for STA only contain one queen-sized bed. Reservations may be made by calling : (901) 678-5410. Reservations must be made by Sept. 15 to ensure receiving the group rate.

There is also a Holiday Inn adjacent to the Fogelman Center, but the group rate does not apply to it.

Check-in time is after 3:00 p.m. CST, and check-out is before noon. Baggage storage can be arranged for those arriving earlier or leaving later. Airport transportation is provided for overnight guests from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Advance notice of 4 hours is required.

Amenities to the hotel include:

- Work desk
- Club Chair with Ottoman
- Wireless Internet Access
- Data Port for Land Line Internet Access
- Telephones with Voicemail
- Remote Control TV with Cable
- Coffee Maker
- Iron and Ironing Board
- Hair Dryer

For more information about the Fogelman Center, go to: www.memphis.edu/fecc
Driving Directions

- **From Memphis International Airport**
  - Follow Signs to I-240 East
  - Exit 20B (Getwell Rd. North) will dead-end at Park Ave.
  - Right on Park Ave.
  - Left on Goodlett (1st traffic light)
  - Left on Central Ave. (2nd traffic light)
  - Left on Innovation Drive (3rd traffic light) for the Fogelman Executive Conference Center
  - Right Deloach (3rd traffic light) for the Holiday Inn

- **I-40 From Nashville**
  - **DO NOT EXIT** at I-40/240 North or I-240 South
  - Continue straight on I-40 until it turns into Sam Cooper Blvd.
  - Exit Highland St. & Turn Left
  - Left on Central Ave
  - Left on Innovation Drive (3rd traffic light) for the Fogelman Executive Conference Center
  - Right Deloach (3rd traffic light) for the Holiday Inn

- **I-55 North From Mississippi**
  - Take I-240 East
  - Exit 20B (Getwell Rd. North) will dead-end at Park Ave.
  - Right on Park Ave.
  - Left on Goodlett (1st traffic light)
  - Left on Central Ave. (2nd traffic light)
  - Left on Innovation Drive (3rd traffic light) for the Fogelman Executive Conference Center
  - Right Deloach (3rd traffic light) for the Holiday Inn

- **I-55/I-40 West From Arkansas**
  - Follow I-40 East over the Hernando Desoto Bridge to I-240 South
  - Follow to I-240 East (Nashville)
  - Exit 20B (Getwell Rd. North) will dead-end at Park Ave.
  - Right on Park Ave.
  - Left on Goodlett (1st traffic light)
  - Left on Central Ave. (2nd traffic light)
  - Left on Innovation Drive (3rd traffic light) for the Fogelman Executive Conference Center
  - Right Deloach (3rd traffic light) for the Holiday Inn