

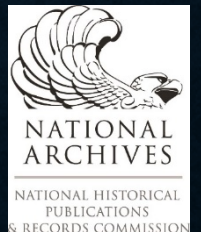
HISTORY OF THE SC SHRAB

South Carolina Archival Association Conference

October 16, 2020

FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

- Established by statute 44 U.S.C. Chapter 25 (2501-6)
 - The NHPRC is a statutory body affiliated with NARA to “preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States”
- Authorized by Congress in 1934
 - This was the same year Congress officially established the National Archives and Records Administration



WHO SITS ON THE NHPRC?

- The NHPRC is a 15 member body
 - It is chaired by the Archivist of the United States
 - It is comprised of representatives from all three branches of the federal government
- The administrative duties and day-to-day operations are handled by a small staff within the National Archives and Records Administration
- Each state has a State Records Coordinator, who together comprise the Council of State Archivists



VISION AND MISSION OF THE NHPRC

- Vision- “Through leadership initiatives, grants, and fostering the creation of new tools and methods, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission connects the work of the National Archives to the work of the nation’s archives. The Commission acts as a bridge for innovation and creativity in advancing best archival practices, publishing historical records, and connecting citizens to their records.”
- Mission- “The National Historical Publications and Records Commission provides opportunities for the American people to discover and use records that increase understanding of our democracy, history, and culture.”



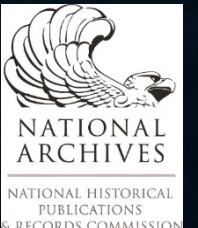
BACKGROUND OF SHRABS

- The NHPRC established State Historical Records Advisory Boards in 1975
- Boards are comprised of at least 7 members, led by the State Historical Records Coordinator in each state
- NHPRC grant money can only be awarded to states with an active SHRAB



PURPOSE OF SHRABS

- It is the responsibility of each SHRAB to:
 - Promote an understanding of the role and value of historical records;
 - Solicit or develop proposals for NHPRC grant projects;
 - Foster and support cooperative networks and programs dealing with historical records;
 - Review through reports and otherwise monitor the operation and progress of projects in the state financed by NHPRC grants; and
 - Advise the state archives and other statewide archival, records, or information agencies.



SOUTH CAROLINA SHRAB

- Created on November 17th, 1975 by Governor James B. Edwards
 - Dr. Charles Lee- first State Records Coordinator
 - Director of SCDAH from 1961-1987
- SC SHRAB awarded its first NHPRC grant in 1977
 - This grant was followed by 26 more (including this year's grant). Total, the NHPRC has awarded the SC SHRAB more than \$1.3 million in funding, and this does NOT including the cost-matching obligations that the NHPRC requires of grantees.
 - 17 of the grants were to help aid institutional funding; helping to create and aid archives at Benedict College, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina.
 - 11 of the grants (including this year's) were made to the SC SHRAB itself; to provide for planning, meeting support, state plan implementation activities, and most importantly, re-grants.



SC SHRAB: 1980S-1990S

- The four biggest re-grant projects conducted by the SC SHRAB were in 1990-93, 1995-97, 1997-99, and 2004-06. Total, the NHPRC provided almost \$450,000 for re-grant projects in SC (which was matched with \$150,000 from the state).
 - These re-grants allowed the SC SHRAB to help smaller repositories directly, for instance local archives, museums, historical societies, public libraries, etc. In a re-grant situation, a state SHRAB applies for funding directly from the NHPRC, which it can then distribute to qualifying projects locally. Local grantees must still apply for funding and meet the criteria established by the NHPRC and the SC SHRAB. The grants are usually modest, in the \$2,000-\$5,000 range. These are grants which would not usually qualify for NHPRC funding at the national level, or to institutions who might otherwise be daunted by the task of applying for a national grant.
 - Between the four re-grant projects, the SC SHRAB funded almost 150 projects for smaller repositories in South Carolina.



SC SHRAB: 1980S-1990S (CONT'D)

- In addition to re-grant projects the SC SHRAB sponsored numerous conferences, workshops, and training sessions for local repositories.
- The SHRAB also published annual reports, a manual on religious archives and recordkeeping (since a lot of the churches have archives in SC), a directory of Historical Records Repositories in South Carolina, conducted a major study of historical repositories in SC in order to produce a State Plan for Historical Records, and established an archives award program in 2002 to recognize exemplary achievement. We are currently working to update the state's Historical Records Repository Directory; it is a byproduct of one of our current grant objectives.



SC SHRAB: 2000S

- Unfortunately, in the early 2000s, a series of factors lead to the decline of SHRABs across the country.
 - The NHPRC did not have as much funding,
 - State legislatures were not willing to allocate matching funds
 - And, in SC's case, the resources of the Department of Archives & History were greatly reduced, both in actual funding and in staff.
- The Board became defunct in the 2010s



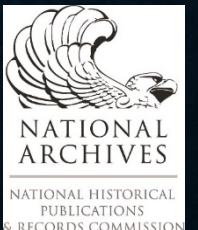
SC SHRAB: 2019

- In 2019, Governor McMaster revived the Board.
 - Current Board Members- Board members are appointed by the Governor; staff support and other resources are provided by SCDAH. Currently there are 7 board members appointed by Governor Henry McMaster; we hope to renew the terms of a few board members and add more in the future.
 - Dr. W. Eric Emerson- Director SCDAH, State Archivist, State Historic Preservation Officer
 - Brenda Burk- Head of Special Collections at Clemson University
 - Kate Boyd- Director of Digital Research Services at the University of South Carolina
 - Dr. Rameth Owens- Professor of History Emerita at Clemson University and SHRAB member since the 1990s
 - Gina White- Director of Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University
 - Andrew Bigony- Lexington County Archivist and President of the South Carolina Public Records Association
 - Joseph Boykin- Former Dean of Libraries at Clemson University, also a SHRAB member since the 1990s



SC SHRAB CURRENT GRANT

- The SHRAB's current grant was the first priority of the revived Board.
 - The Board applied for, and was awarded, \$12,000 in State Board Programming Grant funds.
 - Since the Board was defunct for so long, and so much happened in the interim (several major hurricanes, the 2015 flood, not to mention great leaps forward in technology) the Board first needed to re-assess the situation of historical records in South Carolina. Our grant objectives include:
 - An in-depth survey of predominately African American repositories in South Carolina, because these repositories have traditionally been very under-served.
 - Conduct an electronic survey of South Carolina historical records repositories
 - Conduct 4 focus groups of historical records repositories
 - Use the results of that survey and focus groups to draft a new State Plan for Historical Records.



SC SHRAB AND SCAA

- SHRAB is different from SCAA but can benefit SCAA members
 - SHRAB cannot accomplish our goals (current and future) without feedback from the archival community.
 - The SC SHRAB and the SCAA had a great partnership from the beginning. The SC SHRAB actually sponsored the creation of the South Carolina Archival Association in the late-90s and helped the SCAA arrange the association's first few annual historical records conferences (which was originally one of the SHRAB's tasks).
 - SC SHRAB is not trying to step on SCAA's toes, we are trying to aid in the goals of SCAA by providing an additional avenue for funding that would not otherwise be available to repositories in SC.
 - Even without a re-grant program, the SC SHRAB can help provide access to NHPRC funding for local repositories and archives.
 - A list of grant types can be found here on the NHPRC website: <https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement>
 - A list of what is eligible for funding and what is not eligible for funding can be found here: <https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/apply/eligibility.html>



FUTURE GOALS

- We are working to bring the SC SHRAB back to its previous levels of assistance and activity.
 - Ideally, that will one day mean re-grants.
 - For now, it means restarting training sessions.
 - For 2021's grant, the SHRAB is working with the African American Heritage Commission to plan training sessions geared towards the needs of HBCUs and other predominately African American repositories in South Carolina. If we are able to hold the day of training sessions in person, the sessions will be recorded and released as training webinars on SCDAH's website. If we are not able to hold the training sessions in person, we still hope to produce the webinars and release them to everyone on SCDAH's website.

