

# The Alabama Archivist

Vol. 30, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Society of Alabama Archivists

Fall 2010

## Editor's Notes:

### Marvin Youmans Whiting, 1934-2010

By now, most SALA members have learned with sadness that our friend and colleague Marvin Whiting, renowned Birmingham historian and retired director of the Birmingham Public Library's Archives and Manuscripts Department, passed away November 26. This newsletter's Spring 2011 issue will feature a longer memorial article on Marvin. Alabama's archival community is much the poorer for his loss.

### "Becoming Alabama"

Over the next five years, Alabamians will observe what Dr. Ed Bridges calls "a remarkable series of commemorations": the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Creek War, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. Historical and cultural agencies across our state are coordinating plans to celebrate through an initiative called *Becoming Alabama*.

*The Alabama Archivist* will continue reporting on these plans as they develop. Meanwhile, more information on *Becoming Alabama* can be found on the *Alabama Heritage* website at: <http://www.alabamaheritage.com/BecomingAlabama/index.htm>.

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## President's Message:

Greetings from SALA! 2010 was a busy year for Alabama Archives and archivists, and our work helped set the foundation for the next few years of organizational activities.

In September, over 100 people attended the two-day Southern Archivists Conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, making it one of the best-attended SAC meetings in recent memory. Its success can be attributed to the hard work of Jason Kirby, Jennifer Beck, Cynthia Luckie, and Meredith McLemore. Special thanks go to Stephanie Rookis, President of the Alabama Museums Association, for arranging the Thursday evening reception at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. We look forward to future AMA/SALA collaboration, possibly even a joint meeting.

Another development in 2010 that will have an ongoing impact is the Archival Training Collaborative. Throughout 2011, ATC trainers will offer affordable training opportunities for staff and volunteers in Alabama historical repositories. In April, SALA will begin administering ATC activities in Alabama. We hope to continue this multi-state collaborative's success and ensure that it remains on a productive footing for the future.

Welcome to the new slate of SALA officers! At the Fall 2010 business meeting, John Allison of the Morgan County Archives was elected Vice President, while Meredith McLemore and Cynthia Luckie were reelected Secretary and Treasurer. Congratulations also to Jason Kirby and Gwen Patton on being elected to the open Executive Committee positions. Thanks to all who donate their time and energies to SALA.

This fall, the annual SALA meeting will be held in Mobile at the University of South Alabama. Please watch for more announcements regarding our meeting agenda in the next SALA newsletter. Meanwhile, best wishes for a great 2011!—Greg Schmidt, Auburn University Archives

## Alabama Cultural Commons

### Five Successful Focus Groups Held in November

### ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN 2011!

Alabama Cultural Commons is a group of five organizations now developing a statewide plan to preserve and care for our state's diverse cultural collections. They are the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Museums Association, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA). The project is being funded by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS).

Beginning in 2009, ACC conducted a Connecting to Collections Survey of Alabama repositories and used it to create a comprehensive repositories database. This past November, ACC held five focus group sessions in Evergreen, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Moundville, where staff members from various repositories were invited to express their views. A follow-up meeting will take place in Birmingham on January 24, 2011. Here, ideas from the focus groups will be incorporated into Alabama's statewide plan. Details will be available on the ACC's website (<http://alabamaculturalcommons.org/>) in early January.

Meanwhile, for more information on Alabama Cultural Commons, contact Clyde Eller at the Alabama Historical Commission (334-230-2668; [clyde.eller@preserveala.org](mailto:clyde.eller@preserveala.org)) or Tracey Berezansky at ADAH (334-353-4604; [Tracey.Berezansky@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:Tracey.Berezansky@archives.alabama.gov)).

## News from Around the State . . .

### Alabama Department of Archives and History

#### *New Museum Exhibits Coming at ADAH*

Work is under way at ADAH for the installation of two new museum exhibits that will open in June 2011. This work constitutes Phase I of the department's Museum of Alabama, which eventually will include five renovated galleries and an entirely new centerpiece exhibit, "Alabama Voices."

Implementation of Phase I began on December 1 with the dismantling of two long-time exhibits, "Tattered Banners" and "Stilled Voices, Forgotten Ways." Space preparation (which includes new plaster and paint, electrical improvements, and security upgrades) will be complete by late Winter, in time for exhibit fabricators to install new exhibit systems in the Spring.

"The Land of Alabama" will be installed in the gallery formerly occupied by Confederate flags. The new exhibit will include a multimedia introduction to the state's varied physiography and the natural resources that have helped shape Alabama's history. The flag collection will continue to be displayed in the museum, eventually becoming part of a consolidated Civil War exhibit.

"The First Alabamians" will tell the story of Native Americans, from prehistory through 1700, through the use of artifacts, interactive maps, ten newly commissioned murals, and a large diorama model of a Mississippian village. By covering a shorter period of time than

the previous Indian exhibit, the new design will accommodate a larger number of pieces from the department's collections, plus artifacts on loan from other museums.



*A mount fabricator measures a vessel to be on display in "The First Alabamians"*

Funding for Phase I is provided by a 2007 state bond issue and private contributions. Fundraising for subsequent phases of the project is ongoing. To see photos of the museum in progress, go to the department's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArchives>. —Steve Murray, ADAH

#### *ADAH Resumes Limited Saturday Service*

ADAH is pleased to announce the reopening of our museum and research room on one Saturday per month. Henceforth, the department will be open for researchers and museum visitors on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30 until 4:30. Services resumed on November 13. Starting on January 8, 2011, special children's activities and tours will be added to the second-Saturday schedule.

The elimination of Saturday hours and other programs in 2009 resulted from severe budget cuts that led to the loss of 20 of the department's 55 full-time positions. Although the impact of budget reductions is ongoing, restoring Saturday services has remained a priority at ADAH. Resumption of second-Saturday hours was made possible by one-time federal stimulus funding. Re-allocation of staff resources to cover the elimination of some positions was also required.

The Archives' normal hours remain 8:30-4:30 on the following schedule: Monday: museum and staff offices open; research room closed. Tuesday-Friday: museum, research room, and staff offices open. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday of each month only: museum and research room open. Sundays and State holidays: ADAH closed.  
—*Debbie Pendleton, ADAH.*

 *Second-cycle HRAB Regrant Projects Funded*

Meeting on November 9, 2010, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), Alabama's Historical Records Advisory Board (HRAB) awarded \$53,221.93 in grant funds to 29 local government agencies or historical repositories for records preservation projects. Funding for the awards was again provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) under its State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grant Program.

For this cycle, the HRAB received 46 grant applications from localities across Alabama, compared to only 30 last year. Despite the stiffer competition, 63% of the applicants received full or partial funding.

Here is a list of the successful applicants, with the amount of funds awarded and a brief description of their projects:

- Aliceville Museum.** \$2,500 to continue its project to inventory, rehouse, and catalog historical documents and artifacts pertaining to a World War II German prisoner-of-war camp located near Aliceville.
- Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library.** \$1,000 to inventory, rehouse, and catalog unprocessed archival collections from its Alabama Room. After processing, the records will be converted to MARC format and uploaded to the library's online catalog.
- Birmingham Museum of Art.** \$890 to assist in re-binding accession registers and cataloging the museum's backlog of archival materials.
- Clarke County Historical Society.** \$1,000 to digitize and provide archival storage for 1,000 historical photographs taken by staff of local newspapers. The photographs are held by the society's historical museum in Grove Hill.
- Daphne Public Library.** \$1,000 to collect, store, scan, and preserve materials pertaining to Daphne's "local history and folkways." Collections acquired or processed under the project will be made available through Alabama Mosaic.
- DeKalb County Genealogical Society.** \$2,650 to rescue 8,000 historical circuit court files from improper storage, arrange and rehouse them in archival containers, and place them in environmentally controlled storage at the court's new records center.
- Fairhope (Marietta Johnson) Museum.** \$3,000 to finish processing the archival collections of Marietta Johnson, an internationally known educator from Baldwin County. The museum will inventory, rehouse, catalog, and create finding aids for these materials.
- Gadsden Public Library.** \$1,000 to digitize oral history interviews of Gadsden and Etowah County citizens conducted in the 1970s. After reformatting, the interviews will be placed in a new Voice Library accessible on the library's website.
- Guntersville Public Library.** \$3,000 to digitize all previously microfilmed newspapers published in Guntersville between 1872 and 1957. The digital version will be searchable by keyword. The project will include newspaper issues held by the ADAH.
- Town of Hobson City.** \$3,000 to transfer endangered records to climate-controlled storage at the new city hall and to hire a consultant to assist with rehousing, cataloging, and scanning the historical records of Alabama's oldest African-American municipality.
- City of Irondale.** \$500 to assist in improving the city's records disposition program. As part of its project, Irondale will identify and destroy outdated temporary records.
- City of Leeds.** \$2,300 to continue a project to inventory and rehouse records at its newly renovated records center. Volunteers will also create a database of record information that will be integrated into the public library's online catalog.
- Town of Loachapoka.** \$843.45 to inventory, reorganize, and improve storage for its records. The town will hire two Auburn University graduate students to conduct the inventory, purchase new records storage boxes and shelving, and scan its current records.
- Madison County Probate Office.** \$700 to purchase a recording hygrothermograph to monitor environmental conditions at the Madison County Records Center, located in the Huntsville Public Library.
- Marengo County History and Archives Museum.** \$2,936.45 to inventory and catalog manuscripts, photographs, maps, and artifacts dating from 1832. Grant funds will purchase document cases, photographic supplies, shelving, and cataloging software.

**Mildred Harrison Regional Library.** \$3,000 to “conduct a records inventory of the 13 public libraries in Shelby County.” The MHRL will institute records management programs at its libraries and catalog their local historical collections.

**City of Montgomery.** \$1,000 to assist in compiling a comprehensive inventory of historical records scattered in various area repositories. The city will employ student help and purchase archival containers and shelving for a new, central records storage area.

**City of Moody.** \$875 for rehousing and scanning historical city records. The city will employ a scanning vendor and continue a records disposition project begun several years ago.

**Morgan County Archives.** \$1,000 to assist in purchasing a portable digital camera to photograph early Morgan County Commission minutes and historical newspapers. The project will provide digital access to records not currently available.

**Ragland Historical Society.** \$700 to assist in preparing two new storage areas at the society’s depot historical museum. The RHS intends to purchase air-conditioners, environmental monitors, and archival containers for its records and artifacts.

**City of Red Bay.** \$2,848 to purchase archival storage cabinets for 130 municipal maps and drawings that date back to 1907. The city will also obtain a hygrothermograph to monitor environmental conditions in its storage area.

**Shelby County Historical Society.** \$1,000 toward employing a vendor to digitize 101 oral history interviews with Shelby County residents conducted between 1974 and 1982. Society volunteers will also transcribe the digital versions into MS Word.

**South Central Alabama Development Commission.** \$3,000 to purchase microfilm of historical Lowndes County records and a microfilm reader-printer. These items will be placed at the Hayneville Public Library.

**Sylacauga Public Library.** \$3,000 to hire additional staff for collecting, cataloging, and preserving historical documents and photographs from several local industries that have recently shut down. The grant will also fund archival processing supplies.

**City of Talladega.** \$2,979 to scan, index, and preserve the city’s four earliest surviving minute books.

The grant will fund scanning equipment and software. City staff will also make transcriptions of the indexed minute books available online.

**Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society.** \$1,000 toward purchasing digital cameras and archival supplies for continuing its project to preserve, index, catalog, and place online historical circuit court volumes from the county courthouse.

**Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center.** \$3,000 to rehouse and improve storage for documents, photographs, audiovisual materials, and artifacts pertaining to “the history of Macon County and the East Alabama Black Belt,” ca. 1900-1970.

**University of West Alabama (Tutwiler Library).** \$2,000 to preserve, scan, and place online historical records from ten Sumter County churches. This is the first stage in a long-term project to collect church records from west Alabama’s Black Belt.

**City of Valley.** \$1,500 to inventory, catalog, and organize records, photographs, and artifacts at Valley’s new “Museum of the Cannery.” The museum’s collections document the local textile industry and Valley’s development from four mill villages.

For more information on the Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board’s grant program, contact Tracey Berezansky or Tom Turley at (334)242-4452 or [records@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:records@archives.alabama.gov). Grant-related information is also available on the HRAB’s web page: <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/hrb/hrbmainpage.pdf>.—Tom Turley, ADAH

 *Archival Training Collaborative Workshop Held at ADAH*

On July 16, Mike Breedlove and Drew Davis offered an all-day processing workshop to 38 participants at ADAH. This workshop was part of the multi-state, IMLS-funded Archival Training Collaborative.” The Collaborative offers “affordable archival training opportunities” to staff or volunteers of archives and historical repositories in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as well as to interested members of the public.

Those who attended the ADAH workshop came from all over the state, ranging from Florence to Mobile. Broader subjects covered in this hands-on training were: arrangement, preservation, access, and description. More specific topics discussed included: provenance and original order, accessioning, surveying and identifying collections, creating a processing plan, different schemes

of arrangement, basic preservation methods of materials, restricting records containing Social Security numbers, description, cataloging, and finding aids. Hands-on exercises were included, as were sample forms for various activities.

One attendee commented: “Thanks so much for a very helpful and informative workshop. The hands-on exercises were great—made the explanations more real for me.” ADAH has tentative plans to offer this workshop again in the Spring of 2011, probably in central or north Alabama.—*Mike Breedlove, ADAH*

### *PeDALS Electronic Records Project Update*

Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) staff continue to work on the Persistent Digital Archives and Library Systems (PeDALS) project. PeDALS is a research project that has two technical goals: first, to develop a curatorial rationale to support an automated, integrated workflow to process collections of digital publications and records; second, to implement “digital stacks,” using an inexpensive storage network that can preserve the authenticity and integrity of the collections. In addition to those technical goals, PeDALS seeks to build a community of shared practice so that the system meets the needs of a wide range of repositories that could then support the ongoing development of the system and promote best practices. To further that end, PeDALS hopes to remove barriers to adopting the technology by keeping costs as low as possible. For more details on this project, please visit: <http://pedalspreservation.org/>.

ADAH staff recently met with representatives from the Governor’s Office, the Court of Civil Appeals, and the Department of Agriculture and Industries regarding ingestion of some of their records. Ingestion is the process whereby electronic records are accessioned and accepted into the Archives for long-term storage and access. As a result of these meetings, Governor Riley’s digital photographs, the Court of Civil Appeals’ electronic case files, and Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Ron Sparks’ e-mail will be ingested into the PeDALS system early in 2011. In addition, the Governor’s Executive Orders in electronic form will be ingested in January. Once these records have been ingested and checked to ensure Social Security numbers are not present, and after the ADAH has created catalog records for the electronic records and linked them to the catalog, these new electronic records will be available for online viewing on the ADAH website.

PeDALS’ seven state partners (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, and Wisconsin) received the unfortunate news that the PeDALS project did not receive a NHPRC grant for which it applied. The grant would have provided funding for two years following the expiration of our current Library of Congress grant at the end of March. The states are working on alternative ways of continuing the project with limited funding.

For more information on PeDALS, please contact Christine Garrett at: [Christine.Garrett@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:Christine.Garrett@archives.alabama.gov) —*Christine Garrett, ADAH*

### **Birmingham Public Library, Department of Archives and Manuscripts**

The department is involved in two web projects, one to transcribe and digitize Civil War letters from several of the Archives’ collections and another to digitize a collection of 600 African-American funeral programs. The letters and programs will be available via the Birmingham Public Library website ([www.bplonline.org](http://www.bplonline.org)) in 2011.

Recent acquisitions and newly processed collections include:

**Robert E. Chambliss Correspondence** (1 linear foot). Letters written to and from the first person convicted for the 1963 bombing of Birmingham’s 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church while he was in prison. The letters, transferred from the Birmingham FBI field office, do not contain new and shocking information on the bombings (or a confession) but do add to our understanding of Chambliss and chronicle his attempts to have his conviction overturned or to obtain clemency from Governor Wallace.

**Cahaba River Society Records** (18 linear feet) contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, publications, and other material documenting the activities of one of Alabama’s oldest environmental groups. Currently being processed, the collection will be available for research early in 2011.

**Club Semper Fidelis Records** (9 linear feet) contain correspondence, minutes of meetings, clippings, photographs, yearbooks, and other material documenting the history and activities of one of Alabama’s oldest African-American women’s clubs.

**Nina Miglionico Papers** (7 linear feet) contain correspondence, photographs, clippings, and other material relating to one of Alabama’s earliest

female attorneys and the first woman elected to the Birmingham City Council (in 1963). The collection also contains material on the KKK attempt to bomb Miglionico's home.

**Gage Bush Englund Birmingham Civic Ballet and Birmingham Ballet Company Scrapbooks, 1952-1968** (15 scrapbooks) contain newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and other material documenting ballet in Birmingham.

**Claud Albert Bailey Scrapbooks and Writings** (½ linear foot) document professional boxing in Birmingham during the 1930s.

Also, the department recently acquired records from three Birmingham-area churches: St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church, Wylam Presbyterian Church, and Pilgrim Congregational Church.—*Jim Baggett, BPL Department of Archives and Manuscripts*

### Marietta Johnson Museum of Fairhope

The Marietta Johnson Museum's \$3,000 HRAB award (see page 3) will be used to fund the continuing restoration, preservation, and digitization of the museum's archival collection, which documents the legacy of world-renowned progressive educator Marietta Johnson and the Organic School she founded in Fairhope in 1907.

In order to meet the award's requirements, the museum must now raise matching funds. A fundraising effort will be kicked off, just after the holiday season, with a raffle. Raffle tickets will be available for a \$5.00 donation, making donors eligible to win exciting prizes donated by local businesses in Fairhope. Raffle tickets will be available from museum board members, Organic School alumni, and at the Marietta Johnson Museum (located at 10 South School Street in the historic Bell Building on Fairhope's Faulkner Community College campus).

The museum's archival project began in March of 2009, in partnership with the Fairhope Public Library. Since that time, much progress has been made. In September of this year, the first digital installment was placed on Alabama Mosaic ([www.alabamamosaic.org](http://www.alabamamosaic.org)) and the Encyclopedia of Alabama ([www.encyclopediaofalabama.org](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org)). Earlier this summer, the museum produced a 7½-minute video that highlights the history and current activities of both the school and the museum. This video can be viewed either at the museum or on its website at: [www.mariettajohnson.org](http://www.mariettajohnson.org).

Funded by the Marietta Johnson Museum and in cooperation with the Fairhope Museum of History, the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education and museum have a greater presence in the city's museum by virtue of a wide-screen, wall-mounted TV/DVD permanent display that continuously plays the educational video for the city museum's broad audience of visitors. The museum's director, Maggie Mosteller-Timbes, is also available to present the video to community organizations. She can be reached at (251)990-8601 or [mariettajohnson@mindspring.com](mailto:mariettajohnson@mindspring.com).—*Cynthia "Maggie" Mosteller-Timbes, Marietta Johnson Museum of Fairhope*

### Mobile County Probate Court Archives

A dedication ceremony was held for the new probate courtroom located in the Mobile County Government Center Annex on October 15, 2010. The new courtroom was packed to capacity. Merceria Ludgood, president of the Mobile County Commission, welcomed attendees to the event, along with Don Davis, Mobile County Judge of Probate, who served as the master of ceremonies.

Special guests attending the dedication were descendants of past judges, who gave brief biographical sketches of their ancestors, and retired Probate Judge Lionel W. "Red" Noonan. Portraits of many of the former judges are hung in the handsome new courtroom.

Among the special guests were nine descendants of Judge John F. Everitt, who served from 1837 to 1842. Judy Ramos, great-great-great-granddaughter of Judge Everitt, spoke for the descendants who came from Texas, Missouri, and Florida to attend the ceremony. Other guest speakers were Mrs. Sallie Meek Hunter, descendant of Judge Alexander B. Meek (1854-1855); Ms. Joan Price-Williams, descendant of both Judge Price Williams, Jr. (1874-1914) and Judge Price Williams (1914-1935); Mrs. Betty Boykin Walker, daughter of Judge Matthew A. Boykin (1935-1940); Mr. Donnie H. Smith, Jr., descendant of Judge Norvelle R. Leigh, Jr. (1940-1950); Ms. Virginia Lott, descendant of Judge William C. Taylor (1950); Mr. Frye Gaillard, son of former Judge Walter Gaillard (1950-1954); Dr. David Inge, representing descendants of Judge T. L. Griffin (1954-1955); Mr. Ralph Holberg, Jr., who read a personal letter submitted by Mrs. William Senter, Jr., granddaughter of Judge Vernol R. Jansen (1956-1963); and Ms. Anne Moore Patton, daughter of Judge John L. Moore III (1963-1982). Retired Probate Judge Lionel W. "Red" Noonan also spoke.

Members of the Mobile Bar Association spoke for judges who did not have descendants present for the

ceremony. Additionally, Mr. Oliver Semmes spoke for Admiral Raphael Semmes. Admiral Semmes was elected to serve as judge of probate in 1867, but federal authorities did not permit him to serve. Several senior members of the Mobile Bar Association, including Edwin J. Curran, Jr.; Robert P. Denniston; Robert S. Edington; and J. Manson Murray offered personal remembrances regarding their past probate court experiences.

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mobile, was the keynote speaker. The two main points of Archbishop's remarks were: (1) our Constitutional rights emanate from God, not man; and (2) the need for judges to have the wisdom of Solomon when making decisions. By coincidence, Alabama probate courts are commonly referred to as the "Solomonic" courts of the Alabama judicial system, due to the nature of cases heard in Alabama probate courts and the inability to have a written statute applicable to every situation an Alabama probate judge will encounter. In recognition of this fact, the focal point of the new courtroom is a wooden sculpture entitled "The Judgment of Solomon," which was crafted by the late Craig Turner Sheldon in 1958. This sculpture was located in the former probate courtroom in the 1958 Mobile County Courthouse, which was demolished several years ago. It now hangs proudly in the new courtroom, behind the dias.

Judge Davis offered closing remarks on behalf of the court staff and thanked everyone present for attending the event.—*Coll'ette King, Mobile County Probate Court Archives*

### **University of West Alabama, Center for the Study of the Black Belt**

The Center for the Study of the Black Belt hired a full-time archivist in January 2010. This was the first major step in establishing a permanent Black Belt Archives. Since that time, archivist Taylor McGaughy has processed loose records from the Sumter County Circuit Clerk's Office in a cooperative project with the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Tom Turley, coordinator of the loose records program at ADAH, worked closely with the Center to direct the preparation of these records for digitization.

More recently, the Center's archivist has completed the Derby Family Papers Collection. This collection contains in-depth information about Alabama's cattle and timber industries in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A perusal of this collection allows for a

thorough examination of state and national politics, and of the political influence of the Black Belt region. Additionally, this collection is valuable to any student of Southern social and family history, as the personal correspondence details courtship, the norms of life in rural Alabama, and the college experiences of the family's children. Frank Derby, the family patriarch, was a founding member of the cattle sales firm Cobb and Derby. He subsequently became an extremely successful independent breeder and trader of Shorthorn cattle. Known in his day as "the Cattle King of Alabama," Derby introduced the Shorthorn breed to the state in 1910. Greater in stature than the Angus breed and safer to ship than the Longhorn breed, the Shorthorn breed's popularity among Alabama farmers soared. Derby was responsible for the 1919 Rooster Bridge Auction and secured the donation of roosters from President Woodrow Wilson, Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Great Britain, Premier Georges Clemenceau of France, and Premier Vittorio Emanuele Orlando of Italy. Money raised from this auction funded the erection of a bridge over the Tombigbee River in Demopolis, which was a crucial step in the development of Alabama's transportation system.

This collection contains the correspondence of Derby, his associates, and his family members, as well as business records ranging from 1900 to 1959. There are also hundreds of photographs documenting business and family life in rural Alabama from 1889 to 1975. The collection contains 30 document boxes and nine oversized boxes. A finding aid will be posted on the Center for the Study of the Black Belt's website. To research the Derby Collection, feel free to contact Valerie Burnes, director of the Center, at [vburnes@uwa.edu](mailto:vburnes@uwa.edu) or (205)652-3829. If you have specific questions about the collection itself, please contact archivist Taylor McGaughy, at [tmcgaughy@uwa.edu](mailto:tmcgaughy@uwa.edu).—*Valerie Burnes, University of West Alabama*

**SOCIETY OF ALABAMA ARCHIVISTS**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 23, 2010**

The annual fall meeting of the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA) was held in conjunction with the Southern Archivists Conference (SAC) at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on September 23 and 24, 2010. The SALA business meeting, which took place on the first day, was called to order by President Jason Kneip at 1:35 p.m.

**I. 2009 Business Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the 2009 fall meeting were approved as distributed.

**II. Treasurer's Report:**

Cynthia Luckie presented the 2009-2010 SALA financial report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - 23 SEPTEMBER 2010**

<b>Checking account balance as of 9/30/2010</b>		\$5,858.19
<b>Income (excluding SAC registration)</b>		
Membership dues	\$705.00	
2009 meeting registration (post-meeting)	\$500.00	
<i>Total income</i>		\$1,205.00
<b>Expenditures</b>		
2009 meeting expenses	\$(1,271.09)	
Website hosting fee	\$(95.40)	
Newsletter (Spring 2010)	\$(359.53)	
Postage	\$(61.60)	
PayPal service charges	\$(5.15)	
<i>Total expenditures</i>		\$(1,792.77)
<i>Subtotal</i>		\$5,270.42
<b>SAC meeting</b>		
SAC registrations	\$3,695.00	
PayPal service charges	\$(54.67)	

<b>Checking account balance as of 9/22/2010</b>		<b>\$8,910.75</b>
<b>Wachovia CD (renewal maturity date - 6/12/2010)</b>		\$1,758.23
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>\$10,668.98</b>
Submitted by Cynthia A. Luckie, Treasurer		

### III. New Business:

**Archival Training Collaborative Committee:** Greg Schmidt proposed the formation of a committee to sustain the Archival Training Collaborative (ATC), which is currently funded by an IMLS grant and administered by the ATC Steering Committee (with members from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi). The SALA ATC Committee would work with the ATC Steering Committee until the end of the grant in July 2011, at which time it would assume responsibility for the program in this state. Greg proposed that the SALA members who had been trainers form a temporary committee to select the first members of the permanent ATC Committee

Greg passed out copies of the formal charge, which explained the committee's responsibilities, membership, governance, and budget. (See attached document.) Marty Olliff recommended some friendly amendments, which were approved:

- The committee should be empowered to enter into agreements with other entities (to provide training in and out of state) between meetings of SALA
- The SALA Executive Board must approve any fiscal agreements with other entities
- The committee must report everything at the annual SALA business meeting

Members then discussed the function and success of the ATC workshops. Greg clarified that any money earned would go into a subaccount in the SALA treasury, so that SALA would not earn or spend ATC money. Tracey Berezansky explained the distribution of money collected from workshop registration fees. After covering the cost of food and supplies for each workshop, the remaining income is divided between the presenter (as a stipend) and the ATC account (to fund further work). She added that if presenters do not accept the stipends, that money goes back into the account as well.

Several people commented on the importance of the program, stressing that SALA's supervision would be the only way to ensure its continuation. One member pointed out that by assuming responsibility for the ATC in Alabama, SALA would be fulfilling the educational outreach goals its members have discussed for over twenty-five years.

A vote was taken and the proposed ATC Committee was approved.

**SALA Meetings:** Jason Kneip mentioned that the 2011 SALA meeting will be held in Mobile at the University of South Alabama. Members briefly discussed the possibility of holding a day-and-a-half meeting next year (because of the success of this year's two-day SAC meeting) but decided against it.

Concluding a discussion begun during the SAC business meeting, members confirmed that SALA will continue to hold separate meetings from SAC when the conference is held outside of Alabama.

**IV. Nominations Committee Ballot:**

Rather than issue a report of recommendations, the Nominations Committee submitted a ballot to members. It listed one individual for each of the four offices and suggested four individuals for the two open slots on the Executive Committee. (The ballot also included space for write-in candidates for any of the positions.)

The following people were elected to serve:

**Officers:**

President:	Greg Schmidt, Auburn University
Vice President:	John Allison, Morgan County Archives
Secretary:	Meredith McLemore, Alabama Dept. of Archives & History
Treasurer:	Cynthia Luckie, Alabama Dept. of Archives and History

**Executive Committee:**

Jason Kirby, Birmingham Botanical Gardens (2010-2013)  
Gwen Patton, Trenholm State Technical College (2010-2013)

**XII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.**

Submitted by Meredith McLemore, Secretary.

*(Archival Training Collaborative Committee proposal submitted by Greg Schmidt)*

### **SALA-ATC Committee**

#### **Charge**

The Archival Training Committee of SALA will be responsible for

1. Arranging archival workshops in each of 5 regions of the state:
  - Southeast: Dothan
  - Southwest: Mobile
  - South Central: Montgomery, Auburn, Selma
  - North Central: Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Anniston, Gadsden
  - North: Decatur, Athens, Florence, Huntsville
2. "Arranging Archival Workshops" will include
  - Finding someone to present a topic
  - Arranging the venue
  - Offering such support of publicity and local arrangements as the presenter requests
  - Evaluating the results
  - Consciously varying the topics of workshops across the state and the years
3. Assessing the training needs felt around the state.
4. Coordinating with other statewide professional organizations (e.g. Alabama Historical Association, Alabama Library Association, Alabama Museums Association, etc.) to publicize and offer ATC-related training that could be of benefit to their membership.

#### **Membership**

Membership in the SALA-ATC Committee will represent all regions of the state. Each member will serve for 3 years. Members may serve 2 consecutive terms. Members' terms will be staggered so that no more than one-third of members leave the Committee at any one time. The Treasurer of SALA will be an ex-officio member of the SALA-ATC Committee. The Standing Committee can add additional members or create an advisory panel in conjunction with other organizations as is agreeable with the SALA Executive Board and SALA membership.

#### **Start-up**

This committee begins as an extension of the Archival Training Collaborative vision of creating inexpensive but expert training for staff and volunteers in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The committee continues the work in Alabama. While under the aegis of the IMLS grant which funds the ATC project, the committee membership will work in conjunction with the Alabama members of the ATC Steering Committee. When the grant disappears (July 1, 2011), the SALA-ATC Committee will operate independently as a standing SALA committee.

#### **Governance**

The committee will elect its own officers and create its own policies, subject to approval by SALA's Executive Board. The committee members will recruit replacements and suggest them to the Executive Board for approval.

#### **Budget**

The committee will inherit the ATC funds generated by workshops held in Alabama in 2010. That money will remain in the SALA treasury, noted as a distinct account to support of the work of the SALA-ATC Committee. The committee will make all decisions about its use, subject to Executive Board approval.