

SHORTER NOTICES

"The Papers of the Food Administration for North Carolina, 1917-1919, in the National Archives," is the subject of a short article by Mr. William D. McCain which appeared in the January, 1938 issue of the *North Carolina Historical Review*. The author, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, briefly summarizes the history of the Food Administration in North Carolina under Henry A. Page. Files of that organization, after the body was disbanded, were sent to Washington, D.C. and stored there until transferred to the National Archives in January, 1936. In conclusion, Mr. McCain describes the importance of these files as follows:

The historian interested in the political, economic, social, or intellectual life of the people of North Carolina will find a wealth of material in these files. A large part of the papers and records will be useful to persons interested in biography and family history. The great number of license applications of dealers, manufacturers, millers, and fishermen; the numerous reports and questionnaires submitted by licensees; and the large quantity of sugar distribution records will be of special value for the study of the industrial and commercial development of the state and the economic life of its inhabitants. These papers and records, now classified and available, remain almost untouched by the historian and offer to him sources of unquestionable value.

The extensive photographic activity carried on by the staff of the National Archives, preserving on film the bulk of its records, is described in an article, "Your Uncle Sam's Photographic Diary," by Walter E. Burton in the July number of *Popular Photography*. Accompanying it is a page of pictures showing, among other things, the dark room, a large micro-copying machine in use, and a corner of one of the workrooms.

Under the supervision of Mr. John G. Bradley, head of the Division of Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings, and Mr. Vernon D. Tate, chief of the Division of Photographic Reproduction and Research, skilled staff members are constantly busy recording either on 16 mm. or 35 mm., or, occasionally, on 70 mm. motion picture film, documents which otherwise through lack of storage space would have to be destroyed.

Insulated fireproof cabinets housed in concrete vaults protect the highly inflammable and explosive nitrate film. Separate compartments for each 1000 feet of film have gravity trapdoors which will open at the slightest pressure of gas from within but which protect the contents from gases or flame from other compartments.

Not only does microfilming save storage space; it also saves the taxpayers considerable sums annually. For instance, to copy by hand or with a typewriter

the 2,600,000 index cards for the files of the Veterans' Administration without which the records in the National Archives would be useless, would have cost from \$75,000 to \$80,000. Copied by camera the cost totaled \$1,900.

Research is also carried on by the staff in photographic chemistry; at present the possibilities of infra-red and ultra-violet light are being investigated. By means of illumination by infra-red rays one can now obtain legible photographs of documents charred by fire. Photographs by ultra-violet light may enable historians to read the secret papers of the Revolution which were written in invisible ink and which still exist in considerable quantity.

Occasionally the work of the archivist touches that of the detective. One of their common interests is dealt with in "The Restoration of Obliterated Ink Writing" by M. Edwin O'Neill, instructor of police science, scientific crime detection laboratory of Northwestern University School of Law. The article appeared in the December, 1936 issue of *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. In it the author lists under two heads the common methods for restoring effaced writing: those methods involving the application of liquids, and those involving the application of vapors. The first includes reactions with chlorides or sulphates, and reactions with iron. In the vapor method, the chemicals used are ammonium hydroxide and hydrogen or ammonium sulphide.

"Fuming" is used most generally since there is less chance of staining or discoloring the documents, according to Mr. O'Neill; yet there are several drawbacks to using the hydroxide or sulphide compounds: the reaction is slow; the reagent, not being particularly sensitive, is valuable only in connection with "iron-nutgall" inks; the resulting coloration does not contrast strongly with the over-writing; the apparatus is inconvenient to handle; the disagreeable odor of the sulphide makes this method unpleasant.

In an effort to improve the methods of restoration of erasures, the author has developed a simple applicator with which sulphocyanic acid, a much more sensitive reagent for iron, can be used. He describes the procedure as follows:

Crystalline potassium sulphocyanate is placed between wads of cotton and glass wool in a Gooch funnel, and moistened with a few drops of dilute hydrochloric acid (10%). The document bearing the erasure is held before the mouth of the funnel, and the operator blows through the stem causing the vapor of the sulphocyanic acid generated in the tube to be sprayed over the surface of the paper. If iron is present in the erasure it will react with the vapor, forming blood-red ferric sulphocyanate.

Mr. O'Neill lists the inks with which this method has been successfully used. Although restoration of these inks is not permanent, the color may remain for a varying period up to two weeks and restoration can be repeated by renewed application of the vapor.

The inventories of the records of Jo Daviess, Pike, Cumberland, and Scott counties, Illinois, are four attractively bound volumes which do much credit to Mr. Howard E. Colgan, state director of the Historical Records Survey and to the staff under him. The survey of the records at Galena, Jo Daviess County, begun September 18, 1936 and finished April 2, 1937, was conducted under the supervision of Mr. V. C. Karcher.

In Pittsfield, county seat of Pike County, the checking of records was started September 15, 1936 and finished February 2, 1937. The work was done by Messrs. Harry Allen, Otto Walz, John Michelich, and James Ibberson.

The survey in Winchester, Scott County, was commenced on August 26, 1936 and finished January 20, 1937 by Messrs. Ralph Cisne and Wilfred Marine. Rechecking was done between September 25 and October 12, 1937.

Mr. Oliver K. Doney, supervised by Mr. Kenneth C. Blood, began the inventory in Toledo, Cumberland County, September 1, 1936 and completed it by May 14, 1937.

The archives at Galena date from 1827, the year of the county's establishment. In Pike County, which originally included within its boundaries all of the northern and northwestern part of Illinois, the records date from 1821. Records of Scott County, namesake of a Kentucky county, begin in 1839. In Cumberland County, the archives for the period between the county's organization in 1843 and 1885 were destroyed in the latter year when fire swept the old courthouse.

Inventories of the archives of Lafayette and Saint Charles parishes, Louisiana have recently been completed under the supervision of Mr. John L. Andreasson, state director of the Historical Records Survey. Surveys in the two parishes were made during the winter months of 1936-1937. Both volumes contain the usual sections—a historical sketch, an essay on the governmental organization and records system, with illustrative charts, a report on the housing, care, and accessibility of the records, etc., and the inventory proper.

Under the direction of Mr. C. C. Fisher the Historical Records Survey in Mississippi has published its second county inventory. This is No. 55, *Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi, Pearl River County*.

In the series of inventories of county archives of Utah, that for Grand County has now been published under the direction of the Historical Records Survey, Mr. Maurice L. Howe, state director. The survey was begun by Mr. Lyman Duncan, May 1, 1936; when he accepted other employment, Mr. Winford Bunce replaced him and completed the inventory by July 1, 1937 under the supervision of Mr. King G. Wickwire, traveling field supervisor.

NEWS NOTES

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The Society of American Archivists will hold its second annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois, October 24-26, 1938. At this time the Illinois State Library will inaugurate its centennial celebration by dedicating its new Archives Building. The Honorable Edward J. Hughes, secretary of state and state librarian, is chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements and Mr. Herbert A. Kellar, director of the McCormick Historical Association, is chairman of the Committee on Program.

The meeting will be featured with laboratory exhibits and demonstrations of archival technique and equipment. Other sessions will deal with the training of archivists, discussion of classification and cataloguing, archival publications, scientific aids, the status of archival work in the United States, Canada, and Europe, state and local archives, business archives, fugitive archival material, what are archives? etc.

New Salem, the pioneer village reconstructed by the state of Illinois as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, will be visited. The third day of the meeting of the Society will coincide with the first day of the meeting of the Illinois Library Association, which will hold a three-day assembly in Springfield the last half of the week. The dedication of the Illinois State Archives Building will follow in the afternoon, closing the meeting.

The headquarters hotel will be the Abraham Lincoln, three blocks east of the State Capitol grounds. Rates will be \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00 for single rooms; double rooms with double beds, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50 and \$6.00; with twin beds, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.00. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

Two important changes have taken place in the committees of the Society of American Archivists. Dr. William D. McCain, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, has accepted the chairmanship of the Committee on Public Relations, succeeding Dr. Curtis W. Garrison, who has resigned. Pursuant to action taken by the council at its December meeting, a Committee on Business Archives has been appointed and the following persons have accepted membership on it: Mr. Oliver W. Holmes, of the National Archives, chairman, Miss Henrietta Larson, of the Business Historical Society, and Dr. William D. Overman, of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

In order to concentrate certain duties relating to the federal government agencies in the divisions of the National Archives pertaining thereto, instead of in technical divisions organized by functions, certain internal changes in the institutions have been made. Hereafter preliminary surveys of records in

the agencies, appraisal surveys for disposition or retention, accessioning, an increased share of reference work, and all research will be performed in the agency divisions in addition to the care of the records already given there. Calls from the several executive departments, the Veterans' Administration, and the office of the secretary of the Senate for the use of records created by them respectively will be made directly upon the divisions having their custody. Calls for the use of records by agencies other than those which created them, or by investigators outside the government, will continue to be made on the Division of Reference. A Division of Legislative Archives and a Division of Independent Agencies Archives have been established, and the title of the Division of Independent Agencies Archives, No. 1, has been changed to the Division of Veterans' Administration Archives. The Divisions of Research and Accessions are being abolished, effective June 1 and August 23, respectively. These changes will result in greater efficiency since the custody and reference work for administrative use of records will be in the hands of the same group of archivists who survey them in the offices of origin, accession them, and ultimately perform research upon them.

The previously announced transfer of records to the National Archives from the Archives Section of the State Department has been completed. Included in this shipment are certain records from diplomatic and consular posts coming down to 1937, but, like other State Department records transferred, they are open to the public only to August 15, 1906. Outstanding accessions from the Treasury Department are the "old loans records" dealing with loans floated from the outbreak of the Revolutionary War to 1860 and including, among other valuable items, the records kept in the thirteen original states by Loan Office Commissioners until 1817 and subsequently by the Second Bank of the United States until 1836; and Secret Service records, 1863-1934, including correspondence, materials relative to apprehended criminals, and reports of agents on special investigations and on their daily operations, such as the suppression of counterfeiting and the protection of the president. Pardon records from the Justice Department, 1853-1912, supplement and continue materials of a similar character previously received from the State Department. Records now being transferred will make the collection from the Indian Affairs Office practically complete through 1880, with some records extending to 1907. Correspondence and scientific data have been received from the Naval Observatory and Nautical Almanac Office, 1840-1911. Accessions from the Department of Agriculture include records of the former Food and Drug Inspection Board, 1907-1915, and of the Wool Division of the War Industries Board, 1918-1919, and the Matthew Fontaine Maury collection of logbooks of commercial ships, 1784-1870. Records from the Labor Department include materials on alien enemies and Americanization, 1914-1936. Early twentieth century efforts to study the tariff scientifically are represented in records of

the old Tariff Board, 1909-1912, and of the former Cost of Production Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 1915-1916, received from the Tariff Commission.

Dr. Nelson Vance Russell, chief of the Division of Reference in the National Archives since 1935, has resigned, effective August 23, to become head of the department of history and political science at Carleton College. He will be succeeded by Dr. Philip M. Hamer, now chief of the Division of Accessions. Dr. Vernon G. Setser has been appointed assistant chief of the Division of Reference. Dr. Percy S. Flippin, formerly chief of the Division of Research, has been named chief of the Division of Independent Agencies Archives. The following have been appointed chiefs of the divisions indicated since the previous announcement of such appointments in this journal, some of them having served in the capacities shown for several months: Frank D. McAlister, Justice Department Archives, and also acting chief of the Divisions of Post Office and Legislative Archives; Dr. Dallas D. Irvine, War Department Archives; Dr. Nelson M. Blake, Navy Department Archives; Dr. Theodore R. Schellenberg, Agriculture Department Archives; Dr. Paul Lewinson, Labor Department Archives; and Oliver W. Holmes, Interior Department Archives. Herman R. Friis, formerly assistant professor of geography and geology at the Southern Illinois State Normal University, has been appointed assistant map curator in the Division of Maps and Charts.

The first attempt at the systematic training of archivists in the United States is to be made at Columbia University beginning next fall. The University has announced the appointment of Dr. Solon J. Buck, director of publications in the National Archives, as visiting professor of archives administration. Dr. Buck will give on Saturday forenoons a two-hour course entitled, "Archives and Historical Manuscripts." This course, which is scheduled in the history department and is open only to graduate students, is described in the catalogue as "A study of the character, significance, and use of archival and other manuscript materials, of European and American practice in the administration of collections of such materials, and of the principles of archival economy with special reference to the problems of American archivists." The catalogue carries the further announcement that "The National Archives at Washington offers to a limited number of suitably prepared students opportunities for advanced study of archival problems and archival administration"; and "Candidates for the doctorate in the Faculty of Political Science desiring to prepare themselves to take advantage of these opportunities" are directed to register for Dr. Buck's course and to consult with him "concerning their programs of study." Plans for the work to be given at the National Archives have not been worked out as yet, as it is not expected that any students will be prepared to take the work before next summer.

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, is conducting its sixteenth summer school of historical research (July 5 to August 17) at the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, under the direction of Mr. Gerald S. Graham, of the department of history. Canadian history during the French régime and from the conquest to 1818 are subjects being considered by means of round-table procedure.

The present archivist general of The Netherlands is Dr. R. Bijlsma, instead of Professor R. Fruin as stated in the article "Manuscript Repair in European Archives" (THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, I, 56).

PUBLIC RECORDS IN CONNECTICUT

Since May, 1771 when the Assembly passed a resolution "desiring the governor to collect public letters and papers of the colony and have same bound for preservation," the state of Connecticut has been vitally interested in the care and preservation of public and semipublic records for the benefit and instruction of posterity. In June, 1797 a resolution was passed "appointing the comptroller to take charge of the State House and to outfit offices of the Treasurer and Comptroller with bolts and bars to secure the public treasure and archives."

Following the controller, the secretary of state was made responsible in 1810, but soon his work became so arduous that need for a different arrangement appeared to be necessary. In 1899 the legislature appointed a Commission of Public Records to investigate conditions and make suggestions which might lead to an improvement not only in the records themselves but also in the fire protection afforded them in the several towns of the state.

The recommendations of this committee were finally adopted and in 1901 a temporary examiner of public records was appointed to have charge of the offices of the town clerks and probate judges in the state. This temporary examiner remained in office until 1911 when the legislature created the office of examiner of public records and gave him authority over all the public records in the state. This authority is continued by Section 1063 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1930, which reads as follows:

Sec. 1063. EXAMINER OF PUBLIC RECORDS; DUTIES.

The state librarian shall, with the approval of the state library committee, appoint an assistant, who shall be an examiner of public records. Such assistant may be removed by said state librarian at any time and his successor appointed in like manner. Such examiner of public records shall cause such action to be taken by the persons having the care and custody of public records as may be necessary to put such records in the custody and condition required by law and to secure their safety and preservation, and shall submit a biennial report to the state librarian.

In 1895 a law was passed requiring an approved ink, and in 1915 a similar law was passed specifying that approved paper must be used for public records.

In 1918 a law was passed authorizing the use of typewriters. However, the ribbons used must be tested by the state chemist and approved by the examiner of public records. In 1919 loose-leaf binders for public records were approved.

The examiner of public records is responsible, under the present law, to the state librarian and to the State Library Committee of which the governor and chief justice are members.

In years past, the examiner of public records has concentrated his efforts on the preservation of town and probate records and out of the one hundred and sixty-nine towns in the state of Connecticut, one hundred and twenty-one town clerks have vaults for the care of their records and seventy-seven of the one hundred and seventeen probate judges have vaults for the probate records. In connection with these records, eighty-one of the probate districts have deposited their inactive files in the vaults at Connecticut State Library and these files have been indexed and suitably jacketed so that they are readily available under supervision to interested persons.

The remaining forty-eight town clerks and forty probate judges keep their records in safes, preferably Class "A" or Class "B," but there are still a few old cast-iron safes which are being eliminated as fast as possible.

Quite recently the examiner of public records has been concentrating to some extent on tax records in the state in order that the conditions of these records may be brought up to suitable standards.

Following is a list of suggestions for the care and preservation of official records. A copy of this, together with an official list of approved inks, typewriter ribbons, papers and binders, has been forwarded to each record office in order that the officials may have the requirements before them at all times.

Instructions to Public Officials and Custodians of Public Records

1. Keep all official record books and indices in your fireproof safes and vaults.
2. Use only the approved inks, typewriter ribbons, papers and loose-leaf binders as indicated in the Reports of the Examiner of Public Records.
3. Keep recording and indexing up to date.
4. Do not place one open book upon another open book.
5. Become familiar with our statutes relating to the care, repair, custody, indexing and accessibility of public records.
6. Keep your office and vaults free from inflammable material.
7. Do not permit smoking inside of vaults.
8. Keep doors of safes and vaults closed and locked when not in use.
9. In case of fire, notify the examiner of public records immediately. Telephone Hartford 5-2121.
10. Do not open your safes or vaults, after they have been through a fire, until they have cooled, and the examiner of public records is present.
11. Notify the examiner of public records immediately upon the first indication of dampness in your vaults or safes. Do not wait for mold to appear.

12. Consult the examiner of public records before rebinding and repairing books and when such need arises.
13. Officials when retiring from office should be sure that all records which were delivered to them by their predecessors together with all those which have accumulated during their term of office are transferred to the incoming official for care and preservation.
14. Confer with the examiner of public records before destroying or disposing of any records.
15. Confer with the examiner of public records or state librarian regarding the disposition of books, files and other documents, not in current use, before sending them to the State Library in Hartford or otherwise disposing of them.
16. Remember the examiner of public records is the friend of all custodians and keepers of records and desires to render any and every assistance possible.

ALABAMA

Within the next year the Alabama State Department of Archives and History will have a new building, construction of which is being sponsored by the state in co-operation with the federal government. The central unit, already under way, will be built at a cost of \$400,000. Wings will be added later.

Alabama was the first state in the Union to establish a department of archives and history as a part of the executive branch of the state government. Since that time, 1901, twenty states have followed her example, either in whole or in part. The department maintains both historical and legislative reference libraries. Materials include all state official archives as well as a collection of portraits of men and women prominent in the state's history from its Indian period to the present time. The most valuable of the collections are housed in the State House, but four other buildings near the Capitol are overflowing with the remainder.

Governor Bibb Graves has appointed Mrs. Grace Scott as field collector for the Department of Archives and History, with a view to forestalling the acquisition of materials in private hands by out-of-state agencies.

MISSISSIPPI

The Department of Archives and History has started a WPA project engaging sixteen workers to catalogue the library and manuscript collections of the department. Attention will be given to the library first. The department also is sponsoring a WPA project to make an imprint survey in Mississippi. This work is being done in connection with the survey of Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie. Mr. Moreau B. C. Chambers, curator and archaeologist of the department, will be director of this survey.

Recent acquisitions of the department include twenty-three volumes of account and cotton record books from Oxford, Mississippi, covering the years 1870-1900. A particularly valuable acquisition is a manuscript diary of Thomas Rodney, United States judge of Mississippi Territory, describing a journey from Washington, Mississippi, to Fort Adams in 1804. Another acquisition is an order book of Adjutant J. L. Power, First Mississippi Light Artillery, covering the years 1862-1863.

Plans are being formulated to revive the Mississippi Historical Society, and to renew its active publication policy with the possibility of starting a Mississippi historical magazine. The work of the Mississippi Historical Society is closely connected with that of the Department of Archives and History.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee's story of a lack of proper housing facilities and intelligent care of its priceless archives is not unlike that of many other states, and, until the last four or five years, the National Archives. In considering the following circumstances, indeed, one might well be surprised that there is still a wealth of original material preserved and available in the state records. Chief among these circumstances is the fact that for a period of thirty years the capital of Tennessee was moved from place to place, being first at Knoxville, 1796-1807, then at Kingston, back to Knoxville for the session of 1807, thence to Nashville, 1812-1815, next to Murfreesboro, 1819-1825, finally settling at Nashville in 1826. Important archival records were loaned to the historian, Dr. Lyman C. Draper, who later willed them to the Wisconsin State Historical Society; others were loaned to the historian, Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey for reference in his second volume of *The Annals of Tennessee*. The records, along with the manuscript, were destroyed with the burning of the Ramsey home by a federal soldier in September, 1863. Another removal of state records was made when the General Assembly hastily vacated the Capitol in 1862 and rushed to Memphis for an adjourned session, while still more records were destroyed when Tennessee's State House was turned into a federal fort in 1862. Although incomplete, the present collection includes the usual assortment of papers—executive, legislative, judicial, financial, legal, and military, as well as maps, surveys, land grants and warrants, reports of boundary commissions, etc. These constitute a rich storehouse of material of inestimable value to the official family, the historian, the genealogist, and the students of sociology and economics.

Space is still at a premium, part of the archives being in the new Soldiers' Memorial Building adjoining the Capitol. The latter material is mostly current, including departmental correspondence and records, land entries, surveys, certificates and grants, court records, and legislative records. Much of the unclassified material is still in the tower of the Capitol and the State Library, and is now being prepared and made available.

Inventory lists of all departmental and other records have been made, the material being filed in uniform cartons as classified. An abstract of all classified records, with the date of period covered, is on file; lists are made in triplicate, one being filed in the office of the secretary of state, one in the State Library, and the third in the archives. Receipts are taken for any material withdrawn by officials, and are cancelled on its return. Certain material may not be withdrawn but may be examined in the archives or State Library. Land warrants, entries, plats, and certificates of surveys are classified and card indexed. Military grants, in constant use, have been given the same treatment, the cards showing the number of grant, name of soldier, name of grantee, number of acres received, location of landmarks, and the county in which the grant is located. A cross-index file of the contents of 5,093 containers was made and filed by subject, chronologically, during the past year. All North Carolina grants made to soldiers of the Continental Line who were given land in Tennessee were card indexed, and an index for the nine volumes of North Carolina Purchase grants is now being made. Supreme Court records from 1800 to 1865, showing no execution numbers, have been classified by the style of the case. Later records are classified by execution numbers.

By the aid of a federal project, considerable preliminary classification is being continued in the archival material in the tower of the Capitol. Obsolete pardons, paroles, requisitions, and extradition papers have been removed from bundles, unfolded, cleaned and pressed, and filed in uniform cartons and labeled; the inactive material has been separated from the active and filed permanently. The governor's correspondence is being treated likewise: each letter is given a separate manila folder, is briefly abstracted, and is placed chronologically, preparatory for the final classification. Several thousand papers have been carefully handled during the past few months.

However, the work has been retarded since February, 1937, when the late president of the Tennessee Historical Society requested the state librarian and archivist to list the holdings of the organization. One-half of the relief workers on the federal project are assisting in this work under the direct supervision of Mr. Robert T. Quarles, former Tennessee state archivist. It is hoped that this undertaking may be completed and a final report made early in 1938.

The only publication that has been issued by the state archives is *Journals of the Senate and House . . . of Tennessee, 1797-1798*, including the Supplementary Journal, which appeared in 1933 as a publication of the Division of Library and Archives and was distributed on an exchange basis.

By 1931 the state librarian and archivist had compiled from original records the "List of Commissioned Officers of the Tennessee State Militia for the Year 1815," which was published in the *Tennessee Historical Magazine*, April, 1931.

The manuscript collection in the State Library has been enriched by the accession of diaries, journals, church records, memorial addresses, historical speeches, manuscripts or typescripts of some of the late publications of Tennessee writers, confederate muster rolls, family histories, a list of emigrants from South Carolina to Tennessee, *Orderly Book of the Florida Seminole War, 1820-1821*, seventeen photostatic letters of Tennessee state senators of the Brownlow legislature, autograph letters of Andrew Jackson, William Blount, John Sevier, Bishop James H. Otey, Bishop Charles T. Quintard, Rev. Charles Harris, Sam Houston, Aaron V. Brown, J. D. B. DeBow, L. Virginia French, autograph albums of confederate soldiers surrendering at Fort Donelson and imprisoned at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, and Johnson's Island, manuscript of Judge Quarles's *Tennessee Digest*, a collection of Donelson family letters, photostatic copy of the correspondence of George Washington Campbell, five manuscript arithmetics used by pioneer Tennessee families, a rare manuscript music book written before the Revolutionary War, photostatic copies of all muster rolls and pay rolls of Tennessee companies in the War of 1812, the Cherokee War, the two Seminole wars, and the Mexican War, the Lebanon Pike tollgate account books, luxury tax book for Williamson County, 1815, typed copies of all 1820 census records for Tennessee counties in the Census Bureau at Washington, etc.

During the past eighteen months the state librarian and archivist has sponsored a federal project for the Tennessee Society D. A. R. for the purpose of copying historical records. The relief workers on this project have been engaged in copying the original records in the county courthouses. To date completed work includes typed copies of over two hundred indexed volumes of the earliest court minutes, marriage bonds, settlements of estates, wills and inventories, tax lists, ranger lists, and suit papers.

In counties where the records have burned, several thousand tombstone inscriptions, church registers, diaries, and family Bible records have been copied. These records are proving invaluable to researchers.

There is no prospect of a new building for the Tennessee archives at present, nor for any additions to the now inadequate staff.

As for the care of county archives, a recently conducted survey has revealed the state of preservation of records in twenty-one counties and has indicated housing facilities. Important papers (of Bedford County), damaged by fire and water, were found piled in damp rooms where they were gradually being destroyed by mildew; documents which had been reported as missing (Meigs, Robertson, and Hamilton counties), were located in obscure places (due to inadequate and unsystematic housing) almost entirely inaccessible to the public; in one county (Bradley), trial papers of all counties were found not only mixed, but piled on the floor, not even having been placed in a box; and one may be startled at the thought of having two truck loads of

junk (including stove pipes, automobile tires, and wheel barrows) removed from the rooms before the vaults could be reached, as was the case in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Records have been cleared, rearranged, and labeled in Anderson, Meigs, Robertson, Haywood, Rutherford, and Blount counties. In the counties of Bradley, Bedford, Dyer, Franklin, Hamilton, McMinn, Madison, Montgomery, and Wilson, papers have been carefully filed in steel files or on new shelving. An inventory of the records in Davidson County has been made; in Loudon County the local supervisor, with the aid of a wagon from his home, had documents removed from an old tobacco barn to the courthouse.

The housing of records in Rhea County was found to be adequate. Work there consisted in arranging the bound volumes and the file boxes themselves. In the counties of Shelby, Knox, and Lincoln, bound records were found to be in good shape; however the care of unbound papers had been neglected. As the result of this discovery, thousands of marriage licenses, trial papers, and birth and death certificates in these three Tennessee counties have been filed and labeled.

INDIANA

Since December, 1936, the Archives Division of the Indiana State Library has been engaged in compiling an index to all personal names found in official state records prior to 1851, which are deposited with the division. At present there are some 400,000 entries in the index, but this does not mean 400,000 different names.

The disparity between the number of entries and the number of names can be explained by the system of the index. It was possible to use WPA labor to make the index, and because of this the manner of indexing was made as simple as was possible. Identical names found in different documents were never taken to be identical persons, save in cases of governmental officials. One entry, then, is made for each appearance of a name. This method is expensive in cost of cards but is much faster than any other.

The cards themselves contain no actual information about the persons whose names appear on them. Colored cards are used, and the colors indicate the classification of the record indexed. Names are inverted, following customary practice, and the card is completed with a semi-mnemonic code reference to the exact document in which the name appears together with the page number or serial number of the entry in the record. The cards are filed in one large alphabetical file which follows standard library theory. The Remington-Rand Soundex system was considered but was not used because of the large initial expense, the necessity of training a large number of people in its use, and the other disadvantages commonly noted in the use of that system.

The index is already in use and has worked out very well within the

limits imposed by its incompleteness. It will be finished by the late summer of this year.

The Indiana Historical Records Survey, supervised by S. J. Kagan, recently completed its inventory of the archives of Boone County, Indiana. The publication of this volume was subsidized in part by the Indiana Historical Bureau, Dr. C. B. Coleman, director, and by the Indiana Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief. The inventory, as published, is an octavo volume of about 128 pages of text and 15 pages of cross indexing. The historical notes in the text are well annotated and the style of type and format are adequate. The volume, thus far, has fulfilled everything which was expected of it.

MICHIGAN

Readers of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, particularly those connected with educational institutions, will no doubt be interested to learn that the University of Michigan has recently received a large addition to its James Burrill Angell Collection. The newest accession of Angell papers has come from Mrs. Andrew C. McLaughlin, daughter of President Angell, and admirably supplements the more formal official correspondence of President Angell. As is to be expected, the Angell papers include letters from foremost educators and statesmen of the period from 1865 to 1915. Unfortunately, few copies of Angell's own letters appear in his papers.

The Angell papers have been placed in the University Archives-Michigan History Collection at the University of Michigan. This collection is one of the newest in the local history field, dating back only to 1935. Already an impressive group of source materials has been built up including papers of several governors of the state, regents of the University, and state educational leaders.

Conceived by Professor L. G. Vander Velde, of the history department, as a project for improving the facilities for research in Michigan history at the University, the program, with the cordial support of the administration, has already justified its objectives. In addition to the director the staff now includes two full-time members: Mrs. Donald E. Adams is the curator of the collection; and Mr. Henry D. Brown is engaged in locating and collecting available sources.

Although the University Archives-Michigan History Collection is in large part made up of personal papers of state and University officials, several small collections relating to Michigan pioneers and pioneer life have recently been obtained. In the acquisition of materials of the last mentioned type Mr. William Jabine and other members of the staff of the Michigan Survey of Historical Records have provided very helpful suggestions.

At the present time the University Archives-Michigan History Collection is housed in a separate room in the William L. Clements Library. It is hoped that more extensive quarters will soon be available.

LOUISIANA

Manuscript collections recently acquired by the Louisiana State University Department of Archives total approximately 10,000 items and span the period from 1750 to 1937. The most important collections are listed below. The Harod C. Anderson plantation diary and account books (1873-1888), 3 volumes, give factual material concerning planting in West Tennessee. The papers of David French Boyd and Thomas Duckett Boyd (1873-1927) contain 80 items and are valuable in that each man was a former president of Louisiana State University. A botanical specimen book and a United States experimental station book of the late 1890's show the experimental work of the late Dr. Mark Carleton. The Citizens Bank of Louisiana collection contains 11 items that cover the period from 1851 to 1855. The College of the City of Baton Rouge collection (1838-1841), 51 items, shows interesting facts of early education in Louisiana. The James P. Corbin plantation collection of Virginia (1868-1904) contains 15 volumes, 7 letter books, 2 ledgers, 3 account books, 2 justice judgment books, and 1 council meeting book. The Stephen Duncan collection of Natchez (1849-1893) contains 117 items and adds to the plantation history of that section. The Leslie Farr collection of Natchez (1862-1896), 82 items, reveals Civil War history and plantation life of the Natchez region. The Pedro, George and Philogene Favrot collection (1758-1920) contains 144 items and gives valuable material concerning late colonial days in Louisiana. The John R. Ficklen collection (1840-1882) contains 5 volumes and 3 letters of general Louisiana historical material. Ficklen was an author on the Reconstruction period in Louisiana. The Good Hope Plantation collection, Concordia Parish, Louisiana (1864-1867), contains 99 items. The Lillian Gray collection, St. James Parish, Louisiana (1860-1875), contains the John Hill account book and the Houmas Plantation record book. The Koch collection (1829-1900), 3,260 items, is interesting for plantation and lumbering records of southern Mississippi. It also contains many letters written from Montana during the 1870's and 1880's. The Liddell collection (1809-1937), 4,848 items, reflects planting life in Catahoula and East and West Feliciana parishes, and commercial interests in New Orleans. The Livingston Parish collection (1846-1869), 17 items, reveals local history in that parish. The Montpelier Academy collection of St. Helena Parish (1833-1840), 58 items, is interesting for its information on early education in Louisiana. The Patrick Murphey collection of Natchez (1830-1913) consists of 18 diaries, 24 time books, 8 memorandum books, 7 account books, 10 ledgers, and 711 unbound items. Murphey was an Irish immigrant who became an important Southwest Mississippi contractor and builder. The New Orleans Academy collection (1852-1870), 9 items, gives information on education in New Orleans. The New Orleans Faubourg collection contains some 150 large bound volumes which cover the last half of the nineteenth century and consists

of drainage records, journals, ledgers, plat books, tax records and cash books. It is particularly rich during the periods of the Civil War and Reconstruction. The Robert C. Wickliff collection, St. Francisville (1899-1914), 76 items, gives information concerning his career in Congress. Other small collections are the Paul Veut papers, Natchez; the Charles Taylor papers, Jackson, Louisiana; and the Ross plantation account books, Natchez.

OKLAHOMA

Activity of the Historical Records Survey in Oklahoma, under the leadership of Mr. Robert H. Slover, has brought to light a miscellaneous collection of territorial records. Located in the basement of a drug store in Guthrie, many of these papers are concerned with routine business of the territorial government—house calendars, house and council bills, reports to the governor, ledgers, cancelled checks, etc. Over twelve thousand items represent correspondence of succeeding secretaries of the territory from 1899 to 1907. One bundle includes a thousand applications made in 1890 for relief. The records have been placed in the custody of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and a check list has been made.

MINNESOTA

Reports of game wardens in Minnesota during the years 1901-1906, records of fish produced and distributed at state fisheries between 1917 and 1921, petitions for game refuges in 1915-1916, and correspondence regarding licenses are among the archives of the Game and Fish Commission, which have been transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society. The collection includes twenty filing boxes, eleven letterpress books kept by the executive agent of the commission in the years 1895 and 1898-1904, and two scrap-books of clippings.