Society of Indiana Archivists

Summer 2015

Horse Thieves in Indiana!

Read more on page 6
Hello fellow members,

The Education, Programs, Local Arrangements and Scholarship Committees worked hard to make this spring’s Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Workshop a big success. All my thanks go to:

Rich Bernier (Chair, Local Arrangements Committee)
Sally Childs-Helton (Education Committee)
Bethany Fiechter (Scholarship Committee)
Liz Fisher (co-chair, Education Committee)
Jamillah Gabriel (Education and Local Arrangements Committees)
Dina Kellams (Chair, Programs Committee)
Lisa Lobdell (co-chair, Education Committee)
Adriana Maynard (Programs Committee)
Andrew Noga (Education Committee)
Carol Street (Chair, Scholarship Committee)
Mike Szajewski (Programs Committee)

Also, congratulations goes to Alessandro Meregaglia, our Indiana University Bloomington student member who received the Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship award for the spring meeting. This scholarship covered the cost of his annual meeting day registration and a stipend to cover travel.

A big thank you goes to Denise Buhr, Interim University Archivist at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne’s Helmke Library. We had planned to buy a laptop for use by the treasurer for keeping track of our finances, as well as for use at annual meetings, workshops, and any other educational training sessions. To our great fortune, Denise offered to give her HP Pavilion TouchSmart Notebook to SIA so the organization did not have to make a purchase. It is currently in the hands of our treasurer. Thank you so much, Denise!

The Education Committee is now working on plans for the fall workshop. Tentative plans are for it to be held in October. Check your email inbox and our website for more details in the near future. Would you like to help with planning the workshop? Contact Lisa Lobdell at llobdell@thesongbook.org or Liz Fisher at liz@elkhartcountyhistory.org.

The John Newman Professional Development Scholarship will again be awarded to one lucky attendee at the fall workshop. This scholarship is intended for those who are newly employed or are currently volunteering in the field of Archives or Special Collections in Indiana. Announcements about the application process will be sent through the membership listserv and other venues at the end of summer.

Next year’s annual meeting will be in Indianapolis again. Initial plans are underway for that as well. Are you interested in helping out? If so, contact Vice President Carol Street at castreet@bsu.edu.
Since I mentioned the annual meeting, do you have experience organizing events related to archives and leading groups of individuals to a common goal, or know someone else who does? Would you like to serve on the board or as an officer next year? If you are interested in putting your hat in the ring for an officer or board position, or think someone else would be a great candidate, send us an email. We will have an opening for President, Secretary, and 2 Board member positions in 2016, and the SIA Nominating Committee is on the lookout for candidates. Email us at siaarchivists@gmail.com.

Until next time, yours truly,

Jackie Shalberg
SIA President

2015 Krasean Student Scholarship

Alessandro Meregaglia, Master of History & Master of Library Science Candidate at Indiana University Bloomington, was awarded the 2015 Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship to attend the SIA Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 11, at Purdue University. The following is Alessandro’s summary of his experience at the annual meeting.

Thanks to the generosity of the Society of Indiana Archivists, I attended the recent annual meeting as the recipient of the Krasean Scholarship. The conference was a great — and full — day of interesting presentations and opportunities to talk with archivists from around the state.

As a graduate student in both the library science and history programs at Indiana University, the conversation initiated by Brian Alberts’ presentation about the divide between historians and archivists particularly interested me. What is the relationship between professional historians and archivists? A key point to consider is the need to encourage undergraduate students to engage with primary resources, especially through classes’ visits to the archives. The pre-conference workshop on copyright laws for archivists provided an excellent, practical explanation of relevant guidelines for archivists to consider when providing access.

Kim Gallon’s plenary address on digital humanities, moreover, was a good opportunity to learn from an academic concerned with digital archives. Additionally, the sessions discussing crowdsourcing metadata and outreach opportunities piqued my interest and enhanced my archival education. The final session, given by Indiana’s state archivist Jim Corridan, emphasized the importance of advocating for archives at all levels of society.

It was great to hear what projects archivists throughout Indiana are undertaking. The conference stimulated new ideas for archival access and other initiatives, and I enjoyed hearing about current projects in our state’s archives.
In 2014, the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County and the Crawfordsville District Public Library obtained a grant from the LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) to help us fund the means to digitize and deliver content that was not easily available. We wanted museum visitors to be able to access the digital content onsite during their time in the galleries, scanning QR codes with their own mobile devices or using iPad minis checked out from the museum. But we did not want this content to be available only to museum visitors, and we did not assume that all visitors would want to scan QR codes, so we made the extra content available to anyone on a special website for the museum. This website uses a responsive layout so that it is viewable and usable on any device's screen: cmmc.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh

To make onsite access easy for museum visitors, we placed QR codes among exhibits, in context. For example, we have a display on the De Paris brothers, two local musicians who became famous in jazz circles in the mid-20th century. A scan of a QR code leads to a page of audio examples of their music from 1952 (cmmc.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh/audio/deparis.html). Next to a display of late 19th century Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power tools, we have QR codes that lead to additional historic images and a brochure -- with electric rates from 1939. Many of the local businesses in our museum have extra content to enjoy (cmmc.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh/cmmc-business.html).

A major part of this project was the digitization of 89 video veteran interviews (WWII, Korea, Vietnam), which were on fragile VHS tape. We now have copies of all 102 hours of digitized video in our archives. However, we decided that a working copy uploaded to YouTube would provide the best experience for viewing. Once uploaded, we embedded these YouTubes into our webpages. The advantage of YouTube is that we now provide broader access to many more users who would not normally be associated with Montgomery County. We also think museum visitors will enjoy the 16 audio interviews of veterans as well as the 11 audio interviews of long-time residents, all digitized from decades-old cassette tapes. We made our digitized audio very accessible by using HTML5 markup; this approach allows the play-back of the audio -- with audio controls -- within the browser without depending on the user having an audio player installed. All content can, of course, be reached on the web (cmmc.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh/cmmc-military.html).

Throughout the museum, we have already placed more than 60 QR codes that point to audio, video, images, documents, and so on. This number will grow as we digitize more items and modify the exhibits.

The examples mentioned here are only a small part of what the museum and library archives contain, and we are anxious to be able to preserve and make accessible our heritage in as many ways as possible. Our efforts will improve donor relations by allowing the owners of artifacts to see the benefits of donating to our collection, and additional content will provide enhanced use of archival materials to those who otherwise would never think to ask.
In the summer of 1863, Cornelius Garvin, a resident of the Rensselaer County Almshouse, was sold as a substitute into the Union army by the home’s superintendent. Eighteen-year-old Cornelius, called “Con,” was mentally disabled in some way and had been declared an incurable “idiot” by the Marshall Infirmary, located in Troy, New York. He had then been placed in the county almshouse by his mother, Catharine, because she could not care for him at home. When Catharine went to visit her son on September 7, the superintendent informed her that Con was in the army and showed her the money he had received as payment for the boy. Catharine wrote later, “It was very cruel to sell my idiot son.”

Catharine Garvin spent the rest of the 1860s looking for Cornelius. Although he was thought to have been enlisted in the 52nd New York Infantry Regiment and an official army investigation was conducted, she never found him or learned his fate. She ultimately accepted the likelihood he was dead, as the army investigation had concluded. She applied for and received a survivor’s pension from the U.S. government.

Contemporary newspapers reported the story of Catharine Garvin and her son, and the tale was retold in Harper’s Magazine, the Troy Record, and other publications as late as 1965. Blogger Damian Sheils wrote a posting based on careful research in published sources in January 2015 (http://irishamericancivilwar.com/2015/01/11/in-search-of-con-the-remarkable-story-of-the-hunt-for-the-idiot-boy-sold-into-service/).

But the story is best told through 60 manuscript documents held by the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at Allen County Public Library—documents that Catharine Garvin collected during her search for Cornelius and her years as a pensioner. The documents include passes allowing her to visit the Army of the Potomac and talk to men in the 52nd New York, written statements from soldiers who claimed to have served with Con, letters written to various officials for Catharine Garvin and signed by her, and letters and documents supporting her search signed by officials ranging from the mayor of Troy, N.Y., to congressmen and army generals. The most surprising document is a note dated May 21, 1864, written on the back of an envelope by President Abraham Lincoln to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. It reads: “There is reason to believe this Cornelius Garvin is an idiot, and that he is kept in the 52nd N.Y. concealed & denied to avoid an exposure of guilty parties. Will the Secretary of War please have the thing probed. A. Lincoln”

The Catharine Garvin Collection is now online and can be viewed at http://contentdm.acpl.lib.in.us/cdm/search/collection/p16089coll38/searchterm/garvin/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/.

Jane E. Gastineau, Lincoln Librarian, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
The first horse thief detective company, the Council Grove Minute Men, was organized in 1845 by farmers in the vicinity of Wingate, Indiana, in Montgomery County. The Indiana legislature formally recognized the Council Grove Minute Men in 1848 and in 1852 passed a bill authorizing, “the formation of companies for the detection and apprehension of horse thieves and other felons,” and members of the detective companies were granted the status of constables by local authorities. The National Horse Thief Detective Association was a federation of local vigilance committees formed to investigate rural crime at a time when law enforcement in Indiana was, at best, rudimentary.

Local chapters of the NHTDA sprang up throughout the state, growing from 53 companies in 1878 to 255 companies with over 15,000 members by the late 1920s. For the most part the detective companies handled the reporting and investigation of thefts and other crimes in cooperation with county sheriffs. But having police authority with minimal accountability, companies were suspected, and in some cases known, to take justice into their own hands and operate as vigilantes targeting immigrants and African-Americans or enforcing local moral and behavioral standards. But by the 1920s state and local governments were supporting better funding of official law enforcement agencies, Indiana was considerably less rural, and the need for volunteer detective companies was disappearing. The student newspaper of Wabash College, The Bachelor, reported in 1925 that horse thief detectives were harassing Crawfordsville businesses suspected of selling liquor. In various parts of Indiana horse thief detectives were aligned with the Ku Klux Klan. In 1933 the General Assembly repealed the law authorizing the horse thief detectives.

The collection at Wabash College was created by Donald Thompson, head librarian at Wabash from 1955 to 1978 and the archivist from 1980 to 1985. In the 1970s Don began collecting material related to the National Horse Thief Detective Association and assembled a large collection of documents of the NHTDA and of the local detective companies. He used this material to write an essay on vigilantism that can be found in the online collection. Other holdings include the proceedings of twenty-six annual NHTDA meetings held between 1878 and 1932, constitutions and by-laws of over thirty local chapters, complete minutes of meetings and ledgers of the Waynetown (IN) Detective Company from 1866 to 1934, as well as oral histories, published materials, correspondence, and artifacts. The material has been housed in the Robert T. Ramsay, Jr. Archival Center at Wabash College and extensively consulted through the years by historians and Hoosier history buffs. This collection has now been digitized and can be accessed online via this link to the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana digital projects portal: (http://palni.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15705coll34)

Brian McCafferty, Metadata Librarian, Wabash College
The **St. Joseph County Public Library** is proud to announce that *The Reformer*, a newspaper printed by the local African-American community during the height of the Civil Rights era, will be the first available in our new *Historic Newspapers* collection in Michiana Memory.

*The Reformer* was produced by the South Bend African-American community from August 1967 until the end of 1971. Published as the turbulent 1960s rolled into the 1970s, it includes local responses to area, state and national events, along with community news, photographs and profiles.

Michiana Memory is the library’s digital archive of historical books, documents, postcards and photographs. Find it at [http://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/](http://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/)

The *Historic Newspapers* collection in *Michiana Memory* will contain digitized newspapers from St. Joseph County, Indiana and the neighboring communities. Each issue is name and keyword searchable with full transcripts and complete page images available for printing or downloading.

Search hint: When searching for a name within *The Reformer*, use the Advanced Search in the upper middle of the screen, and limit your search to the transcription field. If you have questions about searching the database, talk to us in Local & Family History Services at the library, or call us at 282-4621.

King R. Giloth-David, one of *The Reformer’s* editors: “You can learn a lot about South Bend during the transitional times of the 60s and 70s by reading *The Reformer*. You’ll recognize people you know and respect; the true heroes of the Civil Rights movement in St. Joseph County.”

Cheryl Ashe, Founder of Ex-Offender Information and Referral Services: “Having *The Reformer* on-line will insure a part of South Bend African-American History will not be lost. Rest assured, I will be emailing my sister and others that no longer live in South Bend about *The Reformer* being on-line. Each year at Kwanzaa my sister and I tell my nephews and great niece about our parents’ contributions to South Bend history. Now they will be able to read about my parents.”

George Garner, Tours and Collections Coordinator with the Civil Rights Heritage Center: “This new addition to *Michiana Memory* is a treasure of new information about our civil rights history. It represents literally thousands of articles and observations from years of reporting about the issues, solutions, and leaders by those within and working for communities of color in South Bend.”

Alison Stankrauff, Archivist and Associate Librarian for the Indiana University South Bend Schurz Library Archives: “Digital access to *The Reformer* means that we can now see the city of South Bend’s part in a key part of a time in which our nation was changing rapidly in terms of race relations, civil rights, urban development: 1967 to 1971.”

Library security guard Ron Nicks: “I’m glad to help make the connection (with Mr. Giloth-David), bringing history back. It’s good to see my photo with friends from the neighborhood center after a Sunday night dance.”

*The Reformer* is available through an LSTA Indiana Memory Digitization Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services of the Indiana State Library. Michiana Memory includes a Civil Rights and African American History collection, which was also produced in part by funding through the LSTA grant. The books and documents there come from the archives of the St. Joseph County Public Library and the Indiana University South Bend Archives’ Civil Rights Heritage Center collections.

Of special interest are documents concerning the desegregation of housing, schools, and workplaces in South Bend, and photographs and manuscripts from the J. Chester and Elizabeth Fletcher Allen and the Dr. Bernard and Odie Mae Streets Collections.

Joseph Sitocz, Manager of Local & Family History Services at St. Joseph County Public Library: “Of all the historical documents and photos we’ve uploaded for the grant project, *The Reformer* is the crown jewel. It’s the headlines and protests, but also the kids’ ball teams, church picnics, and neighborhood dances. By making it all fully available we are truly enabling our city to tell the history of that era.”
Now Online: Back Issues of Provenance and Georgia Archive

When I took over as the editor of Provenance: Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists in January 2012, the idea of putting back issues online was an ongoing project. In 2002, Provenance published Linda Matthews’ (former editor of Georgia Archive) proposal for an electronic journal, including these select points:

- “Electronic publishing would enhance the recognition and readership of Provenance by making it more visible and useful to readers throughout the world, likely increasing the number of submissions for publication.

- The full text of the journal from its first to current issues could be made fully searchable online.

- Users would be able to print those articles of immediate use without having to give shelf space to the whole issue or many issues.

The Society of Georgia Archivists could be in the forefront of the archives world in making its journal accessible to a worldwide audience and searchable through the Web.”

Matthews noted that when David B. Gracy II founded Georgia Archive in 1972, “archivists had little professional literature beyond American Archivist.” Now, all past issues of Georgia Archive (1972-1982) and Provenance (1982-2013) are available online: http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/. Browsing the 60 issues shows advancements in technology, trends, ideas, practices, and theories that are core to the archival profession.

There is a wealth of knowledge published in these journals in the past 42 years that contribute greatly to archival scholarship. Subjects of articles include academic archives, access, appraisal, archival administration, archival education, arrangement, automation, cataloging, collection development, congressional papers, description, electronic records, ethics, GLBT collections, government records, indexing, information management, military archives, Native Americans, oral history, photographs, preservation, presidential libraries, privacy, processing, records management, religious archives, use and users, user studies, volunteers, and women’s archives and history. Plus some specific topics such as circus records, folklore collections, Grand Turk Island, internet gopher, and Project Jukebox.

As of June 2015, there were over 32,000 views and downloads. I was thrilled to see such a high interest and I know that both Provenance and Georgia Archive will be instrumental in future education and scholarship.

Cheryl Oestreicher, Editor, Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists; Head, Special Collections and Archives, Boise State University

1 A version of this article originally appeared in the July/August 2014 issue of Archival Outlook.
3 Ibid, 15.

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection Announces New Partnership

The Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection is now a partner in the Collecting Presidential Collections project, housed in the Miller Center at the University of Virginia. The project is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and connects metadata from collections across the country to create a central hub for presidential research.

Metadata from the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the Allen County Public Library will soon join content from more than a dozen partner institutions, including the Massachusetts Historical Society, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.

The project is accessible at www.presidentialcollections.org.
Are you interested in serving on an SIA Committee in 2015?

The following committees have seats open in 2015. We need dedicated members like you to help us improve the organization. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please fill out this form and return it to Jackie Shalberg, SIA President.

Please check the boxes below for more information about the committees you are interested in serving on and fill in the blanks at the bottom of this page so we can contact you directly. (A description of each committee is on the next page.)

2015 Standing Committees

☐ Education Committee      ☐ Membership Committee
☐ Scholarship Committee   ☐ Nominating Committee
☐ Program Committee

2015 Working Committees

☐ Website Committee        ☐ Strategic Planning Committee

Name __________________________

How would you like to be contacted?

☐ Phone   ☐ Email   ☐ Mail

Please list contact information here: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What interests you in working on the committee(s) you checked above? ______
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please send your responses via email to jackies@modelaircraft.org or mail to Jackie Shalberg, SIA President; National Model Aviation Museum; 5151 E. Memorial Drive; Muncie, IN 47302
2015 Standing Committees

**Education Committee** – Responsible for planning and implementing the professional development efforts of SIA via the Fall Workshop and the Pre-Conference Workshop before the Annual Meeting, reserving LEU credits and ARCs for certain events, as well as providing continuing education material to the membership through other avenues when applicable.

**Scholarship Committee** – Responsible for publicizing, soliciting applications for, and determining the recipients of awards offered by SIA, including the *Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship* for attendance at the Annual Meeting and the *John Newman Professional Development Scholarship* for attendance at the Fall Workshop.

**Program Committee** – Responsible for planning, preparing a budget for, and implementing Annual Meeting sessions and local arrangements, and working in concert with the Education Committee on the Pre-Conference Workshop.

**Membership Committee** – Responsible for tracking membership and keeping the listserv up-to-date. The committee may also create ways to increase membership.

**Nominating Committee** – Responsible for developing a slate of candidates for elected positions that are presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

2015 Working Committees

**Website Committee** – Helps the Webmaster transition to the new website; helps update this website.

**Strategic Planning Committee** – Helps create a strategic plan for SIA for the upcoming five to ten years.
2015-2016 Officers

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