



Bourbon Street
Photo from NOPL,
Gulledge Collection

Greater New Orleans Archivists Newsletter Fall/Winter 2003

Winter Meeting 2003

Winter Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 at 6 pm at Isidore Newman School. It is located at 1903 Jefferson Avenue, New Orleans. There is street parking available. There is no business agenda planned. Come enjoy spirited libations and seasonal refreshments and meet other archivists. Please invite any potential members from your offices. Mrs. Genie McCloskey, Archivist, will be our hostess. Her telephone number is 899-5641.

(Don't forget your dues will be due.)

*Dues are usually collected at the Winter Meeting. To help you remember, we placed an *asterisk in front of your name if your dues are current. If you have a question about your dues, please check with Robert Sherer, Treasurer, at the December meeting.*

Minutes of Fall 2003 GNOA Meeting

On October 15, members of GNOA met at Caroline Richardson Hall located at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women. Ms. Susan Tucker, Curator, welcomed everyone. Cathy Kahn, President of GNOA, presided over the business meeting. The minutes of the spring meeting were approved without corrections and are published on the GNOA website. Robert Sherer, Treasurer, gave everyone present a copy of the treasurer's report. Rob said there were currently 29 paid members.

Old Business

Three people received scholarships to the May 2003 Society of Southwest Archivists' meeting held in New Orleans and hosted by GNOA: Lynn Abbott of the Hogan Jazz Archives, Ray Nussbaum, former President of GNOA, and Ann Smith Case of Tulane University.

There were reports from members about their attendance at various archival meeting last summer. Robert Sherer and Carol Bartels as well as several others attended SAA and said that it was a wonderful meeting in Los Angeles. There was an emphasis on film and movies. Next year the meeting will be in Boston and the year after that in New Orleans. Over 1,000 people were registered. Lee Miller said there were 164 people pre-registered for SSA in New Orleans. The actual participant number was over 180. The supply of the latest GNOA book, "Jews of New Orleans: An Archival Guide" is at the Touro Archives. Cathy Kahn said she would bring a supply to the December meeting so that all new members could have a copy.

New Business

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Genie McCloskey, archivist at Isidore Newman School, invited members to Isidore Newman School for the Winter meeting. It will be held on December 4, 2003 at 6 p.m.

Lee Miller said the nominating committee's slate of officers for the 2004-5 term is: President, Irwin Lachoff, Xavier Archives; Secretary, Barbara Vaughn, Nunez Community College Archives; and Treasurer, Robert Sherer, Tulane University Archives.

A motion to adjourn the fall meeting was made and passed.

Barbara Vaughn, Secretary GNOA

News From Around the City

New Orleans Public Library

This fall, New Orleans Public Library will begin construction of a climate-controlled space in the storage area at the Main Library, which houses the original records of the City Archives and Louisiana Division Special Collections. The project will require approximately 6 to 9 months to complete. During that time, it is possible that certain collections may need to be closed to the public. Researchers anticipating projects involving the use of original material from the City Archives or the Louisiana Division should contact the Library prior to their visit to insure that the material they require will be available. (Call the Louisiana Division at 504-596-2610 or contact one of the archivists by email at weverard@gno.lib.la.us or iwainwri@gno.lib.la.us.) More specific information about the project and its impact on the normal operations of the Louisiana Division/City Archives will be posted on the NOPL web page (<http://nutrias.org>) when the information becomes available.

The Louisiana Division has embarked on a joint project with members of the New Orleans Volunteer Association (NOVA) to create a database of the Division's *Index to Orleans Parish Justices of the Peace Marriage Records, 1846-1880*. This index, originally created by Louisiana Division staff and volunteers, is a card file cross-referenced by both bride and groom indexing applications for marriage licenses issued by the justices of the peace and marriage certificates for marriages performed by the justices of the peace. These records comprise the only record of marriages kept by civil authorities during the time period.

NOVA is a group of genealogists from across the United States (and beyond) who work to make Orleans Parish genealogical records accessible online. They have contributed extensively to the Orleans Parish web page of the USGenWeb Project at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/la/orleans.htm>). The index cards are being scanned in-house by NOVA and the images distributed to NOVA's far-flung volunteers for transcription. As the entries for each letter of the alphabet are completed, they will be added to NOPL's web page at <http://nutrias.org/inv/jpmarrindex/jpmarrindex.htm>.

Irene Wainwright, Assistant Archivist

Hogan Jazz Archives, Special Collections, Tulane University

The Hogan Jazz Archive has begun digitization of its oral history audiotapes with a grant from The New Orleans Jazz Commission. Two hundred and thirty-one open reel tapes (approximately one hundred and fifteen hours or one tenth of the collection) were transferred to CDs and MP3 files by Master Digital Corporation during August and September 2003. Plans are under way to make these audio files available via a server in the near future.

Bruce Raeburn, Curator of the Hogan Jazz Archive, participated in the Satchmo SummerFest, July 31-August 4, 2003, presenting a paper and slide presentation titled "Louis and Women" and presiding over a panel titled "International Louis" in which trumpeters Clive Wilson, Yoshio Toyama, and pianist Lars Edegran were participants. Raeburn also presented a paper, "Submerging Ethnicity: Creole of Color Jazz Musicians of Italian Heritage," at the Creole Studies Conference held in New Orleans October 23-25, 2003.

Bruce Raeburn, Curator

University of New Orleans, Earl K. Long Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Special Collections

Marie Windell (UNO) presented a paper on Jefferson and his French agent, Du Pont de Nemours, in the negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase, at the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola Beach, Fla., Oct 17 (the 200th anniversary of the Senate's consideration of the treaty) and "Civil and public rights for Louisiana Creoles of Color, 1803-1893," for the 2003 International Creole Studies Conference, New Orleans, Oct. 25.

Marie Windell (UNO) presented a survey of the contributions by women librarians in Louisiana toward the war effort in World War II for the Conference on World War II, Women on the Home Front, at Tulane University, November 15. The session by the panel was entitled, "Louisiana Remembers the Home Front."

Marie Windell, C.A.

Touro Infirmary Archives

Catherine Kahn spoke to the Professional Tour Guides Association in September, on "Touring Jewish New Orleans" with slides of synagogues, cemeteries and other sites. She also gave two real tours of Jewish New Orleans, one to the travel editor of the American Israelite publication, and the other to members of the Touro Foundation. Fred Kahn is her driver and my photographer.

The archives provided a display for a national group of Rehab nurses. There were 150 visitors to the archives in one day. The archives also provided the research for

Temple Sinai's display, "A. Lincoln and Friends," an exhibit of autographs from the collection of Rabbi Julian B. Feibelman.

Kahn was the moderator of a panel on southern Jewish cooking at the Southern Jewish Historical Society's Annual Conference in Memphis in November. Panel members were author and TV personality Joan Nathan, and Marcie Cohen Ferris, author of "Southern Foodways."
Catherine A. Kahn, Archivist

Preservation websites:

North East Document Conservation Center has information on preservation at <http://www.nedcc.org/>

Stanford University also has a valuable website on disaster with preservation tips included in their information at <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters/>

Louisiana Libraries Association has a sample disaster plan at <http://www.latech.edu/disaster/>

Did you know?

Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association promotes the role of archives in the preservation of our national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, conserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance. <http://www.nutrias.org/~nopl/lama/lama.htm> Their Annual meeting will be held December 5, 2003 in LSU, Hill Memorial Library, Baton Rouge.

Society of Southwest Archivists' (SSA) has a new website at <http://www.southwestarchivists.org>. Their annual meeting is May 27-29, 2004 in San Antonio, Texas.

Society of American Archivists is the oldest and largest national professional archival association. Their website is <http://www.archivists.org/>. The next annual meeting is in Boston, Massachusetts, Los Angeles, California, August 2-8, 2004.

Academy of Certified Archivists promotes fundamental standards of professional archival practice. <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>. If you are planning to seek either certification or recertification, the 2003 application will be available online on or about February 2004. Deadline for applying for certification/recertification is usually in May. Consult their website for current details.

Archivists Toolkit. Samples of archival forms. <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/toolkit.html>

The GNOA Newsletter is published three times each year in the spring, fall and winter. Submissions can be sent to Barbara Vaughn, care of Nunez Community College, 3710 Paris Road, Chalmette, LA 70043 or faxed to 504-680-2584 or emailed to bvaughn@nunez.edu.

SALLY K. REEVES

I first got to know Sally Reeves (I had met her through volunteer work before) as a professional when she interned in the manuscripts division at HNOG, where I was working back in 1982. Sally was in the masters program at UNO at the time. With her fabulous work ethic fueled by boundless energy, she whipped the Arts and Crafts Club's records into shape in no time.

We learned from each other. I helped her polished her technique and she shared her vast knowledge of New Orleans history with me. She also interned at the New Orleans Public Library, and Amistad Research Center, where she organized the papers of A. P. Tureaud. Soon Sally graduated with a masters in history with a specialty in records management.

Meanwhile, Sally had been a volunteer at the Notarial Archives, and had done research for the New Orleans Architectural Series, Vols. 2,4, 5, and 7, for which she served as co-author. When the position of archivist became available there in 1988, she was hired.

When Sally first began her work at the Archives, there was no conservation or preservation program. The Notarial Acts needed page repair and rebinding. Watercolors were shown on the floor. If a page fell out of a book while photocopying, it was tossed into a "fall out box" and not replaced. Sally found unused money in a gift of Ruth Dreyfous, which had doubled as an investment. Sally first approached Ruth to ask if the money could be used to preserve the drawings, instead of the "acts" for which it was given. Sally says she has never forgotten what Ruth told her, "The drawings have enough sex appeal to raise the money for their repair, use my contribution for the "acts." (Ruth's father and grandfather were early notaries. We have laughed together over the "Saint Felix" stories told by his daughter Ruth, and cried together when Sally spoke so eloquently at Ruth's funeral.)

Sally found the money for the watercolors' conservation when attending her first Society of American Archivists meeting in Atlanta. In a program on NEH, she was encouraged to apply for a grant. She had never written a grant before, but either she was very good at writing or, as Ruth had said, the drawings had a lot of sex appeal, because she first received a planning grant to make sure the colors were fast, and later, the grant to have the work done. (GNOA made use of Sally's grant writing skills, when we applied and received full funding for our publication, "Jews of New Orleans, An Archival Guide.")

Many changes were made in the use of the Notarial Archives. Microfilm saved the originals from constant Xeroxing. Smoking and coffee drinking were banned, much to the displeasure of the "old timers." New custom-made cabinets and Mylar housed the

treasures. And in 1998, a fee increase made it possible to create a new home for the pre-1900 records and the sexy watercolors.

In her spare time, Sally has written or co-authored several books. Besides the Architectural Series, she has written a history of Sacred Heart Academy, Grand Isle, and

City Park. Her latest publication is a translation of a French Garden Book, "New Louisiana Gardner."

Sally will not be idle, she is now President of the Louisiana Historical Society. She writes for magazines and websites and gives lectures. When she gets time, she works in her garden.

She has left a legacy in the Notarial Archives, preserved and conserved their priceless collection, taken it from a "good ole boy" operation to a professional model of efficiency, and left it an example of leadership which we hope will be followed in the years ahead.

Cathy Kahn, President GNOA