

SHORTER NOTICES

EDWARD F. ROWSE, Editor

The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

The *Eighteenth Biennial Report of the Idaho State Historical Society, 1941-42* (Boise, 1942. 104 p.), consists of a six-page report of the board of trustees of the society; a briefer report of the librarian and state historian, Mrs. Ora B. Hawkins; a varied collection of notes and articles on historical subjects; and a list of accessions. These consisted chiefly of museum and library materials but included a few territorial and state records. The *Report* considered as a whole gives a good indication of the nature and purposes of such a historical society in a pioneer state. Special emphasis is placed upon the collection of museum materials illustrative of pioneer and Indian life, but the society also, in co-operation with the various county historians (provided for by an act of the state legislature in 1931), aims to preserve manuscript and printed materials of historical interest. The society was organized as the Idaho Pioneer Historical Society in 1881, when Idaho was still a territory, with membership limited to persons who had settled in Idaho prior to 1864. In 1907 it was made a department of the state, and at that time Mrs. Hawkins was appointed librarian; the term "state historian" was added to her title in 1939.

Of particular interest in the report of the board of trustees is a description of the projected state historical building. The building appears to have been designed largely for display purposes, although provision has been made for "storerooms" in the basement. Construction had barely been begun at the outbreak of the war and had to be almost immediately suspended. This may not be as unfortunate as it no doubt seemed. By the time construction can be resumed, it may be that Idaho will have followed other Rocky Mountain states in making legislative provision for the custody and storage of archival materials and will wish to revise the plans for the building.—MARION L. RICE

For Librarians, Collectors and Scholars (The Rosenbach Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1943. Pp. 134) is not a book for archivists, as is made clear by the title. One cannot turn many pages in it before coming to a small collection of documents relating to the discovery of Australia at the astonishingly reasonable price of \$78,500. The following pages list numerous items at such attractive quotations as \$14,750 or \$18,500 or \$47,500, in fact so many of them that when one comes to a nice little item for only \$185 one is tempted to mail a check immediately.

But the matter of price is not the reason why this catalogue is not for

archivists. The sad truth is that the treasures listed therein are not archives. There is official correspondence of Franklin dealing with the ratification of the treaty of peace with Great Britain; there are letters of Adams, Jefferson, Gallatin, and Washington. There is a first edition of the printed *Return of the First Census of the United States*, whereas the Bureau of the Census had only photostatic copies of this and the two succeeding censuses to transfer to the National Archives. An unrivalled collection of original records of the Philadelphia Post Office, with letters of Franklin, Ebenezer Hazard, Jefferson, Washington, John Hancock and others, far surpasses any records of the period in the possession of the Post Office Department.

Some of the documents listed were once official records. How they got out of official custody and thus lost their archival character cannot always be known. How they can recover the latter and return to the former is even a more formidable problem. They must evidently be left to librarians, collectors, and scholars, and of these the greatest are the collectors.—ARTHUR H. LEAVITT

NEWS NOTES

KARL L. TREVER, Editor

The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

Lester J. Cappon, secretary of the Society, announces the creation of a Committee on Writings on Archives and Manuscripts consisting of Karl L. Trever, chairman, Martin Claussen, Theodore C. Pease, Ernst Posner, and Alice E. Smith. The purpose of the committee is to plan and guide the preparation of an annual list of writings in the field of archives and manuscripts. It is anticipated that the first list, covering the year July, 1942-June, 1943, will be ready for publication in the October issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Suggestions concerning the nature of the compilation and bibliographical notes descriptive of items suitable for inclusion in it may be referred to the chairman at Room 200B, the National Archives.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A bill revising existing procedure governing the disposal of certain records of the United States government is currently awaiting action by Congress. The primary purpose of the bill is to prevent the disposal of records having administrative, legal, research, and other value sufficient to warrant continued preservation by the government, and to conserve space and filing equipment by facilitating the disposal of records lacking such value. The bill is also designed to reduce the clerical work involved in, and the time required for obtaining disposal authorization. The bill, H.R. 2943, Seventy-eighth Congress, First Session, and Committee Report No. 559, House Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers, dated June 16, 1943, are available to interested parties upon request from their representative or senator.

The National Archives has continued to receive many groups of Agriculture Department records as a result of the department's decision to transfer all its noncurrent records of administrative value and historical interest. The recent accessioning of the general files of the Bureau of Home Economics, 1917-1937, marked the completion of the transfer of the inactive central records of all the major Agriculture Department bureaus. Other accessions from the department include the general files of the Commodity Exchange Administration and its predecessor, the Grain Futures Administration, 1921-1939, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and its predecessor, the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, 1933-1940, and the Office of Civilian Conservation Corps Activities, 1933-1942.

Naval records in the National Archives are constantly being supplemented

by transfers from the department at Washington and to a lesser extent from the field. From the Navy Yard at Philadelphia have come records relating to its history and administration, including a "Waste Book," 1794-1801, containing an account of receipts and disbursements of timber, iron, rum, and money and references to some of the first ships to be built for the navy; letters from the Navy Commissioners, 1827-1831; logbooks of activities at the yard, 1841-1899; commandant's orders, 1860-1865; communications from the Secretary of the Navy, 1851, 1891-1896, and copies of letters to him, 1836-1852, 1881-1900; and navy yard and departmental orders, 1894-1913. The Philadelphia Naval Aircraft Factory has transferred a large series of correspondence, 1925-1930, on policy, organization, and administration. From the department at Washington have come the main correspondence files of the office of the secretary, 1932-1940; records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, consisting of proceedings of general courts-martial and of courts of inquiry and boards of investigation, 1916-1930, and of examining and retiring boards, 1940-1941; correspondence and other records of the Bureau of Ordnance, 1905-1926; and microfilm copies of engineering logs, 1917-1942, of the Bureau of Ships.

Notable among other recent accessions are the general correspondence files of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, 1822-1935; Coast Guard records, 1838-1941, consisting of vessel logs, station journals, correspondence, and fragmentary lighthouse records of Puerto Rico (1838-1890) and of the Virgin Islands (1911-1917); records of the former Consular Bureau of the State Department concerning American citizens abroad, 1914-1920; records of the former Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics, 1918-1919; including reports to the president and copies of data sent to the peace conference; records of the War Department Offices of the Surgeon General, 1928-1937, and the Chief Signal Officer, 1920-1942; and the unpublished final report of the director general of the discontinued Army Specialist Corps, 1942.

Recent publications of the National Archives designed to facilitate the work of agencies engaged in the prosecution of the war include a *Preliminary Inventory of the War Labor Policies Board Records*, compiled by Mary Walton Livingston and Leo Pascal, and three *Special Lists*: No. 3, *Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs Relating to the United States Military Government of Cuba, 1898-1902*, and the *United States Provisional Government of Cuba, 1906-1909*, compiled by Kenneth Munden; No. 4, *Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs Relating to Puerto Rico, 1898-1934*, compiled by Kenneth Munden and Milton Greenbaum; and No. 5, *Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs Relating to the Dominican Customs Receivership, 1905-1940*, compiled by Kenneth Munden. These *Special Lists* are intended to facilitate the study of problems of the administration of occupied territories. Also recently issued were *Public Records Under Military Occupation*, by

Ernst Posner, and *Wartime Cataloging of Motion-Picture Film*, by John G. Bradley.

Members of the staff of the National Archives who have recently been transferred or detailed to historical specialist, records officer, or similar positions in other government agencies include Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., special assistant to the archivist, to the War Production Board; Robert D. Hubbard, executive officer, to the Navy Department; Martin P. Claussen, of the Division of Labor Department Archives, and Nona-Murray Lucke, of the office of the Assistant Director of Records Accessioning and Preservation, to the War Department; Carl L. Lokke, of the office of Research and Records Description, to the Petroleum Administration for War; Stuart Portner, of the Division of War Department Archives, to the War Relocation Authority; and Albert H. Leisinger, Jr., of the Division of State Department Archives, and Albert Post, of the Division of Labor Department Archives, to the Board of Economic Warfare. Members of the staff who have recently entered the armed or auxiliary services include Herbert E. Angel, Frank E. Bridgers, Ernest R. Bryan, Robert Claus, Chester L. Guthrie, Fred C. Halley, Alfred C. Proulx, Charles L. Stout, and Eunice Whyte.

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

President Roosevelt has recently transferred to the library additional White House files, 1933-1941, consisting of correspondence, memoranda, reports, and other records relating to the operation and policies of federal agencies, to the interests and activities of such organizations as the American Red Cross, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Federation of Labor, and to such diversified subjects as immigration, disasters, taxes, music, women, and the theater. The files relating to government agencies contain correspondence between the White House and federal officials on matters of policy, administration, appointments, the allocation of funds, the planning of new functions, and relations with Congress, particularly with reference to legislation. The files relating to organizations or special interests contain, for the most part, letters urging the President's support of certain measures, such as pension legislation, or policies, such as the maintenance of equal rights for women in government work. Other White House records received include memoranda of telephone calls made and received by the President and his secretaries, 1933-1934; a chronological file of telegrams sent and received by the President, Mrs. Roosevelt, and the White House staff, 1933-1939; anonymous letters, 1942; and copies of the official stenographic reports of the President's addresses and press conferences, 1942.

The President has also sent to the library a file of invitations to him to speak at various functions, copies of his replies, and programs of meetings

attended, 1913-1919. Mr. Roosevelt's varied activities as assistant secretary of the navy, as a leader of the Democratic Party, and as an advocate of the League of Nations are interestingly reflected in these papers. Campaign strategy and Democratic strength on the eve of the 1936 presidential election and the political climate of the country in 1938 are discussed in letters sent to James A. Farley as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, copies of which have also been transferred to the library by the President.

A large file of Mrs. Roosevelt's correspondence, 1933-1939, has been received from the White House. It is arranged by subjects, such as philanthropies, lectures, writings, social welfare and educational activities, and social and business affairs.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Among recent accessions to the Division of Manuscripts of interest to archivists are the following: additional photoprints (representing 1,206 pages) of manuscripts in Spanish archives (Archivo General de Indias and Biblioteca Colombia in Seville and Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid), dated c. 1536 to 1635; one volume of votes and resolutions, September 2, 1777, to January 3, 1778, and letterbook, November 3, 1779, to February 6, 1782, of the Navy Board of the Eastern Department, of the Continental Congress; twenty-two letters from James Polk to Colonel Samuel H. Laughlin, pertaining to political matters, election of speaker of the House of Representatives in 1836, nomination of president and vice-president in 1840 and president in 1844, dated March 15, 1822, to July 16, 1845; journal of an unidentified field representative of the United States Christian Commission during the Civil War; twenty-four boxes of papers of the Russian Church (Greek Orthodox Catholic) in North America and the Aleutian Islands, including correspondence of Bishops Evdokim and Tikhon, dated mainly 1892 to 1917 (6,051 pieces, with list); one box of additional papers of George William Norris, dated July 6, 1942, to April 3, 1943, pertaining to political questions and including two letters from Franklin Delano Roosevelt (restricted); three volumes of papers of George Creel, consisting mainly of letters and notes by Woodrow Wilson and carbon copies of letters and notes by George Creel, written to Wilson or submitted for his opinion before publication, dated March 14, 1917, to November 26, 1918, and March 21, 1931 (restricted); nine volumes of scrapbooks of letters, documents, printed clippings, and leaflets, and two loose programs, relating to United States Liberty Loans, dated 1917 to 1919 and undated.

OFFICE OF RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT

The greatly accelerated influx of men into the naval service in the course of developing a complete two-ocean navy has caused a tremendous burden to

be placed upon those bureaus of the Navy Department more immediately concerned with the maintenance and well being of its personnel. This steadily increasing burden invariably resolves itself down to the processing, handling, and making of records which in turn requires a vastly increased office force to maintain.

In an attempt to offset one of the most troublesome and time consuming phases of operations among such bureaus—the preparation of routine correspondence and endorsements—a staff member of the Office of Records Administration was assigned to study the problem and develop a solution. From one such bureau there was obtained a copy of each outgoing letter during the course of one representative week, totaling approximately 7,850 copies. After careful study it was found that 5,350 letters, or 68 per cent, fitted naturally into forty subject content categories readily adaptable to form-letter streamlining. As a result it is possible to reduce by approximately 54 per cent the total amount of typing required for outgoing correspondence in that bureau. The remaining 2,500 letters, or 32 per cent, were found to be already fully adapted, or not adaptable to the form type of letter.

Thus it is possible to reduce the work load when the pressure is greatest, while at the same time maintaining control of, or reducing the volume of accruing correspondence records at the point of origin. Other studies are presently being made to determine the applicability and to provide for the more extensive use of form letters in the other bureaus of the department.

A microfilming project to provide film copies of the plans of a certain type of ship, together with projectors and enlarging equipment for repair activities ashore and afloat, proved so successful that it has been extended to include engine and aircraft plans, as well as those for additional classes of ships. These microfilm copies will enable the outlying bases and repair facilities to make repairs and alterations on fighting craft in a small fraction of the time previously required.

The program for the systematic retirement of records, which had previously been applied with marked success in the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, is now being extended to the entire Navy Department, to certain field activities, and to the United States Fleet. Inventories of the records of all the bureaus in Washington have been or are being completed, and records retirement schedules will be approved in the near future for the Executive Office of the Secretary, the Bureau of Ships, the Bureau of Aeronautics, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Though the records retirement program is just getting well under way, over ten thousand cubic feet of records have already been disposed of in connection with the preparation or through the application of the schedules.

Lieutenant Herbert E. Angel, USNR, formerly assistant to the archivist of the United States, has been appointed to the staff of the Office of Records Administration as officer in charge of the archival service; Robert D. Hub-

bard, associate director, was recently enrolled as a lieutenant (j.g.) in the USNR; James R. O'Brien has joined the staff as assistant to the chief of the microfilming service.

FOREIGN NEWS

Argentina

The magazine *Informaciones Argentinas* for January 15, 1943, carries a report of the creation of an Archivo Gráfico de la Nación. In the future, all governmental agencies will be required to deposit with the Archivo Gráfico copies of photographic reproductions that are made of ceremonies, private or official, public buildings and offices, and in general, all photographs bearing any agency's "technical or documentary title." The Archivo is also authorized to receive negatives that "dependencies" of the state may desire to send to it. Copies of film produced by or at the direction of the Instituto Cinematográfico del Estado, either of an informative or of a propaganda nature, are to be sent to the Archivo. The Archivo was created for the purpose of preserving in a faithful form for the future, the official records of events relating to the life or history of the country and its institutions.

Australia

In accord with proposals made by the prime minister in a letter dated June 19, 1942, a War Archives Committee was constituted to develop a broad program for the collection and preservation of records and documents relating to the war. Its duties included "(i) to investigate the matter; (ii) to lay down broad principles to be observed by Commonwealth Departments and war-time authorities in connexion with the matter; (iii) to maintain a general supervision of such collection and preservation"; and to formulate suggestions respecting the collecting and preservation of war records within the several Australian states. The committee's report has much of interest for American archivists. The following summary appears as part of the document:

Summary of Recommendations

1. That the War Archives Committee together with the National Library and the Australian War Memorial be constituted the provisional archival authorities of the Commonwealth.
2. That the War Archives Committee include, in addition to its present number, the editor of the Official War History (is appointed) and the Acting Director of the Australian War Memorial; the Committee to be responsible for laying down guiding principles to be observed in connection with the destruction of records and the collection and preservation of archives, and for co-ordinating the archival work of the National Library and Australian War Memorial.
3. That the Australian War Memorial and the National Library be the repositories

for the archives along the lines of the allocation laid down in paragraph 17 of the attached report and be responsible for the care and custody of archives lodged with them and for keeping them in such manner as to be readily accessible to Commonwealth Departments concerned and to the Official Historian, as and when required.

4. That directions be given, under statutory authority, to Departments as to the procedure to be followed in disposing of records.
5. That a qualified "archives officer" be appointed to supervise the collection and preservation of archives lodged with the National Library and to advise and assist Departments in the disposal of their records.
6. That Ministers, ex-Ministers, overseas Envoys, Heads of Departments and of important Boards and Commissions etc., be asked to consider the entrusting of their records to the appropriate archival authority.
7. That [a] copy of this report and of the directions to Commonwealth Departments (when issued) be sent by the Prime Minister to State Premiers for guidance in connection with the treatment of war records of the States.
8. That the Defence Department be requested to make tentative arrangements with the Allied Headquarters in the South West Pacific to obtain the records, or copies thereof, for retention by the Commonwealth.

(The Committee estimates that the steps recommended would cost not more than £500 in the current year and £1,000 in the subsequent years.)

The Committee desires to suggest for the consideration of the Government that, as part of its reconstruction plans, attention be given at the appropriate time to the question of the establishment of a complete archives system with adequate staff and equipment.

South Australia (Adelaide)

From the annual report of the Libraries Board for the year July, 1941-June, 1942, we learn that when Japan entered the war, over five hundred cases and bundles of documents, embracing practically the whole of the archives, were sent by the board to public and private buildings in various parts of the country, and the Archives Department was closed on May 24, 1942. It is reported that the conversion of basements into air raid shelters has led to the pulping of immense quantities of official records, twenty-seven notices of intention to destroy having been received during the year by the department. Fortunately most of the material was considered historically useless, but all of it was examined by representatives of the department, and some series were saved from destruction. As a precautionary measure, the department undertook the production of a photographic record of city architecture, and photographs were taken of eighty-four buildings.

British Columbia

Willard Ireland, provincial archivist, is on leave serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Cuba

A statement concerning the laying of the cornerstone of the new Cuban

National Archives building, October 14, 1942, has been noted in the *Mensajes de la Corporación de Bibliotecarios, Archiveros, y Conservadores de Museos del Caribe*, Año II, No. 4-7 (January-December, 1942). The president of the republic, Gen. Batista, participated in the ceremony. A photograph of the ceremony is printed in *Boletín* No. 3 (December, 1942) of the Unión Interamericana del Caribe.

Dominican Republic

A short history of the archives of the republic by Luis Rodríguez Guerra is to be found on pp. [45]-51 of *Boletín* No. 3 (December, 1942) of the Unión Interamericana del Caribe.

Great Britain

E. J. Carter, librarian of the Royal Institute of British Architects, recently visited the United States to study the situation here relative to the reproduction of scholarly material by microfilm. Mr. Carter spent some time at the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

The British Records Association has issued seven memoranda pertaining to the preservation of records. These small leaflets are titled as follows:

1. Obsolete Poor Law Records: Brief Hints on Review and Selection for Salvage (undated).
2. The Safeguarding of Parish Records (April, 1942).
3. Records: What Should We Try to Save? (May, 1942).
4. Salvage From the Solicitor's Office (August, 1942).
5. Old Parchments (October, 1942).
6. First Aid for Damaged Manuscripts (December, 1942).
7. Modern Records: What May We Destroy? (March, 1943).

The larger part of *Memorandum* No. 3 was reprinted in THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, v (October, 1942), 269-71.

Peru

Some forty thousand manuscripts and a hundred thousand books were lost when fire recently destroyed the building of the national library of Peru at Lima. Many of the documents related to the Spanish conquest, the war for independence, and the early years of the republic.

GENERAL NEWS

American funds, supplied by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, financed in the 1930's a card catalogue of part of the manuscript collection in the Vatican Library. By 1938 the undertaking was sufficiently well advanced to justify the publication of a set of cataloguing rules under the

title *Norme per l'Indice Alfabetico dei Manoscritti*. This product of the combined efforts of a group of experts was not widely circulated in the United States. Since its usefulness to American archivists and manuscript custodians is further limited by the language in which the manual is printed, William Jerome Wilson, a member of the staff of the Office of Price Administration, is seeking permission of Vatican authorities to translate the rules into English.

Archivists, custodians of manuscripts, private collectors of and dealers in manuscript materials will find interesting an editorial entitled "Librarians, Collectors, Dealers: Three Way Collaboration," printed in *The Collector* for March-April, 1943, by Mary A. Benjamin.

ALABAMA

The Department of Archives and History reports the appointment of Miss Sue Tippen as assistant state archivist. David L. Darden, formerly head of the maps and manuscripts section of the department, is now in the military service.

DELAWARE

By arrangement with the Delaware Archives Commission, the Delaware Historical Society has had several of its manuscript collections repaired and laminated during the last fiscal year. The manuscript collection of the society has been enriched recently by the addition of the papers of several prominent Delaware families. Among these are the Duponceau, Garesche, and Baudry papers, the Corbit Spruance Higgins papers, and the Gilpin Estate papers. The *Annual Report* of the society for the year 1942 is now available for distribution.

KANSAS

During the past year several of the state departments took advantage of the provisions of the archives law and turned over to the State Historical Society over half a million pieces of archival material. Among those depositing the greatest bulk of records were the offices of the secretary of state, the state auditor, the state Board of Agriculture, the bank commissioner, and the live-stock sanitary commissioner. A list of interesting private manuscript collections recently acquired by the society is to be found in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for February, 1943, p. 94.

MARYLAND

The Hall of Records has completed photostating the Frederick County Court Proceedings from 1748 to 1783; the Frederick County Accounts from

1775 to 1823; and the Prince George's County Land Records from 1649 to 1788. The originals of these volumes are now to be found at the Hall of Records and the photostat copies at the county seats. In the case of the early land records of Frederick County that are now being microfilmed the arrangement will be reversed, the county retaining the original volumes.

A collection of Maryland admiralty court records has recently been transferred to the Hall of Records. This material was formerly found at the Maryland Historical Society and in the Record Office of the Baltimore City Courthouse. By also acquiring a microcopy of Maryland admiralty court records in the Library of Congress, the Hall of Records now has all admiralty records of the state that are known to be extant.

Lloyd A. Brown, formerly curator of maps at the William L. Clements Library, is now librarian at Peabody Institute, Baltimore. William D. Hoyt, Jr., previously on the staff of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, is now assistant director of the Maryland Historical Society.

MICHIGAN

G. N. Fuller, secretary of the Michigan Historical Commission, reports the passage by the 1943 legislature of Senate Bill 209 amending Public Act 271 (1913) that created the commission. Under the revised provisions of Section 5 the directing authority of each governmental agency is required to present annually a list of records regarded as useless, upon receipt of which the commission is instructed to examine the records and requisition the transfer of those which have historical value. Within ten days after the transfer of all papers requisitioned by the commission, the agency notifies the State Administrative Board on the nature of the remainder for final instructions respecting destruction or other disposal of the records. School offices are included among state, county, city, village, and township offices as coming within the scope of the amended act, and records of historical value no longer in current use may be requisitioned after ten years instead of thirty years as formerly provided.

Another piece of legislation, sponsored by the commission but failing of passage, provided for an appropriation of \$100,000 for the purchase of land and the construction of the first unit of a fireproof building to house the state archives. Since the Senate unanimously favored these provisions, Mr. Fuller anticipates that the needs of the commission for adequate quarters will be considered under the recent legislation making an \$8,000,000 appropriation for certain post-war construction at state institutions.

The William L. Clements Library has just accessioned the business, family, and bibliographical correspondence of George Brinley and George Brinley, Jr. The elder Brinley was a prosperous New England merchant with wide connections, and his son became famous as a collector of Americana.

The library now has available for free distribution a pamphlet describing its recent exhibition of Jefferson material. Colton Storm is the new curator of maps at the library, succeeding Lloyd A. Brown.

MINNESOTA

Among the accessions to the Minnesota Historical Society listed in the March, 1943, issue of *Minnesota History* are: Some papers of Charles N. Berry, first attorney general of the state; seventy-one account books of the firm of T. B. Sheldon & Co., grain commission dealers and coal merchants at Red Wing, 1808-1914; papers of Olin D. Wheeler, a member of the survey of the Rocky Mountain region directed by Maj. J. W. Powell; papers relating to the history of the aerial bridge at Duluth, 1870-1936, and to the St. Paul Charter Commission, 1901-1920; additional records of the St. Paul Fire Insurance Patrol.

The University of Minnesota Archives Committee, headed by Raymond A. Jackson of Minneapolis, is collecting material relative to the history of the university. Suitable quarters are to be provided by the university for the collection as it develops.

MISSOURI

The *Missouri Historical Review* for April, 1943, announces that the Rockefeller Foundation has provided a grant of \$15,000 for a project to add to the present available collections of source material on western history. This project, designed to make Missouri a center of research in the history of the culture of the western prairie and great plains region, will be the collection of personal accounts of travelers, letters, diaries, newspapers, magazines, business and church records, and personal memoirs. The department of history of the University of Missouri, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the University of Missouri library will co-operate in expanding the present collections of primary data. The program will be under the supervision of William Francis English, assistant professor of history at the university. He will serve as field man for the project to canvass business houses, old Missouri families, and professional and social organizations to locate valuable manuscripts relating to Missouri's past as well as to the whole field of western history. An effort will be made to obtain these manuscripts as gifts, but where outright gifts cannot be obtained and the material is of unusual significance, an attempt will be made to secure a copy on microfilm for preservation. In other cases ownership will remain with the individual family but the data may be stored in the fireproof files of the State Historical Society and university libraries.

NORTH CAROLINA

The 1943 General Assembly voted to change the name of the North Carolina Historical Commission to the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History. The department has accessioned recently ten additional volumes of records of the clerk of the court in Orange County, 1786-1857. These include Court of Equity records, Superior Court minutes (Hillsborough District), appearance and trial dockets, inventories, and guardian accounts.

Miss Charlie Huss has been appointed to serve as the department's collector of war records, succeeding Elmer D. Johnson, resigned, while Mrs. Ellen M. Rollins is to succeed Miss Geraldine Coburn, also resigned, as collector of records for the Hall of History.

TEXAS

The Dallas Historical Society announces the acquisition of the personal papers of William Lewis Cabell, Brigadier General, C.S.A.

VERMONT

Mr. Earle W. Newton, director of the Vermont Historical Society, reports that the legislature recently in session provided for a reconstitution of the membership of the state Public Records Commission, made an appropriation to expedite its work, and authorized the preparation of plans for the economical central arrangement of space, equipment, and personnel necessary for the care of the state's noncurrent records.

The new legislation establishes the membership of the commission as the secretary of state, the chairman of the board of directors of the historical society, adding the director of the society and the state librarian as new members, and one other appointed member in place of the three members formerly appointed. A public records examiner will be appointed to work under the direction of the commission in determining the special requirements of a centralized archives program for the state and to carry out the work assigned to the commission. The commission will report to the legislature at its next session a plan for a state archives on the basis of the findings of the public records examiner.

WYOMING

An act of the recent session of the legislature has made provision for the work of the State Historical Department of Wyoming as the state's archival agency. The procedure governing the disposal or transfer of records is outlined and the state historian or his deputy is authorized to examine state

records for the purpose of determining their historical value and promoting their safety and preservation. County records may be centralized upon approval of the boards of county commissioners and the librarian of the county library; where there is no county librarian the county superintendent of schools is to be consulted. The attorney general is empowered to retrieve, by replevin, "any public records which were formerly part of the records or files of any public office of the Territory or State of Wyoming." Copies of records in the custody of the historical department are given full legal force comparable to the certification of the original custodian of the records.