



Archives Spotlight

**The Ralph Bagley Collection at the
Orange County Regional History Center**
by Whitney Broadaway, Collections Manager



Portrait of Ralph Bagley with painting.

Ralph L. Bagley is a household name for many art students growing up in Orlando. His passion for teaching art and his integral role in the art community has earned him the posthumous title of Art Legend of Orange County. Almost immediately before the 20 Art Legends were announced in 2015, the Historical Society received a donation of assorted documents and photos left behind from the Bagley estate sale. It is hard not to form a personal attachment with someone while sorting a collection, and I definitely feel as though I got to know Bagley through his correspondence, memoirs, sketches, and photographs.

Ralph Leon Bagley was born in Missouri in 1913. One especially moving piece in the collection is a short memoir about the end of his two year stay with his Aunt Clara in the small town of Oran, MO. He recalls the poverty they lived in and his struggle to stay in school rather than try to work at the Kroger grocery store full time. He shares stories of his two best friends, Hayden and George, and how Hayden asked permission once to buy him groceries. Bagley told him "I would not mind, but of course I did mind because I was suffering from the malady common in those days and almost extinct today. It was pride. We had pride then, everyone seemed to have pride." The vignette concludes with the heart wrenching account of Bagley pulling Hayden and George's lifeless bodies from a derailed train car only days before he and his Aunt were scheduled to move in with his Grandpa in Thebes, IL. "Leaving Oran at this crucial time taught me that we do not leave tragedy behind and alleviate suffering by moving away from it. I'm sure this tragedy remained with me more vividly and for a longer time than with anyone else in Oran."

Continued on page 7.

Message from the President



*Sandra Varry
SFA President*

Happy New Year! This year ushers in several exciting new developments.

After last year's reorganization of the website, we have now updated it to a fresh format utilizing the newly updated logo. Special thanks to Krystal Thomas for implementing the change.

In addition to the new look of the website, we have added a page for archives related jobs and internships in Florida. Please send any postings to both the listserv and societyofflarchivists@gmail.com. We are especially interested in internships, fieldwork, and positions for students and new professionals.

We are continuing to move forward with the planning for the Annual Meeting in Savannah this October in conjunction with the Society of Georgia Archivists and will begin developing the theme next month. Additionally, SFA in collaboration with Florida State University and the Association of Research Libraries are hosting a week long session of SAA's Digital Archive Specialist Courses, May 2 - 6 in Tallahassee. The topics presented will include digital curation, privacy and confidentiality issues in digital archives, and digital forensics. To learn more about DAS and to see the schedule visit:

<http://saa.archivists.org/4DCGI/events/ConferenceListDAS.html?Action=GetEvents>

We also send well wishes to Garret Kremer-Wright in his new position as Archivist at the University of Arkansas Center for Arkansas History and Culture in Little Rock. We hope to have a new Membership Chair in place soon.

We will continue to post updates on our Facebook and via the listserv as news develops. Best wishes for an excellent 2016!

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2016 Conference Calendar



Florida Library Association

February 29—March 3, 2016

Daytona Beach, FL

Florida Historical Society

May 19—21, 2016

Orlando, FL



Special Libraries Association

June 12—14, 2016

Philadelphia, PA

American Library Association

June 23—28, 2016

Orlando, FL



Society of American Archivists

July 31—August 6, 2016

Atlanta, GA

Panhandle Library Access Network

August 18—19, 2016

Panama City, FL



ARMA International

September 25—27, 2016

San Antonio, TX

Society of Florida Archivists / Society of Georgia Archivists

October 13—14, 2016

Savannah, GA



Association of Moving Image Archivists

November 12—16, 2016

Chicago, IL

"I HAVE A DREAM"

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Member & Institutional News

Congressional Papers Available for Research at Florida Southern College

Jeffrey Zines, Archives Assistant

The McKay Archives at Florida Southern College is proud to maintain the official papers of U.S. Representative James A. Haley and U.S. Representative Andy Ireland. These gentlemen served the people of heartland and southern gulf coast Florida in the United States Congress consecutively from 1953-1993. That is forty years' worth of state, national, and world history!

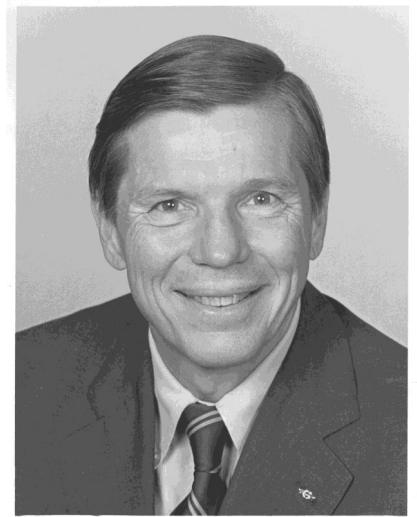


James A. Haley (1899-1981) served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1953-1977. Prior to his congressional career, he was a soldier, accountant, president of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Baily Circus, and a state representative. Mr. Haley's papers contain photographs, mementos, news articles, and committee documents. Of special note is the constituent correspondence, which covers nearly every issue of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, from Abortion to Watergate. These letters between the people of Haley's district and the congressman offer a unique insight into the opinions of average Americans during a very turbulent time. Additionally, the Haley Papers contain personal correspondence and political ephemera as well as documents relating to the Ringling Circus Fire that occurred in Hartford, Connecticut in 1944. Mr. Haley's papers were donated to Florida Southern College by his staff in 1981.

Andrew P. "Andy" Ireland (b.1930) succeeded James Haley in 1977 and served until 1993. Andy Ireland was a banker in Winter Haven prior to his election to the U.S. House of Representatives. The Ireland Papers contain newsletters, articles, official correspondence between Ireland and other government officials, and limited constituent correspondence. Of special interest are the files regarding Department of Defense contracts in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Andy Ireland's switch of his political affiliation from

Democrat to Republican in 1984 offers an insight into the political changes occurring in the south during this time. Mr. Ireland donated his papers to the college upon his retirement in 1993. In addition to his papers, we have also conducted an oral history interview with Mr. Ireland which is also available to researchers.

In addition to these sets of congressional papers, the McKay Archives recently took in a donation from Charles Canady Sr., who served as an aid to Lawton Chiles during his senatorial career. This collection includes campaign documents as well as political ephemera.



New Online Exhibit from Florida Memory



Florida Memory recently launched an online exhibit titled Florida in World War II. It highlights the experience of Florida and Floridians during the war using photographs, documents and film from the collections of the State Library & Archives. The United States' entry into the Second World War touched off a transformative period in Florida's history. Over a quarter million Floridians, including men and women of all races, joined the fight against the Axis Powers. Of these brave individuals, over 3,500 would give their lives in defense of their country. To view this exhibit and more from the State Library & Archives, visit FloridaMemory.com.

Member & Institutional News

New Additions to Plant City Photo Archives

Gil Gott, Executive Director

The Photo Archives and History Center was recently honored with a collection of family photos and papers preserved by the late William Boynton Magann, great grandson of Plant City pioneer Wilbur Fisk Burts. The Magann Collection is an invaluable addition to the historical documents and photos preserved at the Archives and includes photos, papers, and books pertaining to the Burts, Magann, and Carney families.

Robert Lee Magann, Sr., came to Plant City from Virginia in 1900. He married Sarah Vanderipe Burts, daughter of Mary Jane Carney and Wilbur Fisk Burts. The Carneys were early pioneers of the Valrico area. Robert Russell Burts moved his family to Florida in the 1850s. After the Civil War, his son, Wilbur Fisk Burts, moved to Plant City in the early 1870s from Braden Creek in Manatee County.

Robert Lee Magann and Sarah Vanderipe Burts Magann had one son, Robert Lee Magann, Jr., who married Ruth Boynton. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Magann, Jr., had two sons – Robert Lee Magann, III (1933) and William Boynton Magann (1935). William Boynton Magann compiled the family papers, photographs, newspaper clippings, and letters over the years. One group of documents was set aside with a note from Mrs. Quintilla Geer Bruton, co-author with D. E. Bailey, Jr., of *Plant City: Its Origin and History*.

Highlights of the collection include hundreds of Magann and Burts family photos, albums containing candid images of hunting, camping, and fishing, photographs of Warnell Mill and the Magann store, several early Kanyuksaw year-books, a land grant from 1885 for the widow of John Carney, and a Civil War letter from W. Carney to his sister. Prominent community members in the photos include Wilbur Fisk Burts, Ella Rosa Burts Strickland Crum, and Thomas Strickland. Additionally, there are family photos of Hazel Brown Archer, a friend of the Magann family. The Photo Archives is currently processing, digitizing, and preserving the collection which will be available for research purposes in the upcoming year.



The Photo Archives and History Center has also become the digital repository for a collection of papers from the DeVane family, one of Plant City's pioneer families. The collection has been made available to the Photo Archives by Mrs. Ann O'Berry Wilson, a member of the DeVane family who has been interested in family history and genealogy for decades.

Mrs. Wilson's collection contains genealogical records, family papers, clippings, and photographs. Some of the papers trace the family to the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War through many states including North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The collection process has been assisted by Dwight DeVane, historian and folklorist.

The DeVane family settled throughout the Springhead area beginning in 1869 and spread through the area including Cork and Plant City proper. They were farmers, served on the Plant City City Commission, Hillsborough County Commission, School Board, and many other entities. They were charter members of the Board of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce that followed. The DeVane Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed in Plant City in the name of John DeVane, a Minuteman, and its charter members were all members of the DeVane family.

John DeVane's son, Benjamin DeVane, was born in North Carolina in 1795, served in the War of 1812, and later served in the Seminole Wars, for which he was granted land in Madison County, Florida, where he moved in 1848. Following the Civil War, in which all six of his sons served in the Confederate Army, Benjamin DeVane moved first to the Seffner area, then to Springhead about 1869, homesteading on Wiggins Road. He was the first DeVane in the Plant City area.

Benjamin's son, Samuel Rowan DeVane, was born in Georgia in 1821 and he served in both the Seminole Wars and the Civil War. In 1869 Samuel moved his family to Springhead, settling near his father. That homestead was later known as the Elbert Blanton place. Samuel was the only son of Benjamin DeVane who followed his father to the Plant City area.



Photo Archives staff Kim Hamilton and Gil Gott accept donation of family papers from William B. Magann, Jr.

Upcoming Events



49th Annual Georgia Archives Institute June 13—24, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Designed for beginning archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians, the Institute provides general instruction in basic concepts and practices of archival administration and the management of traditional and modern documentary materials. The two-week program is held at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Georgia and includes five days of classroom instruction in basic concepts and one day of preservation instruction. Topics will include acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, description, and reference, as well as legal and administrative issues. To link archival theory with real world application, students will also participate in individualized, three-day internships at local archival repositories.

Kathleen D. Roe, Director of Archives and Records Management Operations at the New York State Archives, will be the principal instructor. She is a Society of American Archivists (SAA) Fellow and has served as President of SAA and the Council of State Archivists. She has published and taught extensively in the areas of archival descriptive practices, advocating for archival programs, and documenting disasters and tragedies.

Tuition is \$500 and enrollment is limited. **Deadline is April 1, 2016** for receipt of application and \$75 application fee (refunded if not admitted to Institute). Tuition scholarships are available from The Society of Georgia Archivists (<http://www.soga.org/scholarships/hart>) and The Friends of Georgia Archives and History (www.fogah.org/id12.html).

23rd Annual Miami International Map Fair February 5—7, 2016 Miami, FL

Immerse yourself in a world of antique maps, rare books, panoramas, globes and atlases. Purchase antiquities or modern treasures from the finest dealers from around the world. Whether merely curious or an expert collector, there is a piece for every budget. The fair features presentations by renowned experts and private tours of the HistoryMiami Archives. Bring one map from your collection for a free expert opinion.

Society of Florida Archivists members can register at the member rate of \$15 for one-day passes for either Saturday or Sunday (\$5 discount) or \$75 for full-access registration for the weekend (\$10 discount). You can use the link below to register for one-day admission or visit <https://historymiami.wufoo.com/forms/2016-map-fair-full-access-weekend-registration/> to register for full-access weekend admission.

Once you have registered, please forward your registration confirmation email to mapfair@historymiami.org with a note stating that you registered with the member rate as a member of the Society of Florida Archivists.



ANTIQUE MAPS × EXPERT OPINION × LECTURES × RARE BOOKS

Archives Spotlight Continued

Continued from front page.

The sensitivity and sincerity of Bagley's writings makes it easy to understand the devoted relationship he fostered with his art students. After studying art in Michigan, New York, and Washington, D.C., Bagley and his wife Marianne moved to Orlando in 1950. Once here, he founded the Orlando Institute of Art at 332 Magnolia Ave., Orlando's first school of fine art. Later, the institute moved to 2408 E. Robinson. He was also a founding member and former president of the Artists' League of Orange County, which has plans to publish a book on charcoal drawing that Bagley was unable to finish in his lifetime.



Sketch by Ralph Bagley.

In 1951, Bagley began teaching at Orlando Junior College and soon became the chairman of the art department as well as the college's first artist-in-residence. When OJC closed its doors in 1971, Bagley went on to teach at Crealdé School of Art, Lake Sumter Community College, Maitland Art Center, Valencia Community College, and the Loch Haven Art Center, now known as the Orlando Museum of Art. He also continued to teach workshops locally and across the country, especially in Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The collection now residing at the History Center is full of photos, planning notes, and correspondence from these workshops. These documents portray a devoted group of eager attendees and students, and several photo albums are devoted to Bagley's Wednesday Group that met in his home at 120 Spring Lane.

When he wasn't sharing his love of art with others, Bagley was working on his own career as an accomplished landscape and portrait artist. He worked primarily in charcoal and oil as well as watercolor, and the collection has full of photographs of his work. There are also two original pen sketches from 1965. Before coming to Orlando, Bagley trained at the Flint Institute of Art in Michigan, the Art Students League of New York, and the Corcoran Gallery School in Washington, D.C. He exhibited in many solo exhibitions in Florida and across the

country. Along with programs, flyers, and news clippings from several of these shows, Bagley's collection includes a behind the scenes view of his art business including shipping correspondence and discussions of pricing. The collection also holds some precious examples of the way art permeated his entire life, such as a few of Bagley's hand drawn Valentine's Day cards to his sweetheart Marianne.

Ralph Bagley was a devoted family man and father as well as an artist and teacher. He made Halloween costumes for his daughter, cooked breakfast for sleepovers, and was just a fun guy. Family photographs and personal documents are included in the collection, especially concerning Bagley's daughter Andrea. Several of Andrea's poems and manuscripts as well as photos of her involvement in the community reside in the collection.

At the Art Legends of Orange County kick-off event in September at the Orange County Board of Commissioners Chambers the Orange County Director of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Terry Olson, asked the crowd to share their reminiscences about the artists and art patrons being honored. Many of Bagley's former students stood to share the impact he had on their lives and fondly remember that he was never seen without a shirt and tie. Along with the other art legends, Ralph Bagley has helped shape the art community of Central Florida and we feel honored to have a piece of that story in the collection.

If you are interested in getting to know Ralph Bagley through his collection, or if you'd like to donate your own collection, please contact the History Center's Collections Manager, Whitney Broadaway, at (407) 836-8587 or whitney.broadaway@ocfl.net.



Painting completed in 1975 by Ralph Bagley.

Society of Florida Archivists

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The Society of Florida Archivists seeks to connect, educate, and empower archivists and those working with historical records to preserve and promote Florida's documentary heritage.



www.florida-archivists.org



Society of
Florida Archivists

Annual Meeting 2016

The joint annual meeting between the Society of Florida Archivists and the Society of Georgia Archivists will be held on **October 13—14** in Savannah, GA at the Hilton Desoto Hotel. A pre-conference workshop will be held on October 12.

Stay tuned for more details about the conference theme and session proposal deadlines!

