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Bowling Green State University. Center for Archival Collections

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Archival Chronicle

August 1987

The Center for Archival Collections
Bowling Green State University

Volume 6, Number 2

Local Government Records Serve Citizens

Since 1959, the Ohio Historical Society has been serving as the archives administrator for the State of Ohio and its political subdivisions with the goal of preserving the historically valuable records created by the governing units of the state. As a complement to this archival responsibility, the local records program of the State Archives provides advice and assistance on records management to local governments (counties, municipalities, townships, and school districts) upon request.

The local records specialists aid local governmental agencies in establishing and conducting comprehensive records management and archives programs. They advise in the inventory and appraisal of government records to help identify historically important records. Local records specialists also act as liaisons between local officials and the network archival centers, such as the CAC, in determining cooperatively the best plan for the preservation of local government records.

Implementation of the comprehensive records program insures that time and money are not wasted in maintaining unnecessary records, while at the same time, the rights and heritage of Ohioans are properly preserved. Many records which currently overflow the attics and basements of township halls, municipal buildings, and county courthouses are of historical value, while others have little value after serving their administrative, fiscal, or legal functions. Thus, the local records program assists local officials in rescuing the his-

toric records for the lasting benefit of Ohio citizens, while allowing for the legal disposal of other records.

The current emphasis of the program is to contact township and municipal governments in order to help locate and preserve historically valuable public records. In addition, the CAC is planning to microfilm more local government records. The Center encourages researchers to use these government records at the CAC and to take an active interest in the preservation of those public records of historical value. If you have any questions or comments relating to local government records, please feel free to contact Victor Wagher at the CAC.

Preservation: Ambrotypes

Not all cased images are daguerreotypes. Another cased photographic process is the ambrotype, which was in use from 1855 to about 1865. An ambrotype is a negative image on glass. Thanks to a dark backing (black velvet, paper, or varnish), the image appears positive, but does not reflect a mirror-like shine like a daguerreotype. Sometimes dark red or purple glass was used. Often the image was hand-tinted, to make it more life-like. The fragile ambrotypes were then protected in daguerreotype cases, already widely available and popular. Ambrotypes largely replaced daguerreotypes as the preferred portrait medium, reaching their greatest popularity in the late 1850's.

To restore an ambrotype, one can simply place new black paper behind the image. This step can make a great improvement in the quality of the image. New cover glass on top of the daguerreotype or ambrotype will protect it further. Store these — and all photographs — in a cool, dry environment.

If you would like more information about early photographic processes, the staff recommends James M. Reilly's book, *Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographic Prints*.

From the Conservation Lab:

After careful examination of our conservation lab pricing policy, we have found it necessary to implement a \$15.00 minimum charge, plus the cost of materials used in each document conservation process.



Police Department of Findlay, Ohio, with Major C.B. Metcalf. From the CAC collections, Evelyn Barber Metcalf Brewster collection (MS 92).

From the Director...

The CAC welcomes Lee McLaird as its new Reference Archivist. Ms. McLaird assumed her position 1 May and quickly has familiarized herself with the Center's collections. She holds Masters degrees in Literature and Library Science and previously served as Registrar/Librarian at the Siouxland Heritage Museums, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Feel free to address your inquiries to the Center in care of Lee McLaird.

Diana Moran, Historic Preservation Coordinator for Northwest Ohio, resigned effective 1 June to accept a position with the University of Michigan. During her tenure with the Ohio Historical Society/CAC, she was deeply involved in numerous Historic Preservation projects throughout the region and significantly contributed to preservation awareness. Her enthusiasm will be sorely missed, and on behalf of the CAC staff, we wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by 1 September. In the interim, please address all relevant inquiries to Richard Francaviglia, Historic Preservation Office, The Ohio Historical Society, 1985 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

The Third Annual Conference on Local History was held on 2 April. It again was a success, with over 125 registrants hearing presentations about Ft. Meigs, the Ordinance of 1787, Oral History, Public History, and Railroad History. Plans currently are being made for the Spring 1988 Conference. Should you have program suggestions, please forward them to Paul Yon at the Center.

From around the Area

The Boom Town Historic District in Bowling Green, Ohio, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The district encompasses buildings along West Wooster, South Church, North Grove, North Maple, and Buttonwood, mostly dating from the late 19th century and considered significant examples of the history and architecture of their time.

The Department of Archives and Special Collections at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio announces new Saturday hours, from noon to 4 p.m., beginning July 11 while classes are in session.

The Mercer County Historical Society announces the availability of several sesquicentennial publications. Dates to remember include September 13, "Farm Sunday at the Museum," and October 4, "Bottles, Crocks, and Jars." For more information, contact the Mercer County Historical Society in Celina.

A Bible with family entries for the Tenant/Tennant surname has been located, recording dates as early as 1770. Anyone who can help identify present family members or the origin of this Bible is urged to contact the Sandusky Public Library.

Rare Books Highlight New Acquisitions

Imagination, v. 1, no. 2, November, 1937. This early fanzine contains "Foolosophy & Scientificrax," one of Ray Bradbury's earliest appearances in print, as well as an advance announcement of his earliest published story. This is an exceptionally important addition to the Ray Bradbury Collection, since it is one of the very few of his early writings not included in the original collection.

Purdy, James. *63: Dream Palace*. New York: William-Frederick Press, 1956. First edition of this early novella by one of the most famous authors from northwest Ohio. Purdy has signed this copy (in two places) and has inscribed the following on the title page: "Dame Edith Sitwell was so impressed by this short novel she became its greatest enthusiast, along with John Cowper Powys, Angus Wilson, and Carl Van Vechten. James Purdy." The CAC is well on the way to having a complete collection of Purdy's works including several signed presentation copies and many in the original dust jackets.

Ross, Robert. *Aubrey Beardsley*. London: John Lane, 1909. This book is interesting in itself since it was written by one of Beardsley's closest associates and because this copy is from the library of the well-known author, critic, and collector Vincent Starrett with his distinctive bookplate and signature. Equally valuable, however, is the item laid in the book — an envelope addressed by Beardsley to publisher John Lane containing a note in Beardsley's own hand giving his name and address. Original Beardsley autographs are becoming increasingly rare and this is, therefore, an important addition to the CAC's growing collection of material by and about this controversial turn-of-the-century English artist.



Clayton Johnson, motorman, and Cristy Miller, conductor, by TBG & S streetcar in Maumee, Ohio. From the CAC collections, donated by Elnore Dunbar Paris.

Local Records

Crawford County, Liberty Township. Board of Trustees Journal 1 v. 1857-1885.

Hardin County. Board of Education Minutes. 2 mf rolls. 1914-1986.

Danbury Local Schools. Treasurers' Records. 1 f. 1866-1885.

Wood County, Probate Court. Marriage Licenses. Oct. 28, 1854 - Mar. 5, 1867.

Wood County, Probate Court. Marriage Record (original Volume 3). 1837-1852.

Publications

Adams, Florence Gossard. *Genealogical Records of the Jared Canfield Family*. Bowling Green, Ohio: Wood County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1987.

Berry, Ellen T. *Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio, 1800-1840*. Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1986.

Bohning, Ernst. *Hooray, We're Going to America: The Migration of the H.H. Bohning Family from Barkhausen, Hanover, to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843*. Edited by Jill Knuth. Stanford, California: Knuth, 1987.

Cemeteries of Crawford County, Ohio. Galion, Ohio: Crawford County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1987.

Jergens, Eugene J. *An Index to Naturalization Records from Mercer County, Ohio, 1814-1906 and Auglaize County, Ohio, 1854-1906*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University, 1986.

Leggett, Nancy G. *An Index to Naturalization Records from Darke County, Ohio, 1812-1928 and Miami County, Ohio, 1814-1906*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University, 1986.

Myers, Forrest D. *Briner Family History: A Genealogy of George Michael Breiner and Anna Catharine Loy, Married 1756/7 in Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, Pa.: Myers, 1984.

Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. *Register of Lineages of Associates: third supplement, 1961-1980*. New Hartford, Conn.: The Order, 1981.

Pascoe, Patty Dahm. *Ancestors and Descendants of Patty Blackburn Davis*. Baltimore, Md: Gateway Press, 1984.

The Story of Litchfield, Ohio, 1831-1981. Litchfield, Ohio: Litchfield Historical Society, 1984.

Tyson, Genevieve A. Kerr. *Kerr Genealogy: A Genealogical Record of Andrew Benson Kerr, Late of Gallia County, Ohio*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1984.

Wallace, Lenna E. *An Index to Naturalization Records from Shelby County, Ohio, 1814-1906*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University, 1986.

Walker, Elizabeth Parcher. *Elias Parcher and Some of His Descendants*. Manchester, Conn.: Walker, 1987.

Manuscript Collections

Weddell Family Papers (Webster Twp. Wood County, Ohio) 1861-1864. Civil War era letters, written by a variety of people, to William Weddell, concerning activities of relatives and friends in the army.

A. Lowell Randall Correspondence (Bowling Green, Ohio) 1942-1945. World War II letters written home to his family in Bowling Green, from Italy and Okinawa.

Announcements, Events, Etc...

The CAC is proud to announce that the second edition of the *Guide to Newspaper Holdings at the Center for Archival Collections* is now available. The new edition has been issued in a three-ring binder, loose-leaf format to allow for easy updating. The cost of the new edition is \$12.50, which includes the cost of updates. To order, send your name and address with a check made payable to the CAC, to: Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor, Jerome Library, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0175. Attention: Marilyn Levinson.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE highlight 19th century uniforms, a source of pride to the working men and women who wore them. These photos are a small sample of those available in the CAC collections.

The *Archival Chronicle* is published three times a year in March, August, and December by the Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University.

The mission of the Center for Archival Collections is to acquire, preserve, and make accessible 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 before the first of the month of publication. Address correspondence to: Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor Jerome Library, BGSU, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0175. Attention: Lee McLaird, Reference Archivist.

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Lee N. McLaird, Reference Archivist/Newsletter Editor

Employees of the Ohio Historical Society

Victor S. Wagher, Local Government Records Specialist
(Position Open), Regional Historic Preservation Coordinator

Public Access Hours at the CAC

The CAC will be open May 4, 1987 through August 21, 1987:
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Fridays 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Starting August 24, 1987, the CAC will be open Sunday 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The CAC will be closed Labor Day and November 11.