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Bowling Green State University. Center for Archival Collections

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Archival Chronicle

March 1987

The Center for Archival Collections
Bowling Green State University

Volume 6, Number 1

From the Director:

The program for the third Conference on Local History is now complete. The Conference will be held on Thursday, 2 April in the Alumni Room of the University Union. The theme this year focuses on The Ordinance of 1787 and Public History.

Randall Buchman, professor of History at Defiance College, is the morning plenary speaker. Preceding Professor Buchman will be Larry Nelson, Chief Administrator at Fort Meigs, who will give a presentation about the Fort. In the afternoon a session on Oral History and Public History will be offered. Sarah Sharp, Assistant Professor of History and Ms. Paulette Weiser, Archivist for the Toledo Hospital, will give presentations on their Oral History projects. Andrew Gulliford, American House, Lima, Ohio and Ray Schuck, Director of the Allen County Historical Society and Railroad Museum will speak about the Train Town Project a most interesting Public History Program in Lima, Ohio. The registration fee is again \$7.50. Make your reservations by contacting Ms. Lindy Eynon ((419) 372-2411) at the CAC. We look forward to seeing you again this year.

The CAC also welcomes Victor Wagher as the Ohio Historical Society's new Local Records Archivist. Victor replaces Diane Gagel who left the Society last June to accept a position with the Toledo Public Library. Victor comes to the CAC from Western Illinois University where he recently completed his internship. Should you have questions relating to the preservation and disposal of public records, please contact Victor at the CAC.

While the CAC is conducting a search for a new Reference Archivist, Stephen Charter, a former Reference Assistant is handling the task. Although very knowledgeable about CAC holdings, Steve's expertise is family history and genealogy. Feel free to contact Steve with your inquiries.

The CAC, in cooperation with the Genealogical Society of Utah, has expanded its microfilm project to include cemetery and funeral home records. The cut-off date for these collections is approximately 1930. These records as well as church records will be microfilmed at no charge to the cooperating institution as long as copies of the microfilm are placed at the Genealogical Society of Utah's Library and the CAC. For further information, contact Paul Yon at the CAC.

Preservation

Have you ever seen those little, old latched cases about 2 1/2" x 3" that when opened contain a photograph behind glass on one side and possibly velvet on the other



Women assembly workers at Martin-Parry in Toledo. (c. 1949)

side? Many times there is a gold colored frame around the photograph or gold colored paint illustrating the embossed case. An interesting aspect of the photograph is that when it is turned in a different direction the image seems to disappear and takes on the appearance of a mirror. These very old photographs are known as daguerreotypes.

Daguerreotypes were the first photographic process that really became wide spread and available to the public. They were introduced in France in 1839 and were popular until the mid 1850s. These early photographs really took the place of a painted portrait, in fact, portraits were about the only subjects of daguerreotypes. The daguerreotype itself consists of a highly polished silver coated copper or silver plate which explains why it looks like a mirror when it is turned. Discoloration sometimes appears around the edges of the photograph, most likely caused by air reaching the photograph and causing the silver surface to tarnish. Sometimes the images were hand colored.

The best way to preserve these types of photographs is simply to replace the original glass with new glass. Glass made in the early 1800s contained many pollutants which may, in time, harm the image. Like all photo images, daguerreotypes should be kept in a cool, dry environment. The actual surfaces of these old photo images are *extremely fragile* and should never be touched with any type of cleaning tool such as a brush or cloth as the photograph could be totally obliterated. Another way to preserve the image is to make a copy print. This can easily be done by a reputable professional photographer.

There were other types of photos besides the daguerreotype that appeared in these little cases and in the next issue one that was actually made on glass instead of metal will be discussed.

Historic Preservation

This office has recently been involved with researching the Alexander Clemons House at Marblehead with the goal of having it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This 1861 house is unique to the area and was built on a limestone shelf facing Lake Erie and Kelley's Island. The style is a transition between Federal and Greek Revival and is two and one half stories with a cupola. It is significant for its architecture which includes a tooled pattern limestone facade, two beautifully decorated front entrances and an unusual rolling wave patterned handrail at the stairs that approach the west entrance. This grand house is also significant because of its association with Alexander Clemons who was among the original settlers in the area, the founder of the first limestone quarry at Marblehead and one of the founders of Lakeside, a Methodist Chautauqua camp.

The nomination will be presented to the Ohio Historic Sites Preservation Advisory Board in February and if it is approved, the nomination will be forwarded to the National Register Division of the National Park Service for final approval and listing.

Historical/architectural surveys are being highlighted in several areas within the Northwest Ohio region. The Fostoria Area Historical Society and Fostoria Antique Study Club are conducting a survey of Fostoria's historical commercial and residential architecture. Within the next several months a survey will be completed in Webster Township, Wood County. This rural survey is being done with the assistance of BGSU's American Studies students.



Alexander Clemons House, Marblehead, Ohio



Telephone Company switchboard, Archbold, Ohio. (195?)

Recent Acquisitions

Manuscripts

Edward DeAngelo Collection (Toledo, Ohio) 1931-1977
Scrapbooks, correspondence, photographs, printed material documenting the business and political activities of DeAngelo.

Ethelyn Stevens Diaries (Fremont, Ohio) 1904
Copies of four volumes of a diary documenting the daily activities of a young woman in Fremont, Ohio during the turn-of-the-century.

Drinkwater Family Papers (Tiffin, Ohio) 1861-1926
Copies of family diaries and correspondence.

Local Government Records

ERIE COUNTY Oxford Township
Trustee minute books, 1903-1986 mf

Publications

Kelly, Beverly J. *The Jacob Bowersox Family of Northwest Ohio*. 1985.

Ohio Genealogical Society, Wood County Chapter. *Cemeteries in Henry and Jackson Townships, Wood County, Ohio*. 1986.

Ohio Genealogical Society, Fulton County Chapter. *Fulton County Tombstones*. 1986 (Volume 1).

Green, Karen Mauer. *Pioneer Ohio Newspapers, 1793-1810: genealogical and historical abstracts*. 1986.

Newspaper Holdings

The Center for Archival Collections is currently editing a new edition of the *Guide to Newspaper Holdings at the Center for Archival Collections*. The new edition will be issued in a three-ring binder, loose-leaf format to allow for easy updating. The release date and ordering information will be announced in the next issue of the *Archival Chronicle*.



Nurses at Toledo Hospital, Toledo, Ohio. (c. 1925)

Trader's Corner

Books

Downes, Randolph C. *Lake port* (Lucas County Historical Series, v.3) Toledo, Ohio: Historical Society of Northwest Ohio, 1951. \$8.50

Doyle, John H. *A story of early Toledo*. Bowling Green, Ohio: C.S. Van Tassel, 1919. \$8.50

United States. Congress. (58th, 2nd session: 1903-1904) *Marcus A. Hanna (late a Senator from Ohio): memorial address delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives*. Washington, D.C.: Govt. Print. Off., 1904. \$10.00

United States. War Dept. *The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies*. Washington, D.C.: Govt. Print. Off., 1880-1901. (91 vol. Incomplete set) \$9.50 per volume

Watkins, Ralph J. *The construction industry in Ohio: a statistical analysis of a seasonal industry*. Columbus, Ohio: Bureau of Business Research, Ohio State University, 1926. \$9.50

Winner, I.S., editor-in-chief. *Pemberville. Pemberville, Ohio: [s.n., 1914?]* \$7.50

Photograph Collection Highlights

The photograph collections at the CAC are a rich, visual source which document the people and places of Northwest Ohio. The photographs are preserved and cataloged according to archival standards, and facilities are available for making copies. The CAC is interested in photographs about individuals or institutions covering any time period. A photograph does not have to be old to be "historical".

Recently, several major photograph collections have been acquired and soon will be open for research.

Bryan Times Negative Collection c. 1959-1969
8825 items

A major institutional collection documenting people and events in the Bryan, Ohio area.

Edward Bronson Photograph Collection c. 1900-1949
798 items

Copy prints of large format negatives (4" x 12") taken by an amateur photographer centered around Defiance, Ohio.

Samuel H. Sterner Photograph Collection c. 1890-1910
188 items

Glass plate negatives of family and local sites in Findlay, Ohio.

C. L. Mahla Family Collection 1873-1966
3 photo albums

Family photographs, many with identifications, including the Mahla, Neumann, and Lowmiller families in Bucyrus, Ohio.

Bloomdale Historic Photograph Collection c. 1880-present

A compilation collection of copy negatives assembled in preparation for the Sesquicentennial of Bloomdale, Ohio. Includes identification sheets.

The *Archival Chronicle* is the newsletter of the Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University, and is published three times a year.

The primary mission of the Center for Archival Collections is to acquire, preserve, and make accessible to researchers documentary materials in four broad categories: Northwest Ohio, University Archives, Rare Books, and Special Collections.

Readers are invited to submit information about events and publications of interest to historical or genealogical researchers in northwest Ohio. Information for each issue should be received by the editor no later than two weeks prior to the first of the month of publication at the Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor Jerome Library, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0175. Attention: Ann Bowers, Asst. Director

Holdings: Northwest Ohio
University Archives
Rare Books

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Diana D. Moran, Regional Historic Preservation Coordinator
Victor S. Wagher, Local Government Records Specialist

Public Access Hours at the CAC

The CAC will be open through May 1, 1987; Sunday 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Monday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; and Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Starting May 4, 1987 through August 21, 1987 the CAC will be open: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The CAC will be closed on Memorial Day and Independence Day.