

Columbus State University

CSU ePress

Archives and Special Collections Newsletter

CSU Libraries

Spring 2019

The Archival Advocate (Spring 2019)

David Owings

Shelby Johnson

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THE ARCHIVAL ADVOCATE

A newsletter from the Columbus State University Archives

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the CSU Archives' very own newsletter! We have long desired to better communicate with our supporters about what is happening in the Archives, including promoting new acquisitions, newly processed collections, and simply featuring the many gems hidden throughout our many collections. Our current plan is to publish an edition at least bi-annually but that may expand to quarterly issues if popular. So please look forward to future issues. Please also feel welcome to send along article suggestions if you find something interesting in the Archives or if you know of someone working on a research project we might feature.

This newsletter is made possible due to the generous support of our friends group, Advocates for the Archives, and by our student intern this semester, Shelby Johnson.

- David Owings

Upcoming Renovation

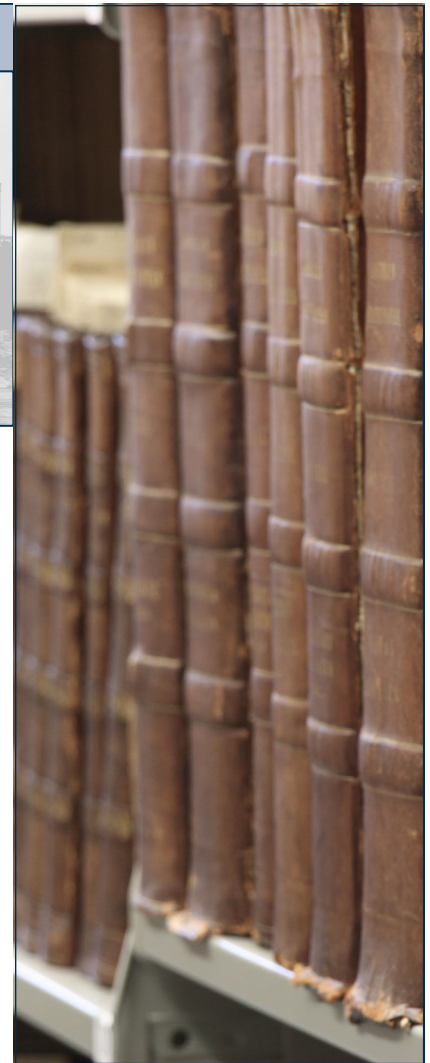
Columbus State University secured funding as part of Georgia's 2018-2019 fiscal year that began July 1, 2018 to begin a major renovation of the main campus Simon Schwob Memorial Library. There will be many visible changes throughout all floors and some, while not seen, will certainly be felt such as a complete overhaul of the HVAC System.

One key element of the Schwob Library renovation project involves the CSU Archives. The Archives will move to the ground floor of the library, allowing for a number of transformative changes. A new reading room will help archival staff better meet the needs of researchers, including students, local community members, and visiting scholars. A new multipurpose room will expand archival operations in areas of classroom instruction and outreach, accommodating large class groups needing assistance in conducting archival research and hosting programs for the community such as workshops on preserving family history. Most important, however, is the new collections storage vault. New environmental controls will ensure the preservation of the Archives' priceless collections that include material dating back to the 1590s.

Construction began in May and is expected to last a year for the entire project. The Archives portion of the renovation will hopefully be finished much earlier though, with an anticipated completion this summer.

For live updates and weekly summaries see our renovation blog at:

columbusstate.libguides.com/csulibreno/home



CSU ARCHIVES

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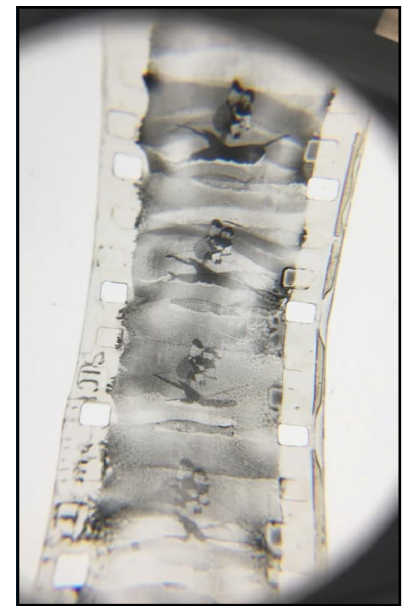


COLUMBUS
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Reels and Canisters: Film in the Archives

Matthias Smith, past Archives intern, put his love for film and film preservation to use by diligently working to process and preserve this specialty media at the CSU Archives. Smith is a double major in History and Art History and is currently studying European film at Oxford University. Prior to interning at the Archives, Smith attended a Film Conservation course at UCLA's California Rare Book School where he began his journey with film preservation. During his internship, Smith's work included: identifying film contents, assessing their condition, making repairs, and cataloging the films.

Smith discovered that the Archives had approximately 180 reels across its collections. Of these films, the two largest collections are the Royal Crown Cola Collection (MC 204) and the Colonel Richard R. Hallock Collection (MC 284). Included in the Hallock collection was footage from World War II, Nazi propaganda, and parachute testing footage. The R.C. Cola Collection contained a variety of advertisements including commercials. Additionally, the Archive's film holdings contain a reel from Carson McCullers' wedding, French prints of Paramount shorts, Pasaquan footage, a silent-era comedy, and newsreels. Many of the film reels are in 16mm format, but a few are 35mm and 8mm formats. Smith's favorite pieces of the film collections were two Popeye the Sailor cartoons from the 1930s.



Fritz und Fratz: Onkel Bei Den Menschenfressern, a Nazi era cartoon, suffering from acetate decay (or vinegar syndrome). The film shrinks, bubbles, and crackles until it turns into a crystalized block.

“For me, film has always been an important part of my life. Much like literature, I think it has the ability to capture emotion as well as act as a window to the world, to be an invaluable human asset.” - Matthias Smith



Smith examining a film reel using a rewriter and lightbox

In order to view and assess the conditions of the films, Smith used a rewind (which allows films to be examined without touching the ground) and a lightbox (which allow films to be examined without projection). He determined that many films are unfortunately in various states of decay. A number of older films were deteriorating due to Acetate Decomposition or Vinegar Syndrome. According to Smith, the biggest problem was that many were still in their original film canisters, which had developed rust and prevented proper air circulation. He also noticed that some films had developed tears over time. Fortunately, Smith was able to mend these tears and splice together films that had previously split apart.

As part of Smith's ongoing assessment, he is identifying which films are most at risk for being unrecoverable and which of those are not commercially produced and not existing elsewhere. Those that need extra care will be placed in cold storage until they can be sent to specialist conservation labs for care and digitization.

Continued on page 8.

Profit \$4262 3

Sale of Negroes 1858

May 5	Peter. Prid	\$870
" 27	James Neal.	800
	Koutetius	850
" 28	Wm. N. Stewart	850
May 14	Col Adolphus Sanford	875
May 5	J. B. Brown	750
" 5	Barron	800
" 5	Barron	800
" 5	F. A. Jones	1000
" 5	Barron	1000
July 29	J. J. Heard.	1025

Excerpt from page three of the Hatcher & McGehee ledger book

Hatcher & McGehee Slave Register

One of the Archive's most fragile documents is a ledger book from the Hatcher and McGehee slave trading company. The book is a record of the purchase and sale of slaves from 1858 to 1860. The company was run by Samuel J. Hatcher, a native of Virginia, and Allen Clements McGehee, a native of Jones County, Georgia. According to the 1860 Columbus City Directory, the other two "slave depots" were Harrison & Pitts and S. Ogletree.

A summary transcript of the register was published by Callie McGinnis in *Muscogiana*, Summer 1993, Vol. 4 Nos. 1 and 2. McGinnis states that "it show the number of slaves sold and to whom, but also the cost of maintenance for slaves. Not only are individuals sold, but mothers and children, couples, and even whole families. The period covered in the transaction book is April 21, 1858 - April 4, 1860. This is when the slave selling business was at its height. A week later, Samuel Hatcher died."

The Archives is currently pursuing options to digitize the slave register and upload it online to the Digital Archives so that we can retire for safekeeping the original copy and direct researchers to the digitized images.

PRICE OF A SLAVE

The sale price of a slave varied by age, gender, skin color, motherhood status, marital status and year of the sale. Here is an excerpt of names and prices of slaves sold from Hatcher & McGehee.

Men:

- Thom (Yellow man) \$1250, 1858
- Andrew \$1400, 1859
- Frank \$1560, 1860

Women:

- Louisa (Yellow) \$850, 1858
- Janny (Black) \$1150, 1858
- Mary Ann \$1200, 1859
- Henrietta \$1400, 1860

Mothers and Children:

- Manvera & 6 Children \$4000, 1858
- Sarah & 2 Children \$1650, 1859
- Angelina & 3 Children \$2050, 1860

Couples/Families:

- Georgia & Jacob \$1200, 1858
- George, Wife & 3 Children \$2900, 1859
- Rachel & Aggy \$1800, 1860

THE BIBB

The Bibb Manufacturing Company was more than a series of cotton and textile mills throughout central Georgia. Opening their doors in 1878, the Bibb Manufacturing Co. continued to grow well into the 1950s, but declined in the late 1990s. Bibb Manufacturing Co. mills could be found in Macon, Columbus, Porterdale, Vineville, and many other central Georgia cities. As the company's economic gain began to grow, so to did surrounding communities. By the 1920s mill communities contained churches, schools, and recreational facilities funded by Bibb Manufacturing Co.



View of Bibb Mill



Bibb "Recorder" Dispenser

Bibb Manufacturing Photos Added to the Digital Archives

Last summer we were fortunate to have Sylvia Marshall intern with us in the Archives. She came to us from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. While she is not a student at Columbus State, she is from this area and sought us out while she was home for the summer. She spent countless hours on a relatively new acquisition: a series of photos from the Bibb Manufacturing Company. She not only arranged and described every photograph, she also digitized each one and uploaded them to our online Digital Archives. The entire collection encompasses six boxes with 600 photographs viewable online.

The collection of photographs and negatives is now referenced as the Bibb Manufacturing Company Photograph Collection (MC384). It consists of photographs and negatives from around Bibb City and Columbus. Subjects range from individual portraits and family photos to pictures of the Bibb Columbus mill and scenes from around Bibb City. Images range from the early 1940s to the late 1960s. While these photographs document the mills and their operations, more importantly, the photographs capture what daily life outside of the mills. Scenes document children's and adult sports teams, school plays, church services, birthdays, Christmas parties, and so much more.

To find out more about the Bibb Manufacturing Company and see the digitized photographs visit:

archives.columbusstate.edu/findingaids/mc384.php

digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/collections/show/39

digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/items/browse?collection=39



Bibb City School Football Squad



Col. #1 Spinning Safety Committee. From left to right: Edgar Renfroe, Fay Chambers, Linzy Harrell, Opal Odom, J.J. Russell, Ivey Moody, and Smith Dansby.



Supervisors from the Bibb Mill in Columbus at a Fish and Chicken Dinner on the river

Archive Staff Highlights



Jessie Merrell
 Archival Associate
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Jessie Merrell began in the CSU Archives in January 2019 as Archival Associate. She holds an A.S. in Business Administration from Gordon State College and a B.A. in History from the University of West Georgia with a minor in English Literature. She also holds advanced graduate public history coursework from the University of West Georgia. While earning her degree, Jessie fell in love with museum and archives and began to focus her career goals within the field. She served as a garden volunteer at Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta and served as Curator of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society's McRitchie-Hollis Museum for five years. Jessie's areas of interest include Russian Imperial History, West Virginia Coal Mine Wars and American Culture of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.

Jessie is a member of several organizations including the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG), American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), and Emerging Museum Professionals (EMP). She is also an active participant in the online community known as Connections to Collections Care.

When not engaged in the archives, Jessie enjoys reading, photography, and exploring new places throughout her loved state of Georgia.

Archives FAQ

Q: When are you open?

A: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm ; 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Q: Are appointments required?

A: No, but they are recommended since seating is limited.

Q: Where is the Archives located?

A: We are currently located on the third floor of the main campus Schwob Library but will be moving over the summer of 2019 to the ground level of the Schwob Library.

Q: Do you provide reproduction services?

A: Archives staff can provide this for a fee. There is also a Scannx station in the reading room available at no charge for all patrons.

Q: How can I begin my research at the Archives?

A: There are multiple methods including keyword searching and browsing our finding aids. The best place to start is: archives.columbusstate.edu/research.php



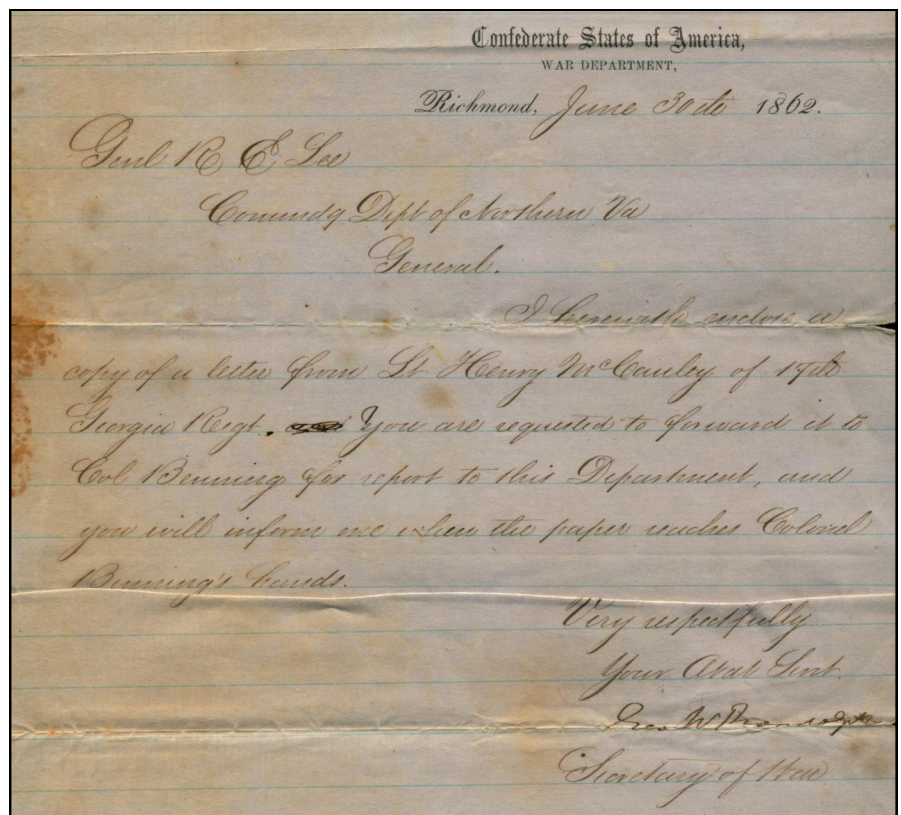
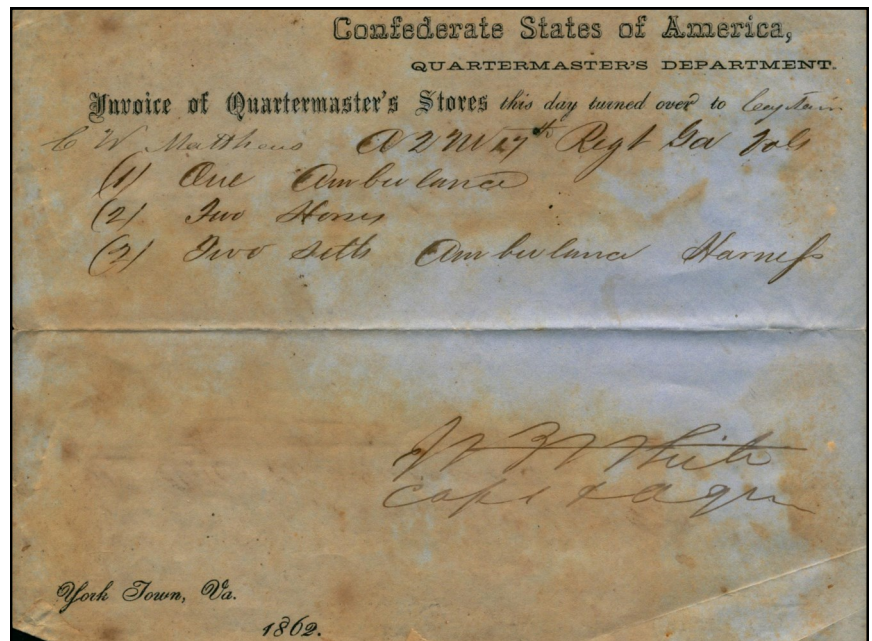
Civil War Goes Digital

Last year, the Civil War era letters and documents of General Henry Benning, for whom Fort Benning was named, was added to the Digital Library of Georgia. Approximately 120 documents were digitized and uploaded for online access for people to view around the world. The DLG also provided standardized meta-data, meaning the collection is fully described and keyword searchable. Previously, the CSU Archives was awarded one of the DLG's inaugural digitization grants, which made this project possible.

General Benning is an important figure in Georgia's history, who resonates nationally because of his role in the Civil War. He participated in twenty-one engagements throughout the Civil War including Antietam, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga. His regiment was at first part of the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee and later under Braxton Bragg in the Army of Tennessee. During the Battle of Antietam he earned the nickname "Old Rock" due to his regiment's unfaltering defense of the Confederate right flank. By 1863, he had been promoted to Brigadier General. He continued to serve in that capacity until Lee's surrender at Appomattox. After the war, Benning returned to Columbus and resumed practicing law until his death in 1875.

To view the digitized items visit:

dlg.usg.edu/collection/columbus_ghlb



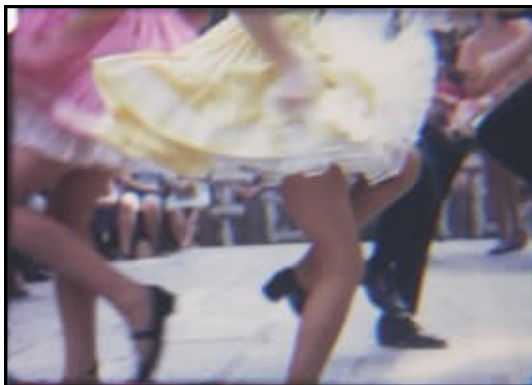
Above: Quartermaster's Report, 1862

Below: Letter to General Robert E. Lee from Confederate Secretary of War George W. Randolph.



Above: Smith examining a curling reel in late stage decay. The powdery substance from film can easily be inhaled so it is important to use protective gear.

Below: Images Smith captured from film reels in the Archives.



**Festive dancers
and a mysterious
eye both seen at
a Pasaquan
festival circa
1971**



**Left: Nancy
Sinatra seen in
fragments from
her years as RC
Cola's
spokeswoman.**

**Right: A rare end
credit logo for
Paramount
Pictures in
French, circa
1937.**



“Found in the Archives” Spotlight

TELEPHONE CLEMENTS HARDWARE CO. 649-3243		TELEPHONE CLEMENTS FUNERAL HOME 649-2478	
BUENA VISTA, GA. <i>Jan. 14 - 1963</i>			
<i>M. Vasor E. Kinard Service # 843404</i>			
IN ACCOUNT WITH CHAS. M. CLEMENTS HARDWARE — FURNITURE — FUNERAL DIRECTORS AMBULANCE SERVICE			
<i>1963</i>			
<i>Jan-12</i>	<i>To Casket Embalming Services</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>495 00</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Transportation from Dublin, Ga.</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>to Buena Vista, Ga. - 108 Miles at 5¢ per mi</i>	<i>54 00</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Grave Vault</i>	<i>100 00</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>10 00</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Underclothing - socks & shirt</i>	<i>7 95</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>3 Cut Copies of Death Cert</i>	<i>3 00</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>10 00</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>10 00</i>	
			<i>\$684 95</i>

A receipt from Chas. M. Clements company that offered hardware, furniture, funeral and ambulance services. Dated January 14, 1963. This particular receipt shows the purchase of a casket, flowers, and a minister among other things.

Found in the Buena Vista General Store Collection (MC 222).

Rare Book Corner

C. IVLII. Caesaris Quae Extant Ex Emendatione Ios. Scaligeri.

A 1635 reprinting of works by Julius Caesar. Pictured from left to right is the title page and a fold out map displaying Europe during the time of Caesar.

This book was previously owned by Tobias Bzork [sp?] but was later given to the Archives by David Grindle as part of his Rare Book Collection.





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Columbus, GA 31907

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ARCHIVES

The Advocates for the Archives (AFTA) supports the CSU Archives in its mission to document and preserve the history and culture of Columbus and the broader Chattahoochee Valley area. Our annual giving program, funded by member contributions, provides us with critical support for ensuring our collections are preserved for future generations including sending documents to specialized conservation labs for treatment when needed.

Everyone is invited to become an advocate by contributing to the annual giving program. Please consider joining us; your donation is an investment in history. The Archives also welcomes physical donations of research materials. If you have, or know of, materials which relate to the history of Columbus or the surrounding area, please contact us. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information about becoming an Advocate contact:

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To make an online contribution to the CSU Archives visit: archives.columbusstate.edu/giving

