

# Appalachian Curator

Volume 2, Issue 1, Spring/Summer 2020



The *Appalachian Curator* is a publication of the  
Special Collections Committee of the  
Appalachian Studies Association

Volume 2, Issue 1, Spring/Summer 2020

The Appalachian Curator is a newsletter by and about special collections and archives that collect primary and secondary materials related to the Appalachian mountains. Our intended audience is scholars, students, researchers, archivists, librarians, and anyone else with an interest in resources that document Appalachia.

The Appalachian Curator is a publication of the Special Collections Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association. It is a free, online newsletter published triannually (Spring/Summer, Fall, and Winter) and hosted at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

We welcome questions, comments, ideas for articles, news about Appalachian repositories, updates on new acquisitions, and anything related to Appalachian resources.

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## Editor's Statement

*Gene Hyde, University of North Carolina Asheville*

So...how y'all doing?

I don't know about you, but I've found that this generally collegial greeting/query, something you'd say when meeting friends or family socially, now has deeper implications wrought by the pandemic. How are we doing as Appalachian archivists? Many archives – it's likely that nearly all archives – are closed, or have been closed, hopefully to reopen sometime in the murky future. Smaller repositories may not reopen. Many of our colleagues' jobs are at stake. Many of us are planning for the future, spending quarantine time working on projects remotely, waiting once again to be in a position to hand a Hollinger box to a researcher, to meet with a donor, to teach a class of students, to process a collection. I hope all of you are doing as well as possible, and that that things take a positive turn soon.

With that in mind, we bring you Volume 2, No. 1 of the *Appalachian Curator*. We started working on this issue before the quarantine and continued working on it as things COVID spread across Appalachia and the country. Consequently, some of our articles deal with working during the pandemic, while others don't. And due to various pandemic related delays, we're publishing later than anticipated.

We visit the Scotland with an interview with Catherine MacPhee, an archivist on the Isle of Skye in the Scottish Highlands, who talks about her archive, working during the pandemic, and some similarities between being an archivist in the Scottish and Appalachian Highlands. We have two “scholarly responses to the pandemic,” where Appalachian PhD candidates Savannah Paige Murray and Lloyd Tomlinson reflect on archives and research in these trying times.

Other articles includes our featured collection, the Archives of Appalachian at ETSU, and an article about the Library of Appalachian Preaching from Marshall University.

We're unveiling a new feature of the ASA Special Collections Committee in this issue, the “Ask an Appalachian Archivist” reference email. The idea for this emerged from the first meeting of ASA's Special Collections Committee, which was scheduled for the ASA Conference in Lexington but, like many things these days, met at a later date via Zoom. We have an update from the meeting and the minutes of the meeting in this issue.

And, finally, we are rolling out the first installment of the updated and revised *Archives of Appalachia* survey. Originally conducted by the Appalachian Consortium in 1985 in the days before the World Wide Web, we are updated the survey state-by-state. We have our

working draft of the survey from Georgia. As a working draft we're reaching out to you to help us complete it.

That wraps up this pandemic issue of the *Curator*. Here's hoping the next time we ask "how ya'll doing?" that the answer will be an unqualified "great!" I'm looking forward to that.

Be safe.

Have an idea? Please contact the editors – Gene Hyde ([ghyde@unca.edu](mailto:ghyde@unca.edu)) or Liz Skene Harper ([lizmarieharper@gmail.com](mailto:lizmarieharper@gmail.com)).

Our next issue (Volume 2, No 2, Fall) will be published in October 2020, with an article deadline of September 15.

## Introducing: Ask an Archivist!

appalachiancurator@gmail.com

Many of us have worked in small organization as one of just a few – or the only! – person responsible for the archives. It can be a lonely situation, particularly now as many of us are isolated at home with only limited access to our physical collections, if any access at all. That’s why the Special Collections Committee has come together to provide an Ask an Archivist feature. Send your questions to the above email address and you’ll be put in touch with someone who had can answer your question, or who has worked on a similar project. Questions can range from the needing advice on storage materials, creating release forms for oral histories and donations, advice for going about a community project, or anything else related to our work and missions. We’re all in this together!

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# Interview with Catherine MacPhee, Archivist at the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre, Isle of Skye, Scotland

*Gene Hyde and Catherine MacPhee*

Catherine MacPhee is the Trainee Archivist at the [Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre](#) in Portree on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. I met Catherine while visiting the archives in Skye in June 2019 and interviewed her at her home on Skye via Zoom on May 8, 2020, while she was on furlough from work due to the pandemic.

**Gene Hyde:** Hi Catherine. I wanted to ask you some general questions about your work in the archive, picking up on what we discussed when I visited there last June, and then some more questions that explore the common threads between what you do as an archive in the Highlands of Scotland and what we do in archives in the Highlands of Southern Appalachia.

You are a Trainee Archivist at the Skye and Lochalsh Archive. Can you tell us about your archive on Skye and its relationship to the Highland Archive Service?

**Catherine MacPhee:** The [Highland Archive Service](#) comes under a charity called [High Life Highland](#) that was formed in October 2011 by The Highland Council, the local authority, for the whole region of the Highlands and Islands. Within High Life there's nine different sectors. You've got things like archives, museum and libraries, so we come in there. You've also got things like music tuition, as well as leisure- that's gyms, swimming pools, and sports. There's youth development, which works out well with where we're based, as well as adult learning. So it's a very broad scope of services we put out for the whole Highlands.

Within the Highland Archive Centre there are four archives. The largest one is in [Inverness](#). That's a purpose-built one that's 10 years old now. They've got a really good conservation unit and a really good team of staff, so everyone's got quite unique skills. We've got one in [Lochaber](#), which is in Fort William. It's a small one, probably about the same size as us. They are covering that area, so there's a wee bit of crossover between ourselves. They're very heavy on Jacobite stuff and local family estates, they have some of the best collections -in my opinion. Then up in the very north of Scotland we've got the [Nucleus](#) that's covering Caithness and the north of Scotland, they also hold all the Nuclear Archives for the UK. And then there's ourselves on Skye, and we cover Skye and the mainland Lochalsh area.



Catherine MacPhee (right) assists a local school group in the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre reading room

So it's quite a big area to cover, for all of us, but it works. We can pick up the phone, and it's obviously changed during the pandemic, using Skype and Zoom and everything has helped. We've been able to dial up and chat with somebody, whereas before it might have been a couple of emails, or I'll phone you after lunch, so now we can just instantly call and ask "can you help me"?

The Skye Archive was around for quite a while. It was part of the museum service back in the early 90s and its kind of developed from that. So we do have quite a mixture, as you saw when you were there. We've got archeology, paintings, prints, plus the actual archives, so it's quite a blend we have in comparison, say, to Lochaber. It's a really good way for us to work being part of that bigger charity. We're connected to libraries and museums and we all kind of work together. It's complicated, but it works.

We do cataloging and everything at Skye. Any conservation work is done at Inverness—for instance I've got four maps there from the 1740s at Inverness now to have conservation work done to them. So anything like that Richard (Aitken, Senior Conservator at Inverness) will assess remotely and then take over if it needs it.

Generally, if we get a collection in and it's just basic cleaning and no real conservation work needed we will clean it up, catalog it, and get it all the way there. And if we need



help we can reach out to our colleagues in the other offices and ask for some support. Inverness is the main hub. For example, all the medical records for the Highlands are stored there. So if we get somebody who comes into Skye, for example, and wants to know about a historic hospital we can get in contact with Inverness and they'll scan it and send it over. So it works.

**GH:** What is your core mission at the Skye archives?

**CM:** (Laughing) Well, we changed quite a lot over the last month or so. Our core mission – I've been 18 months on the job – firstly conserving and making the archive collections accessible, while continuing community development, for one. Working with local trusts, the way Skye is split off into different parishes and connecting with people there to keep adding to the collection as well. Working with local community groups who are organizing little historic hubs in their own area, so I'm working with them so they have replicas rather than original material out. And just really making people realize the importance of the culture here and how we capture what's happening now. We are so lucky in what we've been given and what we've got already, but it's just that constant adding to the collection and just making people understand it isn't all about the elite. It's about the average person who lives here. Doesn't matter who you are, it's about your history and your culture. And for us it's just recording that at the moment.

For example, before lockdown happened, I'd been speaking to a local art group about doing a collaboration connected to the sea. Out of that it came to my realization that we really have nothing on the fishing industry. We're an island! (laughs) So that's opened up a conversation and then, bizarrely through everything that's been going on here, local fishermen are now selling to locals rather than everything going to Spain. So that's what happens. The fishing boats come in and probably 80-90% of their products would go to the Spanish market. That's the way it is. My dad was a fisherman, and that's how it's always been. But now locals are buying and eating it more now than they were three or four months ago because of the pandemic. That's really good. But it's even recording how these guys are fishing. So I've spoken with a few of them about taking photographs, taking videos, just take take take, and if you want you can deposit that.



9th Century Bronze Strap-end, an Artefact at the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre

That's opened up other conversations about the historic side. We've got older parts like salmon fishing, where there were older papers and documents where people were recording it. But stuff about the average fishing boat? There's not much. That's something that's come out in the last few months. So I think one of the key focuses is grabbing these smaller groups in society. Women in archives – there's not much in Skye or the Highlands. And also Queer archives, there's not much on. So there's been a kind of wider scope across the highlands. Our colleagues are speaking to minority groups and telling them "this is what we do, this is what we want to get in." Just capturing that.

There's a Bangladeshi community that's been here over 15 years. We have nothing pertaining to them. I know some of them. They speak Gaelic. They live here, they all have different jobs. I've spoken to them and explained what we do. It's just getting them in to see how we would use the information and what we gather would be a better understanding for them.

**GH:** It sounds akin to some of the community archiving projects that are popular in the States. For instance here in Asheville there's an archivist working closely with the African American community, trying to document them and get their stories, have them come in and share their photos. You get a digital image and they keep the original. That kind of stuff. Is this kind of community archiving thing going on there?

**CM:** One of the projects we're doing – it was actually the last event we did before everything turned upside down - we were approached by a local community group in an area called Minginish on Skye. That area's got quite a long history. It was cleared in the Highland Clearances really early, like in the 1820s to make way for Talisker Distillery. Then they repopulated after the First World War. There was land that was bought over by the Board of Agriculture and they repopulated it with people from other islands. So a separate community grew out of one that had been there before, people from Lewis and Harris, the Western Isles. They repopulated that area.

That community got in touch with me and basically said, “we’re wanting to capture oral history and that community before it vanishes”. My Mom’s family are from the people who settled there, for the last hundred years they’ve been there. So we went up and had an event and asked them to bring photographs and whatever they wanted in. We had an introduction with a slide show on. I explained what we do and how they could use it as a community. We spoke about oral history, and how not to be scared of the equipment and don’t get too bogged down in the paperwork. You leave that and we’ll deal with everything there. But we did image sharing that day. We scanned a few things with them that day, but the conversation was kind of like an afternoon tea. There was about 80 people there, myself and a couple of community members. It was just a conversation. The stories we got were unbelievable. Just fantastic. And straight away they said “we want another one.” But we’ve hit this pandemic. So we’ll just wait.

And after that, obviously, word got around – it’s a small island. We’ve had two other community groups get in contact and say “can we do that to get people engaged?” And it’s also making quite clear that it doesn’t matter if you’ve lived there your whole life or if you’ve just moved there. It’s still where you live, and it’s still the culture and history. So it’s making sure it’s quite inclusive for everyone. We do have a lot of people who’ve moved to Skye from other areas. It’s making them culturally aware of what was here before, and getting them involved. I think it just makes people connect a little bit more. It’s certainly the way we’ve done it where we’ll let them take ownership of the project in an area. We’ll give them guidance around oral history, how it can be deposited, and how we’ll look after it. But we let them gather, naturally, themselves. That’s the work we were doing at the beginning of this year.

We were going to have an oral history workshop where members could come in and learn how to have that conversation, how to record, and the importance of things like don’t go home and plug it into your computer, just bring it straight here, to get around the technical side. That’s just been shelved for now. We got funding for that from the Scottish Book Trust, because we’re a charity we can apply for funding. So we’ll organize events where community members can come in and learn skills, and see us and meet us, then we’ll go and help them set up, and the archives will come to us. Hopefully (laughs).

**GH:** A professor here is doing the same thing with the LGBTQ community in Asheville. We have a very large LGBTQ community, which is not well documented. It’s been interesting in Appalachia, the awareness of starting to document that community which was, 20 years ago, not “out” yet, to a large extent.

**CM:** Same here.

**GH:** You’ve talked about this to some extent, but to give our readers a better idea of what you do – what’s a typical work week like.

**CM:** Honestly, you do not know what's going to come through the door. I would say we're more aware of what will happen during the busier tourist months. It's busy all year, but Easter to end of October is peak. During that there's a lot of ancestral tourism, so that would be people from Canada, the US, New Zealand, and Australia. Those are the four main places where people went who were removed from Skye. They come back to do their genealogy, retrace their ancestors. So those weeks you know you're going to be busier. There's going to be a lot more explaining of history, and that records don't exist for certain time periods. So you become almost automatic for those weeks. You know the phrases and what you have to explain. You know the go-to points and where we can find them.



Sea chart surveyed by Murdoch Mackenzie, Published 1775-1776. Charts covering Skye, adjacent mainland and part of Lewis and Harris

But like any other week you could be dealing with anything. Somebody could be coming in with a deposit. Somebody came in one day with six big bags full of archives, with no warning. Just appeared! That can happen mid afternoon, and there's only two of us. So I just went to another room.

A typical week could be having a school group in. We have school groups come in and look at the exhibition. We might be asked to create something for them to look at. You

might have a class on a Wednesday. We're shut to the public on Wednesdays but we'll run a class, which is free, for people to come from the community to learn about where they live. A lot of that is based on maps, introducing them to archives. Some of the week we try to allocate to cataloging (laughs). We very much go with what happens, we're quite reactive to who comes in the door. Over the quieter months you get a lot more researchers, maybe researching for books, PhDs and local people writing for wee publications.

We get a lot of remote research as well. So prior to the pandemic we were doing some work with a couple of TV companies that were going to come and film here, so we were doing some research for them. I tend to do that research behind the scenes. So, yeah, it's so variable. I mean one week we had people in researching eagles, and someone else researching the growing of flax pre-1700 on Skye. You just never know. But summer is mainly genealogy and family history. It's great. You meet people from all over the world. There's no typical week.

Looking at my calendar, or how it should have been, obviously today is VE day when people are celebrating the end of the Second World War. We had planned a pop-up in the village with our local community, where we had a slide show of oral history and images, where we had people reminiscing as children growing up here during the war wearing gas masks. We had a projector and banners... and it's all just sitting back at work. So it's very much changed. No week's ever the same.

**GH:** That's a nice segue into something you and I were talking about when I was there, being an archivist dealing with people from outside the region who have stereotypes and preconceived images of the region. Can you cite some examples of where you've worked with people to educate people about the region and the reality, versus the perceptions they bring with them that are not correct?

**CM:** One of things I get asked a lot is: "do you get educated here?" Right where we are – and we're next to the school! A lot of people assume that if you're from somewhere as remote as here in Scotland that you are uneducated, and that you don't really achieve much. There's a phrase called "teuchter" that was used to describe a "thick Scot." We embrace it now as our own word. But I think there's still a stigma behind that if we're doing a job like archives, or anything that's classified as academic or professional, then you can't possibly be from the islands. Which is insane, because the amount of talent from artists, writers, engineers and scientists that come out of Scotland is unbelievable.

There's work that we've done even locally to dispel cultural differences. We do a class called "Where do you stay?" The wording around that is kind of difficult for people. That looks at old maps, place names and what they mean, and what happened when the place was cleared out during the Clearances. I do spend a lot of time in the summer

when people come from all over the world explaining their version of Scottish identity, whether their family left here 50 years ago, or 300 years ago, or 400 years ago. It's so different than mine. Completely different. I would say, very much, that people still identify with clans, tartans, and imagery. And I have to explain to them that that's not my version of being Scottish – the whole tartans, shortbread, and “Outlander” – dare I say it. It's just not who we are, certainly not me, anyway (laughs).

So we sit back and explain how Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom joined together, and what that means for our identity today over the course of several wars and royal family influences. There is this misconception that we were all living in caves or small stone houses, and the Highland Clearances were a good thing because it got us out of poverty and we all benefited from it. There's this myth that we're all running around in tartans playing bagpipes when we're not. You may well see a vision of tartan and bagpipes on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. It's a huge difference. Some people love that culture – we sell it.

We spend a lot of time dispelling the myths, and really reading into what happened, how dark the history was for a long time. People want to see it as this romantic place where they can come and connect with their roots and get a good feeling doing it. And I love to be able to say to people, “this is where your family lived, let's go visit it” and go and actually see how beautiful it was. I make them realize, if we can prove through records, that they weren't living in a hovel, they were literate, they could write, they were poets, they were bards, they were scientists, they were doctors. I think the perception is we were cavemen. (laughs)

So we're trying to stop that, and make people realize that there's a lot more going on here than you think. It wasn't a case of clearing out these heathens and moving them to better lands. But it's been portrayed that way by the Empire, hasn't it?

**GH:** Yep, class and money.

**CM:** Class and money. That's one of the biggest things. Archives can be very elitist. Especially in Scotland, especially some of the records we have. We have some estate papers from landowners, absolute tyrants, some of them, one of them was particularly nasty. But if we didn't have these records there would be so much missing from history. There's a bit of untold history in that repository at work. There's so much in there we've been finding, just little snippets. We were doing a big cataloging project a few months ago. The cataloging's not finished, but there's a letter in there from 1854 from another island to a landlord here, and it's signed by 15 crofters. The view of men living here at that time was that they were illiterate. The way it's written, is just amazing the way they describe what they're doing. It's fantastic. There's a lot more going on here than people think.

**GH:** So in the Highlands you lived in caves, played bagpipes, and fought with each other. In Appalachia we lived in run-down shacks, feuded with each other, and made illegal alcohol. That's what we did.

**CM:** We're good at making moonshine, though! (laughs)

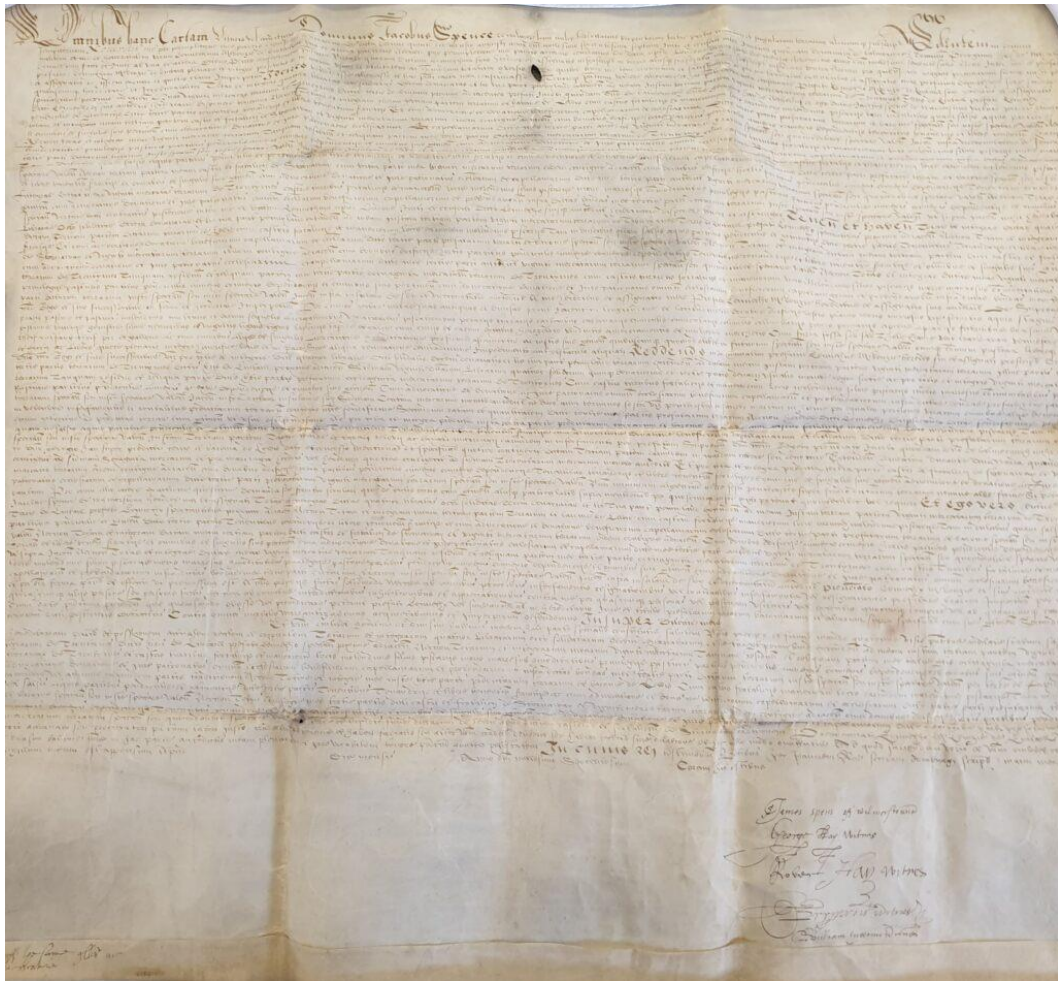
**GH:** What are your biggest challenges as an archive, outside, of course, of the pandemic?

CM: So if you look at the Highland Archives as a whole, the LGBTQ+ or Queer archives is certainly something we've been trying to build on as the Highland Archives Service. Through conversations with each other and as a community, it looks like it might need to be led as a collective rather than individually. There's places like where I am, in Skye, where there's probably more of a stigma and probably more of a secretive community that there would be in Inverness, which has a bigger population. That's a big challenge for us.

Obviously we're part of a charity, so we come under the High Life Highland, so it's always looking at new ways to generate money for the charity. That can be things like selling images and doing research. That challenge is always in the background.

I think, for us, it's making people aware that archives are for everyone. I've had people arrive, look in the door, and say "is it OK if I come in here?" And I'm like "Yeah, of course." I've spoken to other archivists in Scotland about this and there's still the stigma of "archives aren't for me," and it's back to that elitism. We genuinely think that the more minority groups we get in, and the more women's groups, and the children's groups, and men's groups that we meet and bring in, the more people will come through the door. I would say that's probably the biggest challenge is making people realize it's for everyone.

And it's the perception that they aren't allowed in the archives. A guy came in one day and said "I didn't really do well in school." I said "that doesn't matter whether you went to school or not. You just come in." And he's in every week now, and he's always got questions. It's fantastic, and it usually puzzles us for a while to get an answer because he just knows stuff that he's learned from people. So it's things like that.



Charter (feu-ferme) by Sir James Spens of Wilmerston in favour of Kenneth MacKenzie of Kintail of the lands of Trotternish and others, parchment in Latin 15 Aug 1607.

**GH:** So to the big elephant in the room. How are you doing as an organization, and as an individual, with the pandemic and the lockdown?

**CM:** As things starting unfolding in Britain we were very well supported from work so we had enough archival work to do at home. They made sure that staff could work. I have a work laptop I can take everywhere, but my assistant doesn't, so they made sure that she had access at home. We loaded up things like old catalogs. Just those kind of things that you'd say, "yeah, we'll get around to re-doing that," anything we could take home on a USB stick or access through our drives, just work like that that we could do.

We built this up and had all these plans to take all this work home, get it done, and go into the network. We've got the building secured. Suddenly we jumped onto these platforms to talk to each other, which is good. But then we quickly realized we had to adapt. Everything we planned to do just went to the side, and we were looking at ways we could support the communities during this. For example, one of our colleagues has



been doing these learning videos for our Facebook pages, and it's using collections we already had scanned in and digitized, and doing classes on them. Just talking about what archives are. She did Jacobites this week, and each week was a different theme. So we're looking at what we can do to support people on there.

Most of the staff are furloughed, and then we get routed back in so people can get time off and get a bit of a breather. We're definitely taking time to think about how it's going to look after. We've had open communication from everyone in the company, which has been great, and there is loads of support there if we need it. Working from home was challenging from the beginning for everyone. When you're not physically in a box of dusty old records –you're so used to “oh, I'll just have a look at...” You're thinking, “what have we digitized. What do we have on these drives? How can we use this to support these people?”

One thing we were very cautious of, being in a rural area, was isolation. We get groups of older members of the community that might come in and see us. So they'll all come from rural areas to the largest Highland island for a day, and they might all go out for lunch, then come and see us for two hours, and then they'll all go down to the outdoor centre and do other activities. It might be like a ceilidh, or sometimes they'll have Gaelic story classes or such. So all these people who live on their own out in the community are now completely on their own and all these activities have been cancelled.

So we've worked on ways to still engage with certain groups. We've made story boards, just a card with images and archival documents, and everyone from each Centre gathered work we had scanned in, made them and laminated them so they could go out to people. So there's things like that we did so that we're still supporting people from the archives. So there's obviously today, VE Day, so there's stuff from the archives online. Just adapting, using what we've got, and realizing that we don't have enough digitized (laughs).

**GH:** That has been apparent in the last couple of weeks.

**CM:** Yeah. I mean we're very lucky. We've got Am Baile, which is our digital website with images, so we've got a huge resource there. But it's more actual archival documents. And I don't know the collections at Inverness like I know my own, I know a few that I've been shown when I went there, but I just don't know them like my own. So when you go back into work you're thinking what can you use to support what activity you have going.

Our family historian at Inverness has been super busy doing online consultations with people. So that's a new way of working, which is great. We're definitely getting together,

chatting, and coming up with new ideas. All these plans to reorganize catalogs haven't happened yet. It will come.

For me, it's been a bit surreal. We had all these big plans, we're going to do this, we're going to do that. And once it happened we locked the doors. That was really emotional. We were both saying that. Locking the door, and not knowing if you were going to get back in there. It's all those little boxes of treasure, all that stuff that you do all day, all that different way of thinking and it's just gone.

**GH:** We are not allowed to go to work and work, but we are allowed to go and fetch things to do at home. We're working from home, and when my assistant went in she almost broke down in tears she missed work so much.

**CM:** I don't know if you've seen our stuff online. We started a campaign at the beginning about people keeping diaries. So that's something Fiona, the senior archivist at Inverness, and myself were chatting about "how do we, as archivists, record this." What's happening in our own heads, and what we're doing, and how that's adapting. But also if we can get people to start recording diaries, it's good for them, it's good for their mental health, and if they chose to deposit them with us, that's fantastic. We have loads of support locally. The local paper, which is now not printing, they did a huge thing for us. And I did a radio interview locally as other colleagues did. So we've done stuff to report that. And it's really weird not being at work to gather examples, so we had a few diaries scanned in and used what we had. But, yeah, I find it really strange not being in work.

*Catherine MacPhee is the Trainee Archivist at the [Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre](#) in Portree on the Isle of Skye, Scotland*

## Featured Collection: The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University

*Jeremy A. Smith*

The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University preserves the written words, images, and sounds that document life in southern Appalachia. Since its beginning in 1978, the Archives has sought to support original research, educational engagement, public outreach, and artistic creativity. Over the past forty-two years, the Archives has grown into one of the leading repositories in the world for preserving and providing access to southern Appalachia's history and culture. Today the Archives' collections include almost two miles of rare manuscripts, over 90,000 audio and moving image recordings, 250,000 photographs, 15,000 books, and over twenty terabytes of digital materials. More than 2,000 visitors from around the globe utilize the Archives' collections each year for in-depth research projects, and over 50,000 more interact annually through our website, digital collections portal, and social media platforms.

### **Foundational Years**

The foundation of the Archives' collection came from two ETSU Research Advisory Council projects. The first began in 1958 with the deposit of the Washington County Court Records at what was then East Tennessee State College. The College Library designated a space for the records, and this eventually became known informally as the library archives. (This material was transferred in 2011 to its permanent home at the Washington County Archives in Jonesborough, TN.)



Thomas G. Burton and Ambrose N. Manning (1981)

The second project, the Oral History Archives (1968-1972), arose from the work of professors Thomas G. Burton and Ambrose N. Manning. Their efforts to document Appalachian folklore, music, and customs included groundbreaking ethnographic work in the region. The project, known today as the Thomas G. Burton-Ambrose N. Manning Collection, became one of the inaugural collections of the Archives of Appalachia when it opened in 1978.

The Archives' first director, Dr. Richard Kesner, served the institution from 1978-1981, laying a strong foundation of intentional collections growth and innovative outreach efforts. During these early years, the Archives sought manuscript, print, photographic, and media collections that documented all aspects of life in southern Appalachia, laying the groundwork for a collection that now extends from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Subject strengths include folk traditions, industrial and transportation history, social justice, religious practices, music and the arts, and the history of ETSU.



Slideshow presentation of the Appalachian Outreach Project (1981)

### **An Emphasis on Outreach**

From 1979-1982, two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), allowed the Archives to produce a series of nine multi-media outreach programs, along with study guides. The programs drew upon materials in the Archives' collections and were presented hundreds of times to thousands of people throughout southern Appalachia.

The Archives' outreach work continued under its second director, Dr. Ellen Garrison, who came to the Archives in 1982. Garrison directed a second significant outreach program, from 1982-1983, known as "Tennessee's Mountain Heritage." The program resulted in a series of radio shows based on materials from the Archives' holdings that provided an overview of the social history and folklore of southern Appalachia.

### **Collections Growth**

The Archives benefited from increased institutional support in 1984 when ETSU received a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to establish the Center of Excellence for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS). The Archives became one of three units of CASS, along with the Reece Museum and the Institute of Appalachian Affairs. Through this association, the Archives received support for additional staff and equipment, as well as funding for a range of preservation and outreach projects.

In 1988, Norma (Myers) Riddle became the Archives' third director. Under Riddle's leadership, the Archives' collections continued their robust

growth, adding hundreds of new collections on a range of historical and cultural topics related to southern Appalachia. Significant additions included the papers of the long-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives James H. Quillen; the Coal Employment Project Papers, which document the struggle for workers' rights for female coal miners; the records of the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad; and unique recorded sound collections including the Mary Elizabeth Barnicle and Tillman Cadle Collection of field recordings from the 1930s through the 1950s.



Unidentified portrait from the Coal Employment Project (CEP) Records (c. 1980)

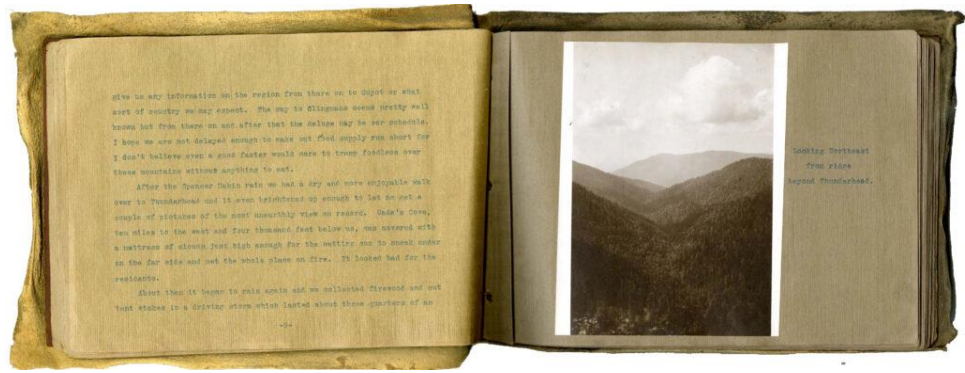
Increased media collections created unique demands for preservation and access, and during Riddle's tenure the Archives applied for, and received, more than a dozen grants to preserve rare audio and moving image holdings. A major grant from the NEH in 2003 funded a large preservation project and served as the basis for the creation of the Archives' media digitization lab. Over time, the lab has developed the capacity for digitizing over a dozen analog audio and moving image formats.



The Archives of Appalachia's Media Digitization Lab (2017)

In the 1990s, work promoting digital access to collections continued. In 1996, the Archives entered the digital era with the launching of its first homepage, and in 1997 it was selected to participate in the “Monticello Electronic Library” pilot project, which was an attempt to make collection descriptions available online for twenty-two repositories in the southeast. By 2000, the Archives had succeeded in making all of its finding aids available online.

Outreach remained a focus for the Archives throughout the 1990s and beyond. From 1994-1995, the Archives worked with Panther Press to publish a two-volume series of hiking diaries from the D.R. Beeson, Sr. Papers. The series, edited by Riddle and Archivist Ned Irwin, was titled *In the Spirit of Adventure* and featured diary transcripts and photographs of hikes that Beeson and C. Hodge Mathes made of the Great Smoky Mountains (1914) and Mt. Mitchell (1915). The Archives also produced a number of successful public programs during this period, most notably a film series in 2004-2005 that featured rare films from the Archives’ holdings, which reached over 1,500 people.



"A

Walking and Camping Trip through the Great Smoky Mountains" from the D.R. Beeson, Sr. Papers (1914)

### A New Home for the Archives

On February 1, 1999 the Archives moved from its original location in what is now known as Nicks Hall to its present location on the fourth floor of the Charles C. Sherrod Library. With the move, the Archives acquired much-needed storage space for its rapidly growing collections. It also received increased space for its public reading room and dedicated facilities for its state-of-the-art media preservation lab. The relocation allowed the Archives to continue expanding its manuscript holdings and to extend both its educational and public services.



The

Archives of Appalachia's Reading Room (2019)



In July 2010, ETSU selected Amy Collins as the Archives' fourth director. Collections growth continued, and Collins placed an emphasis on formalizing a range of policies that clarified workflows and standardized collection development and research access. The Archives also officially initiated an education and outreach program in 2012, with the hiring of its first Education and Outreach Archivist. As a result of this program, additional resources were devoted to supporting student research and scholarship, including the creation of a new electronic classroom and student learning center in 2014.



The Archives of Appalachia's Electronic Classroom (2019)

At the same time, Archives staff curated a major new permanent exhibit in the reading room, highlighting the broad range of scholarly and creative projects that the Archives' collections have supported over time. Work digitizing collections also continued, as the Archives laid the groundwork for a partnership with the Sherrod Library's Digital Commons to provide online access to official ETSU publications.

### **Emphasis on Digital Access**

Upon Collins' retirement in 2018, ETSU selected Dr. Jeremy A. Smith as the Archives' fifth director. Since that time the Archives has continued to emphasize digital access to collections, establishing its first digital collections portal in the summer of 2019, enhancing its infrastructure for digitizing oversized print items, and providing file-based streaming access to a portion of its media collections.



The Archives of Appalachia's Digital Collections Webpage (2020)

The Archives has also enjoyed continued success in receiving grants, including two in 2019 from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and the National Recording Preservation Foundation that have allowed the Archives to enhance access to its recorded sound collections. In 2019 the Archives also awarded its first research grants through the newly-established Margaret Anne Byrd Huffman Archives of Appalachia Endowment Grant.

### The Archives' Future

As the Archives' collections and services continue to expand to meet its patrons' evolving needs, its foundation remains an ongoing dedication to serving the people of southern Appalachia. The Archives has a proud history as a center for historical and cultural inquiry that engages students, faculty, and the broader Appalachian community in the work of knowledge production. In the future, the Archives will continue to preserve the stories of the people and the institutions that have defined what this region has been, while supporting those researchers who are imagining, through scholarly and creative projects, what this region might become.

*Jeremy A. Smith is Director of the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University*

# The *Library of Appalachian Preaching*: A Digital-Humanities Project at Marshall University

Robert H. Ellison and Larry Sheret

The [Special Collections Department](#) at Marshall University has a small but significant collection of sermons preached in Appalachia, or delivered elsewhere in the United States by preachers with ties to the Appalachian region. On the shelves are about 30 books published between 1865 and 1980. Some, like William Cutter Condit's *What Is My Life?*, are pamphlets containing just one sermon. Others, like John R. Gilpin's *Sparks from a Busy Anvil*, are books of several sermons by a single preacher; still others, such as *The West Virginia Pulpit of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, are books containing several sermons by many different preachers. Most are available elsewhere, in other libraries and/or online, but the Gilpin book and some others appear to be one of a kind.

Other one-of-a-kind items are stored in the archives. The [Doris C. Miller Papers](#), for example, have baccalaureate sermons delivered in Huntington and Milton in 1957, and the [Bokair Family Papers](#) contain two sermons preached at Trinity Episcopal Church, Huntington in 1962. There are also two collections fully devoted to preachers. We have the manuscripts of two books of sermons by [Julius Fischbach](#), a Huntington native, Marshall alumnus, and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lansing, Michigan. The “crown jewel” of the sermon archives, however, is the [M. Homer Cummings Papers](#), donated to the university by Cummings’ family in 2014. The collection is fitting for a minister who pastored Methodist churches in West Virginia for over fifty years: along with materials Cummings wrote—approximately 150 sermons, 100 newspaper columns, 40 poems, and 300 hymns—we have newspaper articles about him and his family, hymnals he compiled and published, and some 400 other hymnals from his library. Some of these materials have been processed, but much more remains to be done; a complete reorganization will take place in the spring of 2021, while Robert Ellison is on sabbatical.

These sermons are Phase One of the *Library of Appalachian Preaching*, a digital project curated by Robert Ellison, Assistant/Associate Professor of English, and Larry Sheret, Scholarly Communication & Open Education Resources Librarian. We are using [Marshall Digital Scholar](#), our institutional repository, to make these materials to make these materials universally discoverable and accessible online (see Figure 1).

[caption id="attachment\_683" align="aligncenter" width="960"]

The screenshot shows the Marshall Digital Scholar website. At the top left is a portrait of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States (1801-35). The main header reads "Marshall Digital Scholar" in a large green font, with "Scholarship, Publishing, and Preservation" below it. A dark green navigation bar contains links for Home, About, FAQ, Contact, and My Account. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home > College of Liberal Arts > Center for Sermon Studies > Library of Appalachian Preaching. The main content area features a large title "Library of Appalachian Preaching: A Digital Repository of Sermons" overlaid on a map of the Appalachian region. Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining the library's collaborative effort involving the Center for Sermon Studies, MU Libraries, the Department of English, and the Digital Humanities program. Another paragraph describes the library's access to sermons preached within Appalachia or in other areas by preachers with ties to Appalachia. A final paragraph provides contact information for Dr. Robert Ellison, Assistant Professor of English and director of the Center for Sermon Studies. On the left side, there is a dark green sidebar with a search box, a dropdown menu for "in this collection", and links for "Advanced Search" and "Notify me via email or RSS". Below this are sections for "Browse" (Collections, Disciplines, Authors) and "Author Corner" (Author FAQ, MDS Style Guide, Submit Research, Copyright Information). A "Follow" button is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

The home page of the Library of Appalachian Preaching

The first step, of course, is the sermons themselves. If something is already online, as is the case with several of the books, we will simply link out to it. If not, and it is in the public domain, we will create a high-quality, searchable PDF of our own. If it's still under copyright, we will upload only a thumbnail image of the cover or title page. This will enable us to make the *Library* as complete as possible while maintaining compliance with copyright law.

But the sermon scans are *only* the first step. We are adding some features that we believe will help to make the *Library* as robust and user-friendly as possible. There will be a brief biography of each preacher, with links to additional information; the sketch for the first preacher in the *Library* reads as follows:

[Henry] Altmeyer was born in Wheeling, West Virginia; was ordained to the priesthood in 1897; and was the pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Huntington, West Virginia, from 1899 to 1930. For additional information, see a history of St. Joseph Parish and a biographical sketch drawn from *Cabell County Annals and Families* (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1935).

We are also building a [User Guide](#), a Google sheet which users can search, sort, and download (See Figure 2). There is a master list of names, listing the preachers' faith traditions, the Appalachian states with which they are most

closely associated, and the centuries in which they worked. The official [Library of Congress Authorities](#) are used throughout the Guide.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<a href="#">Page in the Library</a>	<a href="#">Page in this Guide</a>	<a href="#">Faith Tradition</a>	<a href="#">State</a>	<a href="#">Time Period</a>
2	<a href="https://mds.ma...u/bain_johnw/">https://mds.ma...u/bain_johnw/</a>	<a href="#">Altmeyer, Henry B.</a>	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century
3	<a href="#">Bain, John Wallace, 1833-1910</a>	<a href="#">Bain, John Wallace</a>	Presbyterian Church	Pennsylvania	Nineteenth century
4	<a href="#">Ball, Franklin, 1822-1886</a>	<a href="#">Ball, Franklin</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
5	<a href="#">Clark, James Lawrence, 1814-1903</a>	<a href="#">Clark, James Lawrence</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
6	<a href="#">Condit, William Cutter, 1841-1926</a>	<a href="#">Condit, William Cutter</a>	Presbyterian Church	Kentucky	Twentieth century
7	<a href="#">Dix, Daniel H. K., 1828-1911</a>	<a href="#">Dix, Daniel H. K.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
8	<a href="#">Feather, Joseph B., 1833-?</a>	<a href="#">Feather, Joseph B.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
9	<a href="#">Fischbach, Julius, 1894-?</a>	<a href="#">Fischbach, Julius</a>	Baptists	West Virginia	Twentieth century
10	<a href="#">Fitzpatrick, James B.</a>	<a href="#">Fitzpatrick, James B.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
11	<a href="#">Fullerton, James Archer, 1850-?</a>	<a href="#">Fullerton, James Archer</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
12	<a href="#">Gilpin, John R., 1905-1974</a>	<a href="#">Gilpin, John R.</a>	Baptists	Kentucky	Twentieth century
13	<a href="#">Hall, Ashford, 1826-?</a>	<a href="#">Hall, Ashford</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
14	<a href="#">Hite, George Edgar, 1851-?</a>	<a href="#">Hite, George Edgar</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
15	<a href="#">Hughes, Thomas Bayless, 1836-1917</a>	<a href="#">Hughes, Thomas Bayless</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
16	<a href="#">Ison, Benjamin, 1824-1901</a>	<a href="#">Ison, Benjamin</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
17	<a href="#">Jones, Samuel Ernest, 1846-?</a>	<a href="#">Jones, Samuel Ernest</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
18	<a href="#">King, F. H. J., 1834-1916</a>	<a href="#">King, F. H. J.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
19	<a href="#">Lacy, Matthew Lyle, 1833-1912</a>	<a href="#">Lacy, Matthew Lyle</a>	Presbyterian Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
20	<a href="#">Lee, Joseph</a>	<a href="#">Lee, Joseph</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
21	<a href="#">Lyda, Andrew J., 1821-1900</a>	<a href="#">Lyda, Andrew J.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
22	<a href="#">Martin, Gideon, 1815-1902</a>	<a href="#">Martin, Gideon</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
23	<a href="#">Masden, Charles P., 1843-1930</a>	<a href="#">Masden, Charles P.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
24	<a href="#">Mauzé, Joseph Layton, 1873-1937</a>	<a href="#">Mauze, Joseph Layton</a>	Presbyterian Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century
25	<a href="#">McElhenney, John, 1781-1871</a>	<a href="#">McElhenney, John</a>	Presbyterian Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
26	<a href="#">Perry, Alfred Tyler, 1858-1912</a>	<a href="#">Perry, Alfred Tyler</a>	Congregationalists	Ohio	Twentieth century
27	<a href="#">Prickitt, Samuel B. D., 1840-1908</a>	<a href="#">Prickitt, Samuel B. D.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
28	<a href="#">Recollections of the Rev. John McElhenney, D.D.</a>	<a href="#">Recollections of the Rev. John McElhenney</a>	Presbyterian Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
29	<a href="#">Ryan, Edward W.</a>	<a href="#">Ryan, Edward W.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
30	<a href="#">Smith, Joseph Edmund, 1830-1910</a>	<a href="#">Smith, Joseph Edmund</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
31	<a href="#">Snodgrass, Winfield Columbus, 1849-?</a>	<a href="#">Snodgrass, Winfield Columbus</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
32	<a href="#">Steele, Samuel E., 1832-1913</a>	<a href="#">Steele, Samuel E.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
33	<a href="#">Steele, Samuel, ?-1886</a>	<a href="#">Steele, Samuel</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
34	<a href="#">Stewart, L. L., 1845-1893</a>	<a href="#">Stewart, L. L.</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century
35	<a href="#">Thompson, John Rhey, 1852-1904</a>	<a href="#">Thompson, John Rhey</a>	Methodist Episcopal Church	West Virginia	Nineteenth century

The master list of names in the User Guide

There is also a Guide to each preacher’s sermons, with the sermon title, scripture text, the date and place preached (if known), the subject of the sermon, and a link to the digitized text. Finally, these individual guides are combined into a single master list, so the entire *Library* can be searched at once (see Figure 3).

User Guide for the Library of Appalachian Preaching

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Preacher	Sermon Title	Link	Scripture Text	Date Preached	Place Preached	Subject	Preacher's Faith Tradition	Preacher's State	Preacher's Time Period	Notes
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Advent	<a href="#">Sermons and Discourses, pp. 64-68</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Huntington, West Virginia (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)	Advent	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	Preached on the first Sunday in Advent (p. 64).
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Apostolicity of the Church	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 136-42</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Huntington, West Virginia (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)	Catholic Church	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Baptism	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 143-49</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Huntington, West Virginia (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)	Baptism	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Blessed Eucharist	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 265-72</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Ashland, Kentucky (Holy Redeemer Church)	Transubstantiation	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Catholic Church and Bible	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 97-106</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Charleston, West Virginia (Sacred Heart Church)	Bible	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	This is a "lecture delivered during mission to non-Catholics" (p. 97).
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Catholic Church is Divine	<a href="#">Sermons and Discourses, pp. 112-21</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Huntington, West Virginia (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)	Catholic Church	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	The sermon was preached on Easter Sunday. The year is not specified.
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Catholic Education	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 112-12</a>	Not specified	Not specified	Ironton, Ohio (St. Lawrence Parochial School)	Catholic schools	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	The sermon was "delivered at the laying of the corner stone" for the school (p. 112).
Altmeyer, Henry B. 1870-1930	Catholic Faith	<a href="#">Sermons Delivered Before Mixed Congregations, pp. 43-47</a>	John 10:11-16	Not specified	Huntington, West Virginia (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)	Catholic Church	Catholic Church	West Virginia	Twentieth century	The passage discussed in the sermon appears to come from John 10:11-16. According to <a href="https://catholic-resources.org/Lectioary/Roman_Missal.htm">https://catholic-resources.org/Lectioary/Roman_Missal.htm</a> , that was the Gospel reading for

All Preachers and Books All Sermons Altmeyer, Henry B. Bain, John Wallace Ball, Franklin Clark, James Lawrence Explore

The master list of sermons in the User Guide

A more extensive discussion of the *Library* is available at [https://mds.marshall.edu/digital\\_humanities/2020/accepted\\_proposals/2/](https://mds.marshall.edu/digital_humanities/2020/accepted_proposals/2/). Once Phase One is complete, the *Library* will expand to include Appalachian sermons in other libraries, the Internet Archive and other online sources, church records and private collections, and so on. Readers who are aware of materials that could be added to the project are invited to contact the authors at [ellisonr@marshall.edu](mailto:ellisonr@marshall.edu) or [sheret@marshall.edu](mailto:sheret@marshall.edu).

# Scholarly Responses to the Pandemic

## Researching in a Pandemic

*Lloyd Tomlinson, West Virginia University*

I defended the prospectus for my dissertation in February, and immediately started filling out funding applications and planning for a summer of research. A couple of weeks after that is when I first remember hearing about the coronavirus. By March, West Virginia University had made the decision to shift all classes online and to not have students return for the second half of the semester. Accompanying that decision was a moratorium on all travel related to university travel. By that time, all of the archives I had planned to visit had closed either indefinitely or with a planned reopening far into the summer.

Like many scholars, I have had to adjust significantly to life under stay-at-home orders. I had done an internship at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, DE, last summer, which happens to hold most of the archival resources I had planned to use for my dissertation. I was able to look at some of the material and take a few photographs over the course of the six-week internship, so I at least had something to work with once the stay-at-home orders went into effect. A large number of the newspaper sources I planned to use have also been digitized and are accessible for free through sites such as the Virginia Chronicle. I have also been going through secondary materials. The amount of materials I have access to has not been as limited as it has been for some, and the summer will not be as much of a loss as it could have been.

I am one of several researchers that the West Virginia and Regional History Center recommends for independent research work. I had taken on a couple of contracts before the pandemic hit, and the closure of the WVRHC and WVU libraries has severely hindered my abilities to complete those contracts. My clients have luckily been understanding, and I will be able to get back to work on those once the libraries open fully.

In short, my experience with COVID-19 has been a complex one. In these weird times, scholars certainly need to be adaptable.

Lloyd Tomlinson, originally from Pennington Gap, Virginia, currently resides in Morgantown, West Virginia, with his wife, Carlie, and his cat, Eleanor. He is a PhD candidate at West Virginia University. He is currently working on his dissertation, "Stonega Coke & Coal Company Towns in Wise County, VA, since the New Deal," supervised by Dr. Ken Fones-Wolf. You can reach him at [tomlinson.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:tomlinson.lloyd@gmail.com)

# Scholarly Responses to the Pandemic

## My Archive Fever

*Savannah Paige Murray, Virginia Tech*

I am a frequent sufferer of what French philosopher Jacques Derrida has diagnosed as “Archive Fever.” For Derrida, *le mal d’archive*, or the sickness that afflicts some archival researchers, represents the “feverish desire” of longing *for* the archive (Steedman 1159). For sufferers of Archive Fever, it is simply not enough to *visit* an archive. The Fever brings about an intense need to *possess* the archive itself. Archive Fever elicits “a compulsive, repetitive, and nostalgic desire for the archive” when the archive is out of reach and an insatiable desire to search through the archive, even when collections are far too large to sift through in an afternoon, or even an extended research trip (Derrida 57). My particular strain of Archive Fever prompts me to take several hundred images of archival documents during research trips, photographs which I promptly copy into dated folders on my computer and rarely ever examine again. Truly the epitome of a malady, I know.

My first outbreak of archive fever occurred in January 2014, as I worked as an undergraduate intern for archivist extraordinaire, Heather South, at Western Regional Archives (WRA) in Asheville, North Carolina. As a WRA intern, I helped South develop finding aids, fulfill patron research requests, and coordinate volunteer efforts. But, above all, my early days in the archive made visible the too often invisible work of archivists, taking in documents, creating some form of order in the chaos, and most importantly, making collections available for researchers. Developing an understanding of and appreciation for archives and archivists only ignited my Archive Fever, causing a dramatic flare-up in the Summer of 2014 as I ventured back to WRA to begin my research on the Upper French Broad Defense Association (UFBDA). The UFBDA—an incredible group of environmental activists from western North Carolina who successfully defeated the Tennessee Valley Authority’s plan to place 14 dams on tributaries of the French Broad River between 1966-1972—has been the central focus and motivation of my research ever since I first opened those heathered-grey archival boxes and began reading all about their “dam fight” (for more on the UFBDA see Murray 2015).

My Archive Fever, particularly as it pertains to my study of the UFBDA, which is also the focus of my dissertation, is not merely a selfish impulse to collect, or hoard documents and materials pertaining to this fantastic story in environmental history. Rather, my Archive Fever comes on in spells when I feel like I am an inadequate scholar, researcher, and writer when it comes to telling the story of the UFBDA. My research with the UFBDA is not merely a means to an end—I am not writing about these



incredible people to earn a PhD or land a particular job. My UFBDA research and its associated Archive Fever manifest because this research is what acclaimed Appalachian photographer Roger May once referred to as my “heart work”—the activity that is closest to home and the most meaningful, because, well, it is about my home, identity, and family history. My family has lived in Buncombe County and along the French Broad River for seven generations on one side and three on the other. Had the UFBDA not stood up to the TVA, the landscape of my home, and my memories, would be utterly devastated—fertile farmlands transformed to mudflats and sacrificed for measly drawdown reservoirs. My attachment to western North Carolina, the people of these mountains, and to the French Broad River itself are not only a powerful motivator for conducting ethical, effective research, but also a trigger for my own Archive Fever. In fact, even writing about it now, I can feel a feverish spell coming on.

I have had consistent Archive Fever flare-ups throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. In November 2019 I passed my comprehensive exams for the PhD in Rhetoric & Writing Studies in the English Department at Virginia Tech. As part of this process, I completed a dissertation proposal outlining how I would approach UFBDA archival collections as a rhetorician. By January 2020, I was excited and ready to get to work in the archives, but due to teaching, writing, and other research responsibilities, I decided that the best option would be to go home to Asheville over spring break in Mid-March 2020, to see family, old friends, and of course, visit the archives. Well, I suppose by now, we all know how that plan worked out—not so well.

The irony is not lost on me that my desire to satiate my own Archive Fever has been impeded by the outbreak of a global pandemic from a virus that among other symptoms, causes a virulent fever. As coronavirus swept across the globe, and as the U.S. emerged as a hotspot of COVID-19 cases, archives across the nation, and across Asheville, closed their doors. Like many of us, I was initially disappointed by these closures, but as I learned more about the virus, and went into quarantine myself, I quickly embraced an altered day-to-day, one where the goal was to neither contract the virus, nor pass it to others. In the necessarily slower pace of life instituted by the novel coronavirus, concerns about research productivity, much less Archive Fever, quickly eroded. To be completely honest, my immediate reaction to limited access to archives, was most akin to burying my head in the proverbial sand. But, nonetheless, as the semester wound down in May 2020, like most chronic conditions, my Archive Fever came back once again, as I realized this summer could provide some much needed writing time towards the dissertation, as well as the flexibility to explore the river, if not the archives.

Just as my own Archive Fever was beginning to return, Heather South provided me with a tremendous gift—scans of crucial documents from the collection that serves as the foci of my dissertation project: “Upper French Broad Defense Association [UFBDA]: Organizational Records, 1961-1975” located at WRA. With the organized, high-resolution scans South provided me, I can now begin to resume my research, even

without the access to the archives. I wrote to South immediately after receiving these gifts, expressing my gratitude, a measly effort for all the help and kindness she has shown me over the years.

One thing I know for sure: whether a researcher is overwhelmed with Archive Fever or not, success in the archives is absolutely not a solitary endeavor. Archival research is not about a monastic researcher pouring over old documents in a reading room for hours. For me, archival research would not even be possible were it not for the hard work of archivists who diligently make materials available to researchers. In my experience, archival research involves a collaboration between researchers and archivists. For those of us who study an historically marginalized place like Appalachia, it seems important to not only collaborate with archivists, but to approach the research process itself as a communal endeavor, working not to displace the documents in the archives with our own theories and ideologies, but to work with the writers, rhetors, and citizens represented by archival collections. While Archive Fever drives my need for time in the archives, archival research is absolutely not conducted in isolation, whether, before, after, or during the global coronavirus pandemic.

*Savannah Paige Murray is a PhD Candidate in Rhetoric & Writing at Virginia Tech*

#### Works Cited:

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- Murray, Savannah Paige. "'United We Stand, Divided We May Be Dammed': Grassroots Environmentalism and the TVA in Western North Carolina." *The Journal of East Tennessee History*, vol. 87, 2015, pp. 47-63.
- Steedman, Carolyn. "Something She Called a Fever: Michelet, Derrida, and Dust." *The American Historical Review*, vol. 106, no. 4, 2001, pp. 1159-1180.

# What's New in Appalachian Special Collections?

Due to the COVID pandemic and the fact that many repositories are closed, we have fewer items in our New Acquisitions section this issue.

## *New collections in regional repositories:*

[Appalachian State University](#)

[East Tennessee State University](#)

[University of North Carolina Asheville](#)

[Warren Wilson College](#)

### **W. L. Eury Collection, Appalachian State University**

**Curtis Williams papers** The papers of Curtis "Curt" Williams (1890 August 18 - 1959 December 5), a farmer, fur and herb trader, unschooled veterinarian, and distiller of whiskey from Lawrence County, Kentucky. The son of David Oscar Williams (1869 April 11 - 1951 October 15) and Martha Boggs Williams (1869 - 1900 January 1), he married Mona D. Whitt Williams (1891 March - 1984 February 10). The couple had four children: Cratis Dearl Williams (1911 April 5 - 1985 May 11), Mabel Marie Williams Barber (1912 July 12 - 1995 December 26), Ruth Evelyn Williams Lester (1920 June 25 - 2007 January 6), and Otta Curtis "Ottie" Williams (1930 August 23 - 2000 April 8). Williams began life working on the farm and in the distillery of his father, David Williams, in Lawrence County, Kentucky. After Prohibition shut down the Williams family distillery in 1920, Curtis moved his family north to Selma, Ohio, taking on a farm tenancy. The family only spent a short time in Ohio, returning after David Williams sold an 150 acre section of his farm to Curtis. The farm, located between the Right and Left Forks of Caines Creek, would be "Curt" Williams' main focus in life. Williams raised tobacco, gathered wild roots and herbs, trapped animals for furs, and engaged in moonshining to supplement his income and provide for his family. In later years, he was granted a license from Lawrence County to practice veterinary medicine in the community. Curtis' eldest son, Cratis, later became noted as an academic and is widely acknowledged as "The Father of Appalachian Studies."

### **Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University**

**George Fox Papers**, 1943-1968, AppMs 858 (accrual). Business and personal correspondence of former East Tennessee State College administrator George Fox. The

correspondence references administrative matters as well as Fox's political and social concerns.

**Women's Studies Program Collection**, 2019, UnivRec 532 (accrual). Essays about and interviews with women who influenced students in the Women's Studies Program at ETSU.

### University of North Carolina Asheville

[LGBTQIA+ Archive Oral Histories](#) A collaborative project between Asheville Pride and Amanda Wray, English Professor at UNC Asheville, these oral histories document the LGBTQIA+ community in Asheville and Western North Carolina.

[Sharon Fahrer Holocaust Collection](#) -Sharon Fahrer, an Asheville historian and author of *[A Home in Shalom'ville: The History of Asheville's Jewish Community](#)*, uncovered her family's Holocaust story through contacting various groups, such as the Red Cross Tracing Service, interviewing her mother and aunt about the fates of her family, and collecting personal effects of individual family members. The collection is a comprehensive picture of the trials and tribulations that Fahrer's grandparents and aunt and uncles went through during the Holocaust.

### Warren Wilson College

In 2016 Warren Wilson College underwent a reorganization of two of the three divisions of our distinctive triad education. The Work Program and the Service-Learning Offices became the Office of Applied Learning, and both changed physical locations on campus. The archives received 20+ cubic feet of records from these two entities. The Work Program Office records (1990-2016) have been appraised and processed. The Service-Learning Office sent 6 cubic feet of photographs, most in thoughtfully constructed albums, covering 1992-2016. These photos document our students' service with partners in the local community and around the United States. We are in the process of appraising and developing a budget and processing plan for these photos. In other news, the Pew Learning Center & WWC Archives is in the early stages of creating an institutional repository.

# ASA Special Collections Committee Update

*Jeremy A. Smith*

On April 17, 2020, the Special Collections Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association held its first formal meeting via Zoom. The committee was originally scheduled to meet during the 2020 ASA Conference and was rescheduled after the conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stewart Plein chaired the meeting and was one of nine archivists and librarians in attendance.

Gene Hyde and Liz Harper provided an update on the *Appalachian Curator* newsletter, noting that viewership continues to increase: from 300 visits for the first issue to 350 for the second issue to nearly 1,500 for the third issue.

The committee also discussed strategies for supporting remote research during the COVID-19 pandemic, shared available statistics around electronic reference queries from March and April, and discussed current projects to collect pandemic-related materials at the local level.

Plans for two new projects came out of the meeting. First, the members agreed to pursue a Special Collections Committee presence on the ASA website. Second, the committee agreed to develop a shared reference portal that could direct Appalachian researchers to relevant resources housed among the various archives and special collections throughout Appalachia. This will tentatively be called “Ask An Appalachian Archivist” and will be staffed on a rotating basis by members of the committee. Longer-term projects include updating the listings from 1985’s NHPRC-funded *Archives in Appalachia: A Directory* (ed. Ellen Garrison) and developing a roundtable discussion and meeting proposal for the 2021 ASA Annual Conference.

Minutes of the April 17 meeting and future Special Collections Committee meetings are in the "Special Collections Committee Minutes" category in the *Appalachian Curator*.

The committee will now meet quarterly, and anyone interested in participating can contact Stewart Plein: [Stewart.Plein@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Stewart.Plein@mail.wvu.edu).

Jeremy A. Smith is Director of the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University

# ASA Special Collection Committee Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2020

## Appalachian Studies Association

### Special Collections Committee meeting minutes

April 17, 2020

In attendance: Stewart Plein, Gene Hyde, Jeff Dey, Jeremy Smith, Scott Skies, Cassie Patterson, Marc Brodsky, Liz Harper, Jinny Turman. Meeting held via Zoom.

Update on *Appalachian Curator* Newsletter. The official publication of the Special Collections Committee – Gene Hyde, editor

- Three issues published to date: Vol 1, Issues 1, 2, 3. Vol. 2 Issue 1 is currently in process, though delayed due to the pandemic.
- Call for COVID-19 stories and new collections issued
- Statistics: trending very high with 3100 visits, 8700 pages viewed. When each issue is posted, stats spike upward.
- Liz reported data: 99 visitors, 299 visits for 1<sup>st</sup> issue, 161 visitors, 349 visits for 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, 510 visitors, 1500 visits for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Largest number of referrals coming from Google and FB.

Faculty issues during the pandemic:

- Jinny Turman brought forward a discussion concerning how the COVID-19 virus has affected faculty and scholarship in Appalachia. Promotion and tenure has been delayed and faculty and scholars are wondering how to approach their work now that archives and collections are closed. How does the inability to access archives affecting them? Jinny will reach out to people on this topic.

Topic for discussion: Institutional electronic reference work

- All members report that their institutions are supporting electronic reference queries, but instances are down from normal rates.
- Gene reports that UNC-A is down about 15-20 %
- Jeremy reports that ETSU is down about 10%
- Scott reports that reference queries are high at Emory & Henry with assistance provided to instructors as they transition to online teaching and students

- The West Virginia and Regional History Center, special collections for WVU, has also reported lower reference requests.
- Liz poses a question regarding researchers: how are people are coping with the difference of working with digital vs physical collections?

Web presence:

- Updating VA. Tech blog regarding the announcement of the new special collections committee. Marc has volunteered to take care of that.
- Establishing a web presence on the ASA site: Is this possible? I will reach out to Mary Thomas and Ann Bryant about this.

Reference query from Steering Committee member: Would the committee serve as a reference portal to direct researchers and students to Appalachian collection

- All committee members agreed that this was an appropriate task for the committee. This discussion led to the suggestion that we could offer something similar to the Ask a Librarian format, calling it Ask an Appalachian Archivist.
- As with the standard Ask a Librarian format we would rotate coverage between committee members
- Set up an email account, possibly a Gmail account, with multiple accounts so that everyone receives email.
- Sent announcement and link to AppalNet
- Set up a form in the Appalachian Curator for queries
- Liz offered to look into this.
- Final thoughts: offering a robust reference service would be a good way to promote committee and its activities

Planning:

6 months agenda:

- Set up Ask an Appalachian Archivist
- Establish web presence
- Article in Appalachian Curator
- Update Va. Tech blog
- AppalNet announcement

12 months agenda:

- Plan and submit proposal for meeting at the upcoming ASA conference
- Sponsor a roundtable discussion at the upcoming conference

Final discussions:

- Appalachian Consortium 1985 Institution Survey update:
- Gene reports that Derek Whisnant has been working to update the 1985 Appalachian institutions survey sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium. Derek is approaching this on a state by state basis beginning with Georgia. Jeff suggested crowdsourcing as an option to completing the survey. Gene agreed with this and noted that results could be published online and crowdsourcing page established.
- COVID 19 related collecting:
- Jinny asks how many institutions are collecting COVID 19 materials. ETSU, WVU's West Virginia and Regional History Center, Marshall, UT, UNC Chapel Hill, Mountain Historical Center, Western Carolina, UNC Asheville, and Southeast Ohio Historical Center are among the institutions collection pandemic related materials and stories. Va. Tech is not collection at this time due to a pending retirement.

Future meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. I will schedule the next meeting.

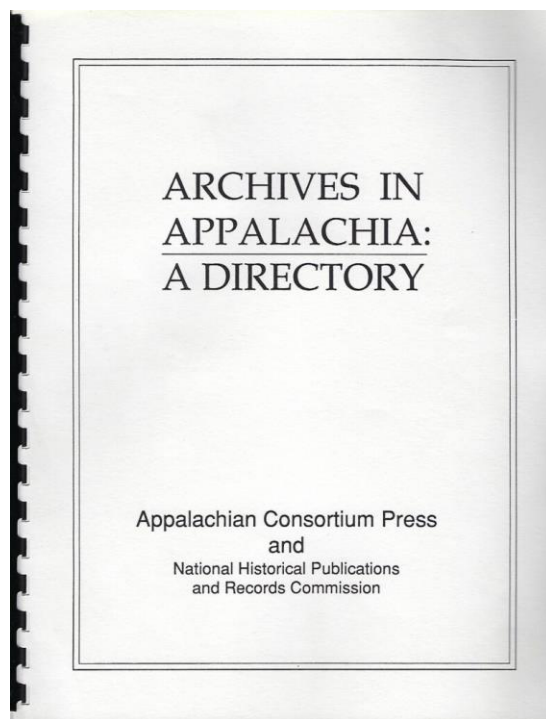


# An Introduction to the Archives in Appalachia 2020 Survey

*Gene Hyde, University of North Carolina Asheville*

## Introduction

This issue of the *Appalachian Curator* includes the first round of results in our efforts to revisit and update the Appalachian Consortium's 1985 survey, [\*Archives in Appalachia: A Directory\*](#), which remains the only attempt to comprehensively document archival repositories in the region (thanks to our colleagues at Appalachian State University for digitizing the original 1985 survey). During the discussions leading up to the formation of the Special Collections Committee in ASA, the need to update the 1985 survey was identified as an important focus for the Special Collections Committee. We're pleased to present the first results of this survey, and like the original survey, which presented the data state-by-state, we have started with Georgia, the first state documented in the 1985 survey.



Cover of 1985 Archives in Appalachia: A Directory

The results are incomplete for reasons discussed below in the methodology section below, and at the recommendation of the Special Collections Committee, we decided to publish our initial results along with a call for crowd sourcing additional information about the collections identified in the 2020 survey, as well helping us

identify repositories we might have missed. This is very much a work in progress, and we're seeking your help in completing it.

### **Historical background: the 1985 *Archives in Appalachia: A Directory***

In the early 1980s, the Appalachian Consortium established a Regional Collections Committee that included archivists and librarians from across Appalachia. This committee received a National Historical Publications and Records Commission \$25,000 grant to fund, among other things, a survey of all institutions in Southern Appalachia that might have historical records, with the goal of publishing a directory of these repositories. Data was gathered in a traditional, pre Web method: surveys were mailed to repositories. In June 1984 the survey was mailed to 947 institutions. 352 agencies responded via mail to the survey, and another 366 agencies were contacted by telephone. From these responses the survey documented over 188 historical records repositories in 195 mountain and foothill counties in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The final product, *Archives in Appalachia: A Directory*, was published in 1985. The results brought much to light: 122 of the 181 repositories identified were not previously listed in any published directories, union catalogs, or databases. Still, there were omissions. For instance, the Southern Highlands Research Center at UNC Asheville (now Special Collections at UNC Asheville), which was founded in 1977, did not respond to the survey and, consequently, was not included.

### **Methodology**

The 1985 survey used a comprehensive questionnaire intended to survey the scope, condition, staffing, and training of collections and personnel in repositories throughout Southern Appalachia. The questionnaire gathered a range of data including:

- what kinds of materials were held in each collection (manuscripts, oral histories, audio/visual materials, photographs, institutional archives, newspapers, maps, books, pamphlets, etc.),
- what subjects and geographical areas were covered,
- what date range was covered,
- how large the collection was,
- what type of organization was the repository associated with (public library, college library, museum, church, etc.),
- how materials were organized and described,
- how large was the staff,
- what kind of training did the staff have,
- how was the repository funded,
- what kind of services were offered,

- what type of climate control and preservation measures did they have,
- what type of equipment they had,
- and other questions relevant to holdings, services, and staffing.

## **2020 Methodology**

For the 2020 survey, we have used this basic model and asked many of the same questions, adding, of course, questions about web presence and email contact. The 2020 survey was started during the COVID-19 pandemic, and response rates were clearly affected by repository closures. Please see the 2020 Georgia survey results article for more information.

# Archives in Appalachia 2020 Survey: Georgia

*Derek Whisnant and Gene Hyde*

## **Introduction:**

The 2020 survey was administered through a combination of online research and contacting repositories via email. The survey was done in two sections. The first section used the original 1985 survey to ask the following:

- Is the repository still open ?
- If so, have there been any administrative changes (name change, merged with another repository, etc.) ?
- Is there a website or email contact?

Once repositories were identified, Derek sent them this email query:

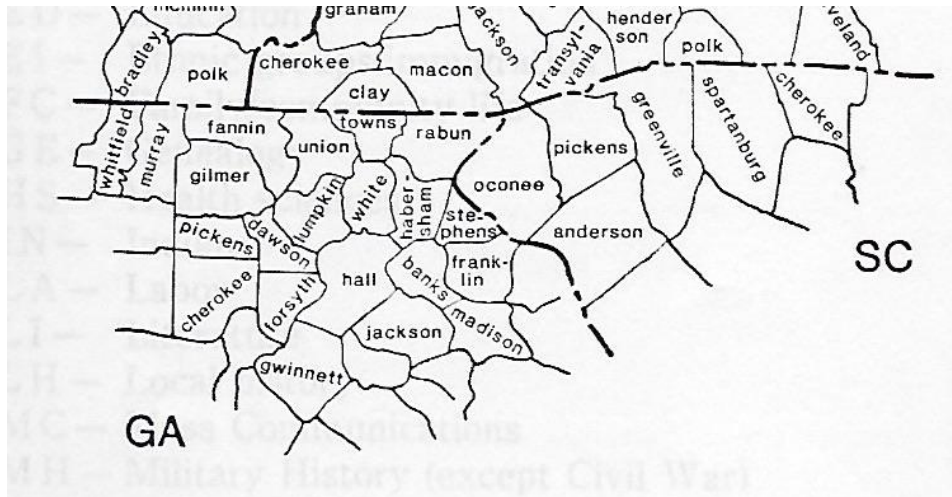
*We are working to update and expand on a 1985 survey, *Archives In Appalachia: A Directory* (Appalachian Consortium Press). The original survey was intended to serve as a tool for research in and about the Southern Appalachian region. The updated version will serve the same purpose and be published in the *Appalachian Curator* newsletter*

*For the 2020 updated version, we are reaching out to organizations such as yours that were either not in operation in 1985 or were not included in the original survey.*

*The information we are hoping to include:*

- *Does your organization currently have archival materials that pertain to Southern Appalachia?*
- *Are these materials accessible to the public?*
- *What types of materials are included in these holdings?*
  - *Ex: manuscripts, photographs, genealogical records, audio/video, artifacts, etc*
- *What historical period is represented in the materials that relate to Southern Appalachia?*
- *What geographical areas do the materials cover?*
- *What general subjects do the materials cover?*
  - *Ex: family life, local history, military history, agriculture, genealogy, political history, etc.*
- *Approximately how large are the holdings related to Southern Appalachia?*

The second section of the survey involved locating collections not originally listed in the survey 35 years ago. Derek searched for the same kinds of collections (colleges and universities, public libraries, historical societies, etc.) identified in the 1985 survey, limiting his search to the Georgia counties originally covered in the 1985 survey, then extending beyond those counties to locate more Appalachian content in other repositories.



Georgia counties in 1985 Archives in Appalachia survey. (from page 5 of the 1985 survey)

### **A work in progress and the next steps...**

This is very much a work in progress, and we need your help in identifying and contacting Georgia repositories with Appalachian content. Not surprisingly, we did not receive responses from some repositories which were likely closed due to COVID, and we are hoping to hear from them soon.

Please contact Gene Hyde ([ghyde@unca.edu](mailto:ghyde@unca.edu)) if you have any information about repositories we might have missed.

The next state we'll survey is Kentucky, again based on the order in the original 1985 survey.

A note on the formatting: the format below closely models how the 1985 survey gathered data. Data fields that are not complete were intentionally left that way pending additional information. We will revise and edit this as information comes in.

# Archives in Appalachia 2020 Survey: Georgia Data

## Bell Research Center

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <http://www.bellresearchcenter.com/index.html>
    - Phone: 678-455-7216
    - Email:
    - Mailing address: same as physical
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: Historic Cumming School, 101 Atlanta Rd, Cumming, GA 30040
    - Hours of operation:
      - Mon-Fri: 10-2
      - Sat: 10-3
      - Sun: closed
    - Public (y/n): yes
    - Reference guide:  
<https://cloud.collectorz.com/290123/books?letter=none>
  - Staff:
    - Frank Clark: Curator
  - Holdings info: contact for more info
    - Type: books, films, periodicals, reference materials, artifacts
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
    - Geographical area: the American South
    - Subjects:
      - “Southern history and genealogy”
      - “Focuses on migration trail genealogy”
      - Local history
      - Civil war history

## Cherokee County Historical Society:

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <http://www.rockbarn.org/>
    - Phone: 770-345-3288
      - Fax: 770-345-3289
    - Email:
    - Mailing address: P.O. Box 1287, Canton, GA 30169
  - Accessibility:
    - Public, appointment preferred
    - Physical address: 221 East Marietta Street, Canton, GA, 30114
    - Hours of operation (museum)
      - Weds-fri: 10-5

- Sat: 10-3
- Hours of operation (historical society office)
  - Mon-fri: 10-4
- Staff:
  - Stefanie Joyner: executive director
    - [sjoyner@rockbarn.org](mailto:sjoyner@rockbarn.org)
  - Lisa Tressler: president
  - Cory Wilson: vice president
- Holdings info: <http://www.rockbarn.org/resource-links/> - extensive finding aids, images of materials, photographs, etc.
  - Type: documents, maps, photographs, native american artifacts, family histories, objects related to businesses and individuals
  - Extent: very large, linear footage not avail online
  - Inclusive dates:
  - Geographical area: Cherokee county, GA
  - Subjects: local history, genealogy, community and family life, native american artifacts, tools, maps, property photographs, labor

### **Gilmer County Historical Society - Tabor House and Civil War Museum**

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <http://www.gilmercountyhistoricalsociety.org/>
    - Phone: 706-276-1861
    - Email: [preshist@etcm.com](mailto:preshist@etcm.com)
    - Mailing address
  - Accessibility
    - Physical address: 138 Spring Street, Ellijay, GA 30540
    - Hours:
      - Thurs-sat: 10-2
    - Staff:
    - Holdings info: contacted via email, little online
      - Type: books, artifacts, “donated items”
      - Extent:
      - Inclusive dates:
      - Geographical area: Gilmer County
      - Subjects: Native American history, local history, Civil War

### **Johns Creek Historical Society**

- - **Very young historical society**
  - Contact info:

- URL: <http://www.johnscreekhistory.org/index.html>
  - Newsletter: [http://www.johnscreekhistory.org/pdfFiles/2017\\_JCHS\\_Annual%20Report.pdf](http://www.johnscreekhistory.org/pdfFiles/2017_JCHS_Annual%20Report.pdf)
- Phone:
- Email: [info@johnscreekhistory.org](mailto:info@johnscreekhistory.org)
- Mailing address: 11877 Douglas Rd, Ste 102-295, Johns Creek, GA 30005
- Accessibility
  -
- Staff:
  -
- Holdings info: contacted via email
  - Type: manuscripts, tapes, maps, ledgers, photos, publications
  - Extent:
  - Inclusive dates:
  - Geographical area: Johns Creek, GA
  - Subjects:
  -

### UGA archives: Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library

- 
- Contact info:
  - URL: <https://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/>
  - Phone: 706-542-7123
  - Email:
  - Mailing address:
- Accessibility:
  - Physical address: Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Russell Special Collections Buildings, 300 South Hull Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602
  - Hours of operation:
    - Mon-Fri: 8-5
    - Sat: 1-5
  - Public (y/n): y
- Staff:
  - Steve Armour: University Archives and Electronic Records Archivist
    - [sarmour@uga.edu](mailto:sarmour@uga.edu)
  - Carol Bishop: University Archives Processor, web editor
    - [cbishop@uga.edu](mailto:cbishop@uga.edu)
  - Holdings info: Emailed Steve Armour
    - Type: manuscripts, photos, publications, artifacts, drawings, negatives, books, corporate and organizational papers,



- Extent: “over six million individual items including five hundred thousand images”
- Inclusive dates: 1800 - date
- Geographical area: Georgia, University of Georgia
- Subjects: “focuses on Georgia history and culture, rare books and Georgiana... Other areas of emphasis include performing arts and natural history”

**UGA archives: Richard B Russell Library for Political Research and Studies**

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <http://www5.galib.uga.edu/russell/collections/general1.html>
    - Phone: 706-542-5788
      - Fax: 706-542-4144
    - Email: russlib@uga.edu
    - Mailing address: same as physical
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: Russell Special Collections Building, 300 South Hull Street, Athens, GA 30602
    - Hours of operation:
      - Mon-Fri: 8:30-4:30
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - Sheryl B. Vogt: Director
      - [sbvogt@uga.edu](mailto:sbvogt@uga.edu)
    - Ashton Ellett: Politics and Public Policy Archivist
      - [ellettag@uga.edu](mailto:ellettag@uga.edu)
    - Christian Lopez: Media and Oral History Archivist, Lead
      - [clopez@uga.edu](mailto:clopez@uga.edu)
    - Sarah McCoy: Oral History Coordinator
      - [McCoy@uga.edu](mailto:McCoy@uga.edu)
    - Jill Severn: Head of Access and Outreach
      - [jsevern@uga.edu](mailto:jsevern@uga.edu)
    - Kaylynn Washnock: Outreach Archivist
      - [washnock@uga.edu](mailto:washnock@uga.edu)
    - Robert Lay: Head of Arrangement and Description
      - [lay@uga.edu](mailto:lay@uga.edu)
    - Holdings info: Emailed for more info
      - Type:
        - “correspondence, speeches, drafts of legislation, domestic and foreign policy papers, polling data, campaign materials, sound recordings, electronic records, photographs, film, artifacts,
        - and oral history.”
      - Extent: over 1300 linear feet

- Inclusive dates: 1900 - present
- Geographical area: Georgia
- Subjects:
  - “...emphasis on the role of Georgia and the U. S. Congress, current collection development and programming focus on the dynamic relationship of politics, policy, and culture—generated wherever public interest intersects with government.”
  - “...official repository for the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies, a collaborative project dedicated to documenting and chronicling the activity and perceptions of lesser known participants in the civil rights movement in Georgia”

### UGA Archives: Walter J Brown Media Archives

- - Contact info:
    - URL:
    - Phone: 706-542-4757
    - Email: [sclib@uga.edu](mailto:sclib@uga.edu)
    - Mailing address:
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: 300 S. Hull Street Athens, GA 30602
    - Hours of operation:
      - Mon-Fri: 8-5
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - Ruta Abolins: Director
      - [abolins@uga.edu](mailto:abolins@uga.edu)
    - Margie Compton: Media Archives Archivist
      - [margie@uga.edu](mailto:margie@uga.edu)
    - Callie Holmes: Digital Archivist and Digitization Unit Head
      - [ceholmes@uga.edu](mailto:ceholmes@uga.edu)
    - Holdings info: multiple collections (ones that seem pertinent listed here)
      - Peabody Awards Collection
        - Type: Extent: radio transcription discs, audiotape, audiocassettes, kinescopes and prints, video reels, videocassettes, associated objects
        - Inclusive dates: 1940 - present
        - Geographical area:

- Subjects: “cultural cross-section of television from its infancy to the present day”, “news, documentary, entertainment, educational, and children’s programing”
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
  - Type: film reels
  - Extent: [500?] film reels : sd., col. ; 16 mm.:[70?] film reels : sd., col. ; 35 mm.
  - Inclusive dates: 1970 - 1990
  - Geographical area: Georgia
  - Subjects: parks and historic sites, hunting, fishing, birds, incidents in GA history
- Georgia Folklore Collection:
  - Type: Audio field recordings
  - Extent: 700 sound cassettes : analog.;140 videocassettes : sd., col., b&w ; 1/2 in.;90 videocassettes : sd., col., b&w ; 3/4 in.;1200 audioreels : analog, 7 1/2 ips, full track, stereo ; 1/4 in.;40 videoreels : sd., col. ; 1 in.
  - Inclusive dates: 1976-1983
  - Geographical area: North Georgia
  - Subjects: Musicians; string bands, gospel, blues, work songs, shout songs, banjo, religious singing
- Foxfire Collection
  - Type: taped interviews, negatives, photos, videotaped interviews, transcriptions
  - Extent: 1100 videocassettes (VHS, U-matic, open-reel) : sd., b&w and col. ; 1/2-3/4 in.:[ca. 600?] audio cassettes : analog.;ca. 10,000 slides : col.;ca. 80,000 photographs and negatives : b&w and col.
  - Inclusive dates: 1965 - 1999
  - Geographical area: Southern Appalachia
  - Subjects: Appalachia, rural, people, documentary and factual works, appalachian culture and life, history,
- WSB Newsfilm Collection
  - Type: raw news footage
  - Extent: “more than 5 million feet of film clips”
  - Inclusive dates: 1949-1981
  - Geographical area: Atlanta and the Southeast
  - Subjects: Civil rights movement, significant social and cultural events surrounding it

## University of North Georgia

- 
- Contact info:

- URL: <https://ung.edu/libraries/sc-archives/index.php>
- Phone:
  - Dahlonega: 706-864-1889
  - Gainesville: 678-717-36532
- Email: askus@ung.edu
- Mailing address:
  - Dahlonega: 117 Georgia Circle Dahlonega, GA 30597
  - Gainesville: P.O. Box 1358 Gainesville, GA 30503
- Accessibility:
  - Physical address:
    - Dahlonega: 117 Georgia Circle Dahlonega, GA 30597
    - Gainesville: 3820 Mundy Mill Rd Oakwood, GA 30566
  - Hours of operation:
    - Dahlonega:
      - Tues: 1-5
      - Thurs: 8:30-12:30
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - Don't see anyone listed as head of dahlonega or gainesville locations, or "head of special collections", "archivist", etc.
  - Holdings info: (short description of pertinent collections)  
Will need to call
    - George A Gordon collection
      - Type: correspondence
      - Extent: 1 linear foot
      - Inclusive dates: 1843 - 1877
      - Geographical area: Dahlonega, GA
      - Subjects: Civil war, early history of Dahlonega
    - History of Lumpkin Co. collection
      - Type: manuscript, photographs
      - Extent: .33 linear feet
      - Inclusive dates: n/a
      - Geographical area: Lumpkin Co. GA
      - Subjects: local history of Lumpkin Co.
    - Mining Collection
      - Type: correspondence, legal papers, photographs
      - Extent: 1 linear foot
      - Inclusive dates: n/a
      - Geographical area: Dahlonega, GA
      - Subjects: mining

## Berry College

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <https://www.berry.edu/academics/library/archives/>
    - Phone: 706-236-1738
    - Email: [archives@berry.edu](mailto:archives@berry.edu)
    - Mailing address:
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: Memorial Library, 2277 Martha Berry Hwy. NW Mount Berry, GA 30149
    - Hours of operation: appointment preferred
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - Michael O'Malley: archivist
  - Holdings info: Contacted via email
    - Type: Audiovisual materials, books, slides, negatives, maps, blueprints, drawings, correspondence, speeches, oral histories, photographs, postcards, school departmental materials, news materials
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
    - Geographical area: Rome, GA; Berry college
    - Subjects: Berry Schools and College, WWII, student life, Berry family, Rome area history,

## Young Harris College

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <https://www.yhc.edu/library/archives-special-collections>
    - Phone: 706-379-4313
    - Email: [dbmarch@yhc.edu](mailto:dbmarch@yhc.edu)
    - Mailing address: P.O. Box 39, Young Harris, GA 30582
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: Zell and Shirley Miller Library, Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA 30582
    - Hours of operation:
      - Hours for special collections not avail. online
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - Debra March
  - Holdings info: contacted via email, response recorded here
    - Type: manuscripts, letters, audio, photographs, personal property
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
      - Reece materials are 1913 - 1958

- Geographical area: North Georgia
- Subjects: institutional history and memory of Young Harris College, poetry, agrarian and rural lifestyle, poetry of Byron Herbert Reece

### **Emory University: Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library**

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <http://rose.library.emory.edu/collections/archives/index.html>
    - Phone: 404-727-6887
      - Fax: 404-727-0360
    - Email: [rose.library@emory.edu](mailto:rose.library@emory.edu)
    - Mailing address: same as physical
  - Accessibility:
    - Physical address: Rose Library @ Woodruff, 540 Asbury Circle Atlanta, GA 30322
    - Hours of operation:
      - Mon-Fri 9-5
      - Sat: appt only
    - Public (y/n): y
  - Staff:
    - - John Bence: University Archivist
        - [jbence@emory.edu](mailto:jbence@emory.edu)
        - 404-727-9123
      - Holdings info: Contacted main email
        - Type: photographs, manuscripts, news materials, maps, institutional records, correspondence, books
        - Extent:
        - Inclusive dates:
        - Geographical area:
        - Subjects: African American history, Emory University history, literature and poetry, southern politics, Civil War, Religion, civil rights movement, women's rights, political figures

### **Rabun County Historical Society**

- - Contact info:
    - URL: <https://www.rabunhistory.org/>
    - Phone: 706-782-5292
    - Email: [rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com)
    - Mailing address: P.O. Box 921, Clayton, GA 30525

- Accessibility:
  - Public (y/n): y
  - Physical Address: 81 North Church Street, Clayton, GA 30525
  - Hours (or by appt)
    - Mon, Fri: 10-2
  - Staff:
    -
  - Holdings: emailed inquiry
    - Type: genealogical records, local history, school and church histories, maps, manuscripts, artifacts,
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
    - Geographical area: Rabun County, GA
    - Subjects: Church histories, school histories, newspaper issues, family histories, census records, cemetery records, county history, civil war, marriage

### **White County Historical Society Museum**

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- Contact info:
  - URL: <http://whitecountyhistoricalsociety.com/museum>
  - Phone: 706-865-3225
  - Email: [wchsga@outlook.com](mailto:wchsga@outlook.com)
  - Mailing address: P.O. Box 1139, Cleveland, GA 30528
- Accessibility
  - Physical Address:
  - Hours:
    - Thurs-Sat: 10-3
  - Public (y/n): y
- Staff:
  -
- Holdings info: contacted via email for more info
  - Type: artifacts, genealogical records, newspapers
  - Extent:
  - Inclusive dates: late 1800's to present
  - Geographical area: North Georgia
  - Subjects: life in the North Georgia mountains, genealogy, local history,

### **Stephens County Historical Society - Stephens County History Museum, Currahee Military Museum**

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- Contact info:
  - URL: <https://www.stephenscountyga.com/historical-society.cfm>
  - Phone: 706-282-5055

- Email: [contact@toccoahistory.com](mailto:contact@toccoahistory.com)
- Accessibility
  - Physical address: 160 Alexander St. Toccoa, GA 30577
  - Hours:
    - Mon-Sat: 10-4
    - Sun: 1-4
  - Staff:
    -
  - Holdings info: Contacted via email, minimal info online
    - Type: artifacts, photographs, maps, paintings, documents, and exhibits
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
    - Geographical area: Northeast GA
    - Subjects:

### Jackson County Historic Courthouse Archives

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- Contact info:
  - URL: <http://www.jacksoncountyhistoriccourthouse.com/historic-archives.html>
  - Phone: 706-387-7684
- Accessibility:
  - Physical Address: 85 Washington Street, Jefferson, GA 30549
  - Hours: Mon-Weds, Fri: 10-3 or by appt
- Staff:
  - Charlotte Mealar: archives coordinator
    - [committee@jacksoncountygov.com](mailto:committee@jacksoncountygov.com)
  - Holdings info: Contacted via email
    - Type: photographs, manuscripts, court minutes/dockets, tax and mortgage documents
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates:
    - Geographical area: Jackson County, GA
    - Subjects:

### Chestatee Library System - Dawson Co. Library

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- Contact info:
  - URL: <https://chestateelibrary.org/>
  - Phone: 706-344-3690
  - Email: [dawson@chestateelibrary.org](mailto:dawson@chestateelibrary.org)
- Accessibility
  - Physical address: 342 Allen Street, Dawsonville, GA 30534



- Hours
  - Mon, Weds, Thurs: 10-5:30
  - Tues: 10-7
  - Fri, Sat: 10-3:30
- Staff:
  - Ashlyn Grizzle: information specialist
    - agrizzle@chestateelibrary
  - Holdings info:
    - Type: microfilm, newspapers, maps, periodicals
    - Extent:
    - Inclusive dates: 1800 - present
    - Geographical area: Dawson County, GA and surrounding region
    - Subjects: genealogical, school records, family histories, church histories, burial records, slave records, census materials, local history, local government, Civil war,