



Society of Florida Archivists

THE FLORIDA ARCHIVIST

Dear SFA Members,

The SFA Board meets four times a year to discuss operations and explore ways to further our impact in the Florida archives community. The Board met via conference call in January and April to discuss the upcoming conference and methods for improving the membership database.



Michael Zaidman
President

In the past, we have used Microsoft Word and Excel to keep track of our members. Since the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and a number of state archival organizations use a cloud system to manage their membership databases, we have proposed to do the same. A committee researched costs and requirements and ultimately selected Wild Apricot Software as the best system to fulfill our needs. Wild Apricot will allow members to register for workshops and conferences online, update contact information and keep their addresses current. This is a win-win opportunity, and the Board looks forward to serving you better in this capacity. If you would like to assist with the database transition, feel free to contact me.

The Local Arrangements Committee for the annual conference usually changes each year. Going forward, the Board would like to maintain a core group of individuals who have experience coordinating accommodations, meeting spaces and sponsorships, with one or two locals assigned to handling onsite operations. The Committee will not only provide guidance and support to local arrangements chairs but will draft a manual for SFA conference coordination. Speaking of local arrangements, although we know we are heading to Tallahassee in 2013 to celebrate our 30th anniversary, we are now on the lookout for hosts for the 2012 and 2014 meetings. If you are interested, please let me know. The Local Arrangements Committee is ready to help you!

Last month, the Judith Beale Student Scholarship Committee raised some concerns regarding guidelines strictly designating the award as a graduate student scholarship program. Since the state of Florida has only a few archival graduate programs, the pool of potential applicants is limited. It also was noted that many professionals do not have the means to attend the annual meeting and would be interested in receiving financial support. During the most recent Board meeting, a motion was approved to change the name of the fund to the Judith Beale Scholarship, dropping the word "Student." The scholarship will now be offered to undergraduate and graduate students as well as professionals who need financial assistance to attend the SFA conference. This might open the floodgates a little bit, but it still will be up to the committee to decide which applications merit funding within budget.

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ANNUAL MEETING INFO



What better place for archivists to convene than a city known for its history? This year, the Society of Florida Archivists' Annual Meeting returns to St. Augustine to "Bring New Knowledge to the Nation's Oldest City." The conference, being held May 4 - 6, will offer attendees nearly three full days of presentations and networking opportunities. This is one conference that you don't want to miss!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

9 AM - 4 PM Photographic History, Preservation & Digitization: Skills and Strategies for Working with Collections, *Sandra Varry* (Lunch on your own, 12 - 1:30 PM)

4 - 4:30 Disaster Response on the Cultural Front: Collaboration to Save the Cultural Heritage in Haiti, *Brooke Wooldridge*

4:45 - 6 Board of Directors meeting

6:15 Reception, Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche



THURSDAY, MAY 5

8 - 9 AM Continental Breakfast sponsored by The Crowley Company

8:30 - 9:45 Creating a Web Presence for Your Photographic Collections and Finding Aids, *Leslie Siegel*

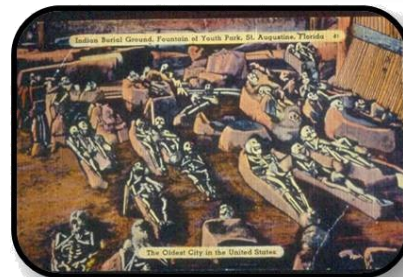
10 - 11:15 Outreach Success in Corporate Archives, *Michael Zaidman*

11:30 AM - 2 PM Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, Columbia Restaurant

2:30 - 3:45 Cabinets of Curiosity, *Liz Dunham and Pattie Smith*

4 - 5:15 Saving St. Augustine's Architectural Treasures: Conservation and Digitization of Architectural Drawings, *Leslee Keys, John Nemmers, John Freund, Kim Tinnell, and Laurie Taylor*

5:30 Reception, Markland House



FRIDAY, MAY 6

9 - 10:15 AM Documenting History through Teamwork: Student-Faculty Collaborative Research at Rollins College & Florida State University Special Collections and Archives, *Wenxian Zhang, Burt Altman, Alia Allie and Jennifer Ritter*

10:45 AM - 12 PM Creating the Space and Staff for a Growing Archival Collection, *Alyssa Folse and Kristen Fiato*

12 - 1 Lunch on Your Own

1 Tour, Sisters of St. Joseph Archives

BOYNTON'S MYSTERY MAN

Submitted by Janet Devries
Boynton Beach Public Library

The distinguished gentleman stares out from the old photograph. He sports short, carefully combed hair, a clean shaven face, and extremely long sideburns. But, who is he? His identity remains a mystery.



A furniture refinisher discovered a hidden drawer underneath an old display cabinet. Perhaps it wasn't really a secret drawer, but the drawer was stuck closed and no one knew of its existence until the professional revealed its contents- historical society papers and newspapers, a newspaper from 1968, two Boynton post office ledgers dated 1913 and 1921, and this photo.

I put the 14" x 18" crayon portrait (a charcoal-enhanced photograph) on display in a vintage cameras and photographs exhibition. A news reporter saw the unusual man in the image and inquired about his identity. When I replied that I didn't know, the question was followed by "Where did it come from?" The provenance of the photo is also a mystery. What archive doesn't have unidentified photographs? And, why the fuss over a guy in a picture?

After hearing the story, the local news broadcast the mystery man along with the caption "Most Wanted." Due to the far-reaching power of the Internet and social media, the image was shown around the world. Since then, people have been trying to identify "mystery man" and have been sending in clues. One of

the most noteworthy tips came from Maureen Taylor, an internationally recognized photo identification and history expert who has written several books on the intersection of history, genealogy, and photography, including *Fashionable Folks Hairstyles, 1840-1900*. The *Bostonian* called with evidence to the photo's age based on hairstyle, clothing and type of photographic image.

Ms. Taylor said that the photograph dates from around 1880. She agreed that his notable hairstyle included the once popular Burnside-style sideburns but noted that by 1880s standards they were quite exaggerated. The photo detective also said, "The short hair combined with the facial hair confirms the date. His jacket and tie are also the style from the circa 1880 period. He really liked to show off!"

The news re-broadcast the story with some of the new clues. The furniture with the hidden drawer was traced to Mr. G.A. Stevenson, owner of Stevenson Feed & Seed. The old store was located next door to the Seaboard Railway. The place closed years ago, and Mr. Stevenson is gone.

A number of people are on the case, following leads and tracking down clues. The local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter, historical societies, local and national libraries, and even postal history experts are conducting their own investigations. Meanwhile, the handsome and kindly looking gent in the photograph continues to patiently peer out of his frame as if looking for a long-lost relative who might recognize his nameless face.

If you have any information regarding the "Mystery Man," contact Janet DeVries at DeVries.J@bbfl.us.

New FSU Collections

Submitted by Burt Altman,
Florida State University Libraries



Thomas William Hoffer



Reubin O'Donovan Askew

Florida State University Libraries announce the availability of two newly processed collections.

Thomas William Hoffer Papers (172 linear feet). From 1972 until his retirement in 1996, Thomas William Hoffer was a professor in the FSU Department of Communications. Hoffer was particularly interested in mass media and photojournalism and taught classes in documentary filmmaking. After retiring in 1996, Hoffer became the founding publisher of *The Franklin Chronicle*, a local newspaper distributed in Franklin, Gulf, and Wakulla counties. He died in Tallahassee on December 9, 2006. In addition to providing insights into FSU film studies before the establishment of the FSU Film School, Hoffer's papers also contain recordings of speakers at various events and meetings of the Franklin County Commission on such topics as aquaculture and other environmental issues impacting the growth of Franklin County, FL. The papers consist of a wide variety of Hoffer's personal and professional material.

The Hoffer Papers were acquired as a gift from Gary Heald and Richard Alan Nelson, the executors of Hoffer's estate. The Hoffer Trust provided funding for student processors and archival supplies.

Askew Papers (17 linear feet). The Papers of Reubin O'Donovan Askew, Florida's 37th Governor, include materials related to his service in both the Florida House of Representatives and Florida State Senate and as Governor of Florida in the late 20th century. Included in the collection are campaign files, correspondence, newspaper articles, and copies of speeches. Additionally, records document his 1988 Presidential bid and Askew's life after his service as a public official. The collection also includes the personal papers of his wife, Donna Lou Harper Askew.

Selected speeches and recordings will soon be digitized by the FSU Digital Library Center and Special Collections staff at the Pepper Library.

Do you prefer reading [*The Florida Archivist* online?](#) Reduce mailbox clutter by discontinuing direct mailings of the SFA's newsletter.

Contact the [Newsletter Editor](#) to sign up.

Conferences & Workshops

...Register for the Society of American Archivists' 2011 Conference:
<http://www2.archivists.org/conference/2011/Chicago>.

Events & Exhibits

...*Henry Plant: King of Florida* opened at the H. B. Plant Museum in Tampa on March 18. The exhibit, which runs through December 31, outlines the secrets to Plant's success, extraordinary vision, accomplishments and legacy. Vignettes trace Plant's early beginnings in New England, to New York and then south to Georgia and Florida. Rare photographs and artifacts on loan from private collectors, historical societies, and museums are displayed. *Henry Plant: King of Florida* is underwritten by The Saunders Foundation.

Funding Opportunities

...The National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access is accepting grant applications in its Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program:
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html#preservation>.

Awards & Honors

... The Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection, City of Venice, FL has received a Gold Progress Certificate in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs).

Publications & Projects

...University Press of Florida recently released *Zora Neale Hurston's Final Decade*, authored by Virginia Lynn Moylan.



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REDUCED FUNDING FOR HISTORY PROGRAMS

Excerpted from "History Takes a Hit in Federal Budget," AASLH *Dispatch* 26(5), May 2011

In mid-April, President Obama and Congress reached a budget agreement to fund the government for the remaining six months of the current fiscal year. Unfortunately, the budget pain was spread broadly across nearly every federal agency, including the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other agencies related to state and local history. Here is a snapshot of the cuts to history programs voted in the FY2011 Budget:

- **Teaching American History Grants** were cut \$73 million, from \$119 million to \$46 million.
- **National Historical Publications and Records Commission** was cut from \$13 million to \$7 million.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities** was reduced \$13 million down to \$155 million.
- **Institute of Museum and Library Services** was reduced \$44 million down to \$238 million.

The next goal in AASLH's advocacy efforts will focus on the FY2012 budget. Please keep in touch with your Members of Congress and let them know how important history is.

SFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- | \$20 Individual
| \$50 Institution
| \$200 Corporate
| \$___ Add'l. donation to the Judith Beale
Scholarship Fund
| \$___ Donation to the ongoing work of SFA.

Name

Institution/Company

Address

City State Zip

Phone

E-mail

If student, indicate school name

Mail to:

Society of Florida Archivists
P.O. Box 2746
Lakeland, FL 33806-2746

Renew Today

We invite you to join the Society of Florida Archivists. Don't miss the continuing education opportunities offered by SFA each year, information about what's happening in archives in Florida in **The Florida Archivist** and the chance to mix with other archivists at the SFA Annual Meeting.

Specific benefits of Individual Membership are:

- ♦ Reduced registration fees for all of the Society's events.
- ♦ Subscription to *The Florida Archivist*
- ♦ Full voting privileges in elections and at the annual business meeting.
- ♦ Eligibility for leadership positions in the Society.
- ♦ Discount on selected archival publications.

Membership in the **Society of Florida Archivists** helps all of us keep in touch with important archival developments and make a valuable contribution to the profession within the State. We hope you will become a part of this effort!

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*SFA is an organization of
individuals and institutions who
share a concern for the
identification, preservation, and
use of records of historical value.*

*It is dedicated to the
dissemination of information
about such records and about
sound archival methodology.*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONT.

Hurricane season is fast approaching, and now is the perfect time to double check your disaster plan. A former SFA member recently returned to the Sunshine State with CoSA (Council of State Archives) to offer SFA members emergency preparedness planning workshops. We have a two-day workshop set up for the Tallahassee area on June 14 & 15, but we are planning to offer two or three more workshops around the state this summer. Detailed announcements will be released on the listserv . If you are interested in hosting or attending a workshop, please let me know and I will add your name to the list.

It has already been a very productive year, but there is always more to do. As always, thanks for your support. I look forward to seeing you in St. Augustine at another exciting annual meeting.