

Spring conference draws 62 for 'new perspectives'



Keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas M. Downey, above, of the University of South Carolina's Institute for Southern Studies. A first-ever poster session, below, was well attended. [Photos by Brian Fahey]

Calling all candidates: 3 slots open

By **JEANETTE BERGERON**

James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives

Are you a whiz at numbers? Do you have great ideas for programs that you want to share? Do you want to exercise your leadership skills by being an SCAA offi-

cer? Here's your chance.

The SCAA Nominations Committee is seeking candidates for three Association officer positions for 2005. If you would like to be a candidate or would like to recommend another member, please email the head of the Nominating Committee, Jeanette Bergeron, at jbergeron@ltss.edu.

Here is a brief recap of

Turn to **Candidates**, 3



By **DOROTHY HAZELRIGG**

South Caroliniana Library

ON MARCH 24, sixty-two archivists gathered for SCAA's annual spring conference at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Organized around a theme of "Gaining New Perspectives: Seeing Ourselves from Each Other's Point of View," the conference was designed to help increase understanding between archivists and the patrons they serve. The event included concurrent morning and afternoon workshop sessions as well as a keynote address over lunch.

In the morning workshop sessions, "Marketing Your Archival Institution" was highlighted by Mary Giles' presentation on the history

Turn to **Conference**, 7

Inside

- President's letter, 2
- Charles Lee profile, 3
- Ten Commandments for genealogists, 4
- USC student guild, 4
- SCHRAB/SCDAH news, 5
- Institution/member news, 6-7

President's Letter

Spring rush gives way to quiet summer

HOPE THAT all of you have had a pleasant spring and that the summer is as quiet a time for you as it is for us in Charleston. By the time you receive this, we will have made it through our 'spring rush'. This year the back-to-back Bridge Run, Garden Tours, Family Circle Cup, and the re-burial of the crew of the CSS Hunley have kept all of the archivists here running. In addition to dodging the reenactors in period dress, we have had to contend with our annual influx of inquiries by visitors wanting to search for their roots—having allowed an hour to get the task done; the requests that we “xerox everything you have on the Civil War and mail it to me because I am too busy to come down there, and by the way I am a tax payer, so there shouldn't be any charge” ... you get the idea. I am certain that our colleagues in the other areas of the state have similar tales to tell.

There is a lot going on this year for all of us. It is exciting that the State Historical Records Advisory Board is once again sponsoring the Regrant Program. Information regarding the program can be found at



New SCAA President Sharon Bennett, right, spoke at the Spring Conference. [Photo by Brian Fahey]

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/regrantmain0406.htm>. Having been a recipient of one grant, and consultant on several others, I encourage all of you to apply. It is an incredible opportunity and much of the work done statewide to preserve manuscript collections started with a SHRAB Grant. Also, don't forget to fill out your Archival Census information. We should all stand up and be counted!

Our Spring Conference was well attended, and for the first time included several excellent poster sessions on topics of interest to all of us. The poster sessions gave many of us a chance to chat informally and exchange information and ideas. My

thanks to those that worked hard to make them possible, especially Jeanette Bergeron for spearheading that effort, and to Suzanne Singleton, Aimee Berry James, Steve Tuttle, and our student volunteers for making the rest of the conference run so smoothly.

SCAA continues to maintain strong membership and financial numbers, making my job and the work of the Board both easy and enjoyable. Please remember that we are interested in everyone's input and ideas, so don't hesitate to contact me or any of our Board members with your comments and suggestions.

Sharon Bennett

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Lee a pioneer in archiving, preservation

By ALEXIA JONES HELSLEY

CHARLES LEE DIRECTED the South Carolina Department of Archives and History from 1961–1987.

In his 26 years with the Archives, Lee made the department a pioneer in item-level document indexing creating the databases that now fuel the Archives On-Line Document Index. He also developed the County Records program ensuring the preservation of significant local records series through microfilm and enhanced South Carolina's records management program for state and local records. Lee was a leader in the development of the Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC) and in the founding of NASARA – now NAGARA (National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators). Lee put the "R" for records in the NH-PRC – the National Historic Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives. A dedicated preservationist, Lee served as the state's first historic preservation officer and worked with Gov. Robert McNair to create the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies.

During his tenure as director, the Society of American Archivists recognized the SCDAH with a distinguished service award in 1974. Lee served on the committee of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings for the National Park Service, 1970–1976. A member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission,

“... One wonders whether archives can continue to carry out its essential role in a democratic society.”

1975 – 1979, Lee was president of the Society of American Archivists and the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators and vice-president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officer.

The US Department of the Interior honored him with the Conservation Service Award in 1979. The Institute of Southern Studies of the University of South Carolina gave him the William Gilmore Simms Award in 1980, and USC presented him an honorary doctorate in 1982. In 1994 National Historical Publications and Records Commission recognized Lee with its Award for Distinguished Service in Documentary Preservation and Publication.

Charles Lee led the Archives through an extraordinary period of growth and national leadership. In a recent interview, Lee emphasized the crucial role of archives in a democratic society. “Unless there is a record kept of what the government is supposed to do, the citizen does not have any rights” and a free government cannot flourish. Archives are essential for constitutional government and the opposite of constitutional government is totalitarianism. He related two examples from his years as director. An individual was attempting to redeem a Revolutionary era bond and State

Treasurer Grady Patterson used the treasury books to determine the bond already had been redeemed. In the other case, a landowner was threatened with the loss of his property because there was no title recorded in the courthouse. The Archives located title to the property in the records of the South Carolina Land Commission.

When reflecting upon his successful career, Lee remembered the challenges records keeping have faced in South Carolina – neglect, war, lack of funding – and focused upon his goal of preserving the records and making them available. As he stated, “I let the staff make it the best State Archives in the country.” The archives had the best reference hours for researchers. He is proud of “adding local records and records management” to the Archives and of giving the General Assembly “at that time an awareness of these records and the individual rights that are embodied in them.”

Commenting on the State Archives today, Lee noted that he “missed the seven day research week.” For young archivists, the veteran noted that “archives are fun.” Lee recommended young archivists begin by finding “out what is in a particular archives and then to pick one or two series and really look at them to see what they contain and how they work.” Looking to the future, Lee noted “archives and the electronic media that hold the words are of such transitory nature that one wonders whether archives can continue to carry out its essential role in a democratic society.” In conclusion, he simply said, “I miss it.”

CANDIDATES

FROM PAGE ONE

the duties. Full details are in the SCAA Bylaws, posted annually in the Membership Directory and on the web.

- Vice President/President-Elect. This is a three-year responsibility. In the first year, the officer fills in during the President's absence and heads the an-

nual Awards Committee and Annual Social Scholarship Benefit. In the second year, the officer serves as President of the Association, directing SCAA's programs and activities and presiding at Board meetings and membership events. In the third year, the officer serves as Past President and chair of the Nominating Committee.

- Treasurer. This is a two-year appointment, handling the Association's finances, banking, budgeting and book-

keeping. The Treasurer also participates in Board meetings.

- Director. This is also a two-year appointment. In the first year, the officer serves as the junior member of the program planning team responsible for the content of the spring and fall workshop/conference. In the second year, the officer serves as the senior member of the program planning team. The Directors participate in Board meetings.

Ten Commandments for genealogists

MANY MEMBERS who attended the "Meeting the Information Needs of Genealogists" session at the Spring Workshop strongly urged this editor to broadcast of Robin Copp's "Ten Commandments for Genealogists" for the benefit of all members who could not attend. This is "Thou Shalt . . ." Well . . . here they are:

I. Call before you go. Find out the hours when open, the kind of materials you need to bring, and the institution's policies. For instance, you may be requested to show a photo I.D., have plenty of change and small bills, and use only pencils.

II. Make your requests concise. Know as precisely as possible the family names, dates, and locations. You do not need to give entire family history; just ask for the information you seek.

III. Make only one request at time – especially if you are writing. Clearly state the name and the information you seek. Always include your return POSTAL address in any correspondence, even email.



Spring conference genealogy panelists. [Photo by Brian Fahey]

IV. Start in the present and work backwards – verifying names, dates and locations. Document your sources carefully and correctly as you go along.

V. Be aware that record keeping varies from place to place. Just because one state or county requires something or saves something, does not mean they all do. Time and circumstance are reflected in the paper trail left by past generations. For instance, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century South Carolinians lived on

the frontier, Nineteenth Century newspapers printed few obituaries, and Twentieth Century newspapers only began listing obituaries on the front page in the 1950s.

VI. Be creative in searching. Use variant name spellings and try a variety of sources, not just obvious ones.

VII. Ask for assistance. The staff of the institution you are using knows their holdings and has the experience to guide you. Listen to what they say.

VIII. Use indexes, tables of contents and finding aids when and where they are available.

IX. Plan your research wisely, especially if you have a time limit. It almost always takes longer than you anticipate and procrastination on your part will not help find the information any faster.

X. Have patience, especially if you have written your request. Finding answers takes time, and the number of requests institutions receive is staggering. Remember that you are not the only person seeking information.

USC students charter archival guild

By BEN PETERSEN

University of South Carolina

A group of graduate students at the University of South Carolina interested in archival studies recently formed a student organization, dubbed the Archival Students Guild (ASG). Chartered in July 2003, students from both the archives track of the Public History Program and the School of Library and Information Science make up the membership of the organization. Our faculty advisor is Dr. Connie Schulz, the Co-Director of the Public History Program. The ASG's stated objectives are providing a forum for members to discuss archival issues, identify with the archival profession, and engage in professional activities along with promoting archival interests and student issues at USC.

To meet those objectives the ASG has initiated a volunteer project in conjunction with the S.C. Department

of Archives and History in which eight volunteers enter 18th century records from the Secretary of State's Miscellaneous Records into the department's online index. This project fulfills many of our objectives and allows us to employ our knowledge of archival practice, while at the same time providing much needed services for the state archives. To date we have completed two volumes, begun work on the third, and have indexed over 850 records. We have also developed a poster presentation detailing our project, which we have shown at SCAA's spring meeting, USC's Showcase and Graduate Student Day, and will show at the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) annual meeting this year in Boston. We have also arranged social gatherings including a recent trip to a Columbia bowling alley, where we had a great time, and we are in the process of planning tours to archives in the

Southeast.

In February of this year the ASG became one of only 19 official student chapters of the SAA. SAA student chapter status is important for the ASG because it enlarges our exposure to the archival profession on a national level by way of SAA's newsletter, journal, and their archives listserve and student member listserve. ASG members met with other student chapter representatives at SAA's annual meeting last year in Los Angeles and discovered that we were the only group with a volunteer project that that let us put our knowledge of archival principles to use. Student chapter status is an effective way to introduce our members to the archival profession and its opportunities.

The ASG is just one of the facets of archival education at the University of South Carolina. With continued student involvement and dedication, we will be able to fulfill our objectives and enhance the educational experience for archives students here at USC.

News from the S.C. Department of Archives and History

New historical materials now available online

THE ARCHIVES continues to scan selected portions of its holdings and making them available via an online database on its website. Following the Confederate Pension Applications, Insurance file photographs of public schools, 1935-1952, are now available through the Archives Online Records Index (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>). Archives staff members are currently scanning Grand Jury Presentments, 1783-1877, an important source of local information for genealogists and historians.

More immediately, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas, the U.S. Supreme Court decision ending legally sanctioned "separate but equal" education, the Archives' main Web page has a link to a scanned image of the Briggs vs. Elliot petition (<http://www.palmettohistory.org/exhibits/briggs/index.htm>), the Clarendon County, South Carolina case that was consolidated before the Supreme Court in the Brown decision, May 17, 1954. The original is from the Archives' holdings and is currently on display in the Verne Smith Exhibit Hall at the SC Archives and History Center. Contact J. Bryan Collars for further information about our digital imaging program.

Online Electronic Records Instruction Available

AS A FOLLOW up to our federally funded electronic records workshop series in 2002 and 2003, we have created three streaming audio PowerPoint presentations based on information presented in the six workshops. These presentations are

now available online at www.state.sc.us/scdah/ernhprcintro.htm. They deal with information technology concepts and tools, managing electronic records, and preserving and providing long-term access to electronic records.

Funding for the workshop series and for the online presentations was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the grant-making branch of the National Archives.

State Government Records Advisory Council (SGRAC) Meeting

THE SGRAC met on March 5, 2004, to review progress on the Archives' electronic records program development project (<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/sgrac030504.htm>). The Council heard reports from Archives staff members on project activities at the Department of Social Services and plans for work at other agencies and an assessment of the project and recommendations for future action by the project consultant Robert Horton, Minnesota Historical Society. For details, contact Don Chalfant. The SGRAC will meet again in the fall.

Laurens County Record Transferred

LAURENS COUNTY Administrator Ernest Segars recently delivered to the Archives the Journal of the County and Intermediate Court, 1786-1790, for permanent storage. According to Accessions Archivist Chuck Lesser, it is an important record indeed: "This makes the twelfth county for which County and Intermediate Court journals are known to survive. In all of the other cases, however, the journals were transcribed by the Works Progress Administration in county courthouses during the 1930s." The Archives will microfilm the journal and send a copy of this microfilm to the county library. The information in this valuable record will, therefore, be

widely available and the original safely housed in the Archives' temperature and humidity controlled vaults, where so many of the early Laurens County records already reside.

Orangeburg County

ARCHIVES STAFF members Carolyn Smith and Richie Wiggers recently assisted Orangeburg County in a major records identification/disposition/preservation project at a county records storage facility. In all, they identified over 2,000 cubic feet of records (the equivalent of more than two hundred filing cabinets) for disposal. The remaining records will be moved to a county records center that is under development.

Get Ready for Hurricane Season

IT'S THAT time of year again. Be sure to consult the Archives' technical leaflet on disaster preparedness and recovery (www.state.sc.us/scdah/16.pdf) and related information (<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/shrabwhatdisaster.htm>) on our website. For further information, contact Sarah F. Murray.

News from the S.C. State Historical Records Advisory Board

SC SHRAB Regrant Project

THE STATE Historical Records Advisory Board regrant project staff will conduct grant application workshops in May. All prospective grant applicants must submit a letter of intent no later than June 30, 2004 briefly describing their project, in order to proceed further in the application process. Project information, including contacts and guidelines, is available on the SC SHRAB website at: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/regrantmain0406.htm>.

MEMBER INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

Historical Center of York County

By **NANCY SAMBETS***Historical Center of York County*

THE HISTORICAL Center of York County serves as York County's archival repository acting to collect, preserve, interpret and maintain historically significant records relating to the Carolina Piedmont. Located in the McCelvey Center in downtown York, the Historical Center opened in 1989 under the York County Historical Commission. In 1997 the Historical Commission merged with the Museum of York County under the Cultural and Heritage Commission of York County (commonly called York County Culture and Heritage Commission). The York County Culture and Heritage Commission operates three sites (referred to as the Culture and Heritage Museums): Historic Brattonsville, McCelvey Center, and the Museum of York County.

The McCelvey Center is the former site of the Yorkville Female Academy, York Graded School, York Elementary School, and McCelvey Elementary School. The School District turned over ownership of the building to McCelvey



York County's McCelvey Center.

Center Inc. in 1987 for use as a community and performing arts center. Two years later, the Historical Center of York County opened on the main floor of the east wing. In 2001 McCelvey Center Inc. merged with the York County Culture and Heritage Commission. With a long tradition of education at the site, the Historical Center of York County continues this legacy by providing opportunities for genealogical and historical research.

The Department of Archives and Library Services with a staff of two manages the Historical Center of York County that is open weekdays to the public. The primary concern of the staff is to provide physical protection for the historical materials and make them available to the public. Visitors have access to York County court records (such as General Sessions Court, Court of Common Pleas, and

Court of Equity), the Hart family papers, family genealogical books, church and cemetery indexes, rare books, microfilm reels of federal censuses and local newspapers and a growing collection of African-American records. The non-circulating reference library offers regional history, local history, as well as academic journals.

The Historical Center serves as a research base for Historic Brattonsville, the Museum of York County as well as the general public. The Department creates workshops, exhibitions and presentations to share knowledge with the public and showcase the archival collections. Last year, 967 visitors utilized the facility, outreach programs were attended by 555 people and 937 research requests were answered via email and snail mail. Volunteers and interns provided 567 hours for processing collections, research, and entering data in Family Treemaker. In addition, Staff assists with living history interpretation, exhibitions at the other sites, and programming, as well as regional historical documentation.

Turn to **Georgia**, 8

Georgia Historical Society

By **SUSAN DICK HOFFIUS***Georgia Historical Society*

THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL Society, headquartered in Savannah, was chartered by the General Assembly in 1839 to collect, preserve and share Georgia History. The Society has fulfilled this mission in a variety of ways including the daily operation of a library and archives containing one of the richest collections of primary sources related to the history of Georgia. The collection spans the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and consists of approximately 7,500 cubic feet of manuscript and archival material, 30,000 sheets of architectural drawings and maps, and 20,000 volumes. Some of the significant holdings of the Georgia Historical Society in-

(The) archives contain(s) one of the richest collections of primary sources related to the history of Georgia. The collection spans the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

clude Abraham Baldwin's copy of the United States' Constitution; the grapeshot which killed Revolutionary War hero Count Casimir Pulaski during the Siege of Savannah; the personal papers of Juliette Gordon Low,

founder of the Girl Scouts of America; and records of the Central of Georgia Railroad. In addition the Society is the official repository of the City of Savannah and the Savannah Jewish Archives.

The Georgia Historical Society is located in Hodgson Hall on the corner of Forsyth Park in Savannah. The third site of the Society, it was built by the direction and at the expense of William B. Hodgson's widow, Margaret Telfair Hodgson and her sister, Mary Telfair, daughters of Georgia governor Edward Telfair. This historic building was designed by New York architect Detlef Lienau and is built of timber, brick, and stucco, with brownstone steps.

MEMBER & INSTITUTION NEWS

Dorothy Hazelrigg/South Caroliniana Library

By **DOROTHY HAZELRIGG***South Caroliniana Library*

ON JANUARY 1, I became Curator of Modern Political Collections [MPC] at USC's South Caroliniana Library, succeeding Herbert J. Hartsook, who last year became Director of the Library. Herb founded MPC in 1991.

I began my archival career at MPC as a graduate assistant while I earned my master's degree in history at USC. Upon graduation, I became Hollings Project Archivist at MPC, processing the papers of U.S. Senator Ernest F. Hollings. During 2003, I was employed by the University of Hawaii's congressional papers division, completing in seven months the processing of the 600-box collection of U.S. Senator Hiram Fong.

I am pleased to return to MPC. It is

a dynamic unit and this is a particularly exciting time. Our mission is to preserve and encourage research in private papers documenting South Carolina's government and political leaders. Our holdings include papers of members of Congress, governors, leading state legislators, and the Democratic and Republican parties. Currently, we are receiving and processing the papers of Senator Lindsey Graham and the personal papers of Governor Mark Sanford and former Governor Carroll Campbell. We are also helping Senator Hollings prepare to close his Washington and state offices.

I am excited by the new material we are acquiring, the progress we are making opening our collections to research, and the plans for expanding our oral history program, which is a great complement to our collections.

CONFERENCE

FROM PAGE ONE

of the Diocese of Charleston. The session also included Claudia Brinson, of The State newspaper, speaking about journalists' use of archives and means by which archivists can attract media attention to their repositories and their holdings. "Meeting the Information Needs of Genealogists" featured presentations by archivists Robin Copp and Steve Tuttle and genealogist Brent Holcomb.

Keynote speaker Dr. Thomas M. Downey, of the University of South Carolina's Institute for Southern Studies, talked about his work as managing editor of the South Carolina Encyclopedia. Downey is currently compiling and editing the Encyclopedia with the help of a host of contributors, including distinguished historians and archivists from across the state. The project is under the editorial leadership of USC's Dr. Walter Edgar and is supported by USC Press and the Humanities CouncilSC. Downey spoke about the process

of getting the Encyclopedia project organized, about deciding what types of entries are warranted, about recruiting contributors, and about the style and presentation of the eventual completed product, which is expected to be published next year.

The afternoon workshops included a panel discussion by archivists from Clemson University, Furman University, USC, and SCDAAH on the subject of "College and University Archives and Records Management in South Carolina." USC's Dr. Patrick Scott and Charleston County Public Library's Harlan Greene also spoke on the special considerations and challenges presented by literary collections.

Also part of this year's conference were the SCAA's first-ever poster sessions, which were organized by SCAA Past President Jeanette Bergeron. Participants presented informational posters and exhibits on National History Day in South Carolina, The History Press, Inc., and PastPerfect software. In addition, the USC Archival

Turn to **Conference**, 8

Phillip Stone/
Wofford CollegeBy **PHILLIP STONE***Wofford College*

PHILLIP STONE, archivist at Wofford College since 1999, completed his PhD in history at USC in December. His dissertation was entitled "Making a Modern State: The Politics of Economic Development in South Carolina, 1938-1962."

I especially enjoyed exploring the rich archival collections in the state and working with colleagues at Clemson, USC, and the state archives. One of the most enjoyable parts of my research was visiting with fellow archivists - a treat when you're a lone arranger.

Crumley Lutheran
Archives

THE CRUMLEY LUTHERAN Archives in Columbia has been designated as the new home for the historic Lutheran collection formerly housed in Salisbury, N.C. This 555 cubic foot collection is one of the two oldest Lutheran collections in North America. Missionaries from North Carolina started Lutheran churches throughout South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, which in turn spread to other Southern and Caribbean areas. The collection includes original materials from the early 1700s (mostly in German) up to today. It is heavily used by scholars and genealogists. Jeanette Bergeron will serve as archivist for the collection. Crumley Archives is designated as the Regional Archives of the South and Caribbean for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition, the Crumley Archives has received a \$4,600 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for archival shelving and acid-free wrappers for its collection of 19th Century Lutheran journals.

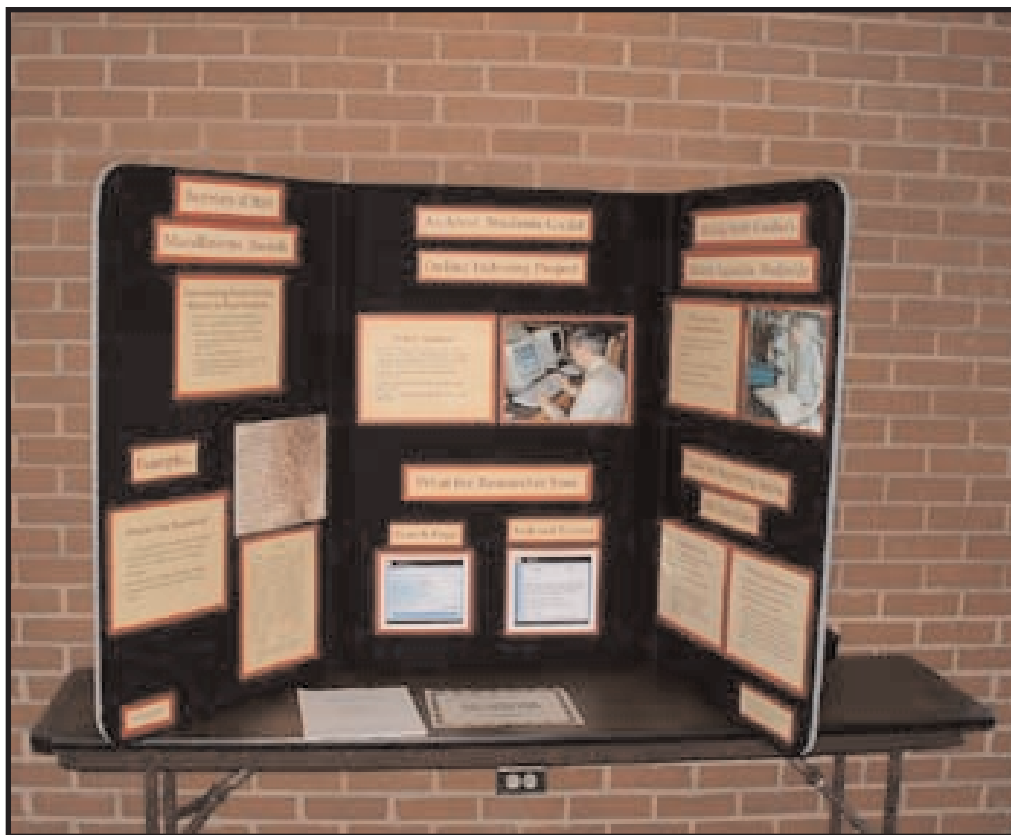
GEORGIA

FROM PAGE SIX

Over the years the Society's Library has served as the Savannah Public Library and the library for Armstrong Junior College, now Armstrong Atlantic State University. In 1977 Hodgson Hall was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to operating its library, the Society also publishes the Georgia Historical Quarterly and Footnotes, as well as a series of monographs titled Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. The Society's education and outreach department direct the Georgia Heritage Celebration in February which commemorates the founding of the colony on February 12, 1733 with a parade of over 6,000 school children from Forsyth Park to the Bay Street. A monthly lecture series brings nationally known speakers to Savannah to talk on topics ranging from founding fathers to civil rights pioneers. The Society is a membership based organization which hosts special events and tours for its members, including our upcoming fall trip to England and the birthplace of General James Oglethorpe, the founder of the colony.

The Georgia Historical Society is located at 501 Whitaker Street in Savannah, GA 31401. The Library and Archives is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please visit our web site for more information about the Society at www.georgiahistory.com.



A display from the SCAA poster session. [Photo by Brian Fahey]

CONFERENCE

FROM PAGE SEVEN

Students' Guild contributed a display about their volunteer online indexing work at SCDAH.

Suzanne Singleton, who as a member of SCAA's Executive Board helped organize this year's conference, pointed to the poster sessions as one of the most successful elements. She also

noted, "The evaluative surveys were very positive. Interestingly, a number of people said that what they liked best was the opportunity to see and talk with other archivists from around the state. People like to reacquaint themselves with their colleagues and find out what's new." Ideas submitted on the evaluation forms for future workshop topics included digitization, reverse strategic planning, and copyright issues.