



# State & Local Records News

Vol. 12, No. 2

Published by the ADAH Government Records Division

November 2007

## ADAH welcomes loose records volunteers, workshop attendees during Archives Month

During the week of October 15-20, the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) joined archivists around the state and nation to celebrate American Archives Month. Week-long festivities at ADAH featured exhibits, lectures, and workshops to demonstrate how Alabamians can be involved in preserving their history and heritage.

Over 700 fourth-grade students participated in our poster content, in which they were invited to pick and illustrate an event from Alabama history. One winning entry is shown below; others can be sampled on the ADAH website at: [http://www.archives.state.al.us/archives\\_week\\_art/main.html](http://www.archives.state.al.us/archives_week_art/main.html).

On Saturday, October 20, the Archives held a day-long program of appreciation for the hundreds of local volunteers who have assisted in our



*Loose records volunteers tour ADAH storage areas*

Loose Records Microfilming Program, which so far has preserved over 7.4 million images of historical and genealogical Alabama records. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, archivists Bob Cason and Linda Overman presented “how-to” workshops on preserving family textiles, papers, books, and photographs. Visiting volunteers also enjoyed a “behind-the-scenes” tour of ADAH storage areas and a catered luncheon in their honor served by ADAH staff.

Forty-six county projects are already completed and no longer need loose records volunteers, but all Alabamians can find exciting ways to learn more about Alabama’s history. For more information about forthcoming events at ADAH, consult our website or contact Sherrie Hamil, the department’s public relations officer, at (334)353-4712 or [Sherrie.Hamil@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:Sherrie.Hamil@archives.alabama.gov).



## ADAH increases collections available on the internet

On October 16, as part of its Archives Month festivities, ADAH debuted a new service available to our researchers: CONTENTdm®. CONTENTdm® is an image management software that supports the distribution of ADAH collections on our website.

CONTENTdm®, a digital collection management system, allows archivists to store, index, and display digitized primary resources online. Developed at the University of Washington, the program is in wide use at special collections repositories and research libraries across the country.

The first ADAH collections created for CONTENTdm® include the Alabama Photographs and Pictures Collection, Alabama State Publications, and the Frank W. Boykin Collection. Boykin represented Alabama's First Congressional District from 1935 to 1963. His collection contains more than a thousand items of personal and official correspondence, political memorabilia, and photographs. They are available thanks to a donation from the Tensaw Land and Timber Company in honor of Boykin's granddaughter, Ocllo Malone.

ADAH staff members are continuing to learn the CONTENTdm® system and are continuously entering data from our photographic, pictorial, and publications collections. Work has also begun on four additional collections: The Selma to Montgomery March, the Civil War Period Flag Collection, the Confederate Officers Photograph Album, and Alabama Governors. For more information on ADAH digital collections available on CONTENTdm®, consult our website at <http://216.226.178.196/>, or call Government Records Division staff member Steve Wheat at (334)353-4635.

## State Records Commission approves agency RDAs

At its meeting on October 24, 2007, the **State Records Commission** approved new RDAs for the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Office of the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate. It also approved revised RDAs for the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama State Bar, and the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy. Finally, the commission reviewed annual RDA implementation reports from 25 state agencies.

The **Local Government Records Commission** did not meet in October, due to a lack of business to transact. The Secretary of State's Office is now considering changes to the RDAs for county boards of registrars and probate offices, in order to comply with Alabama's newly implemented voter registration system. A committee of probate judges is also reviewing the probate RDA. We intend to present the revised RDAs for consideration at the commission's January meeting.

The records commissions' next meetings are scheduled for **Wednesday, January 23, 2008**. The State Records Commission will convene at 10:00 a.m., and the Local Government Records Commission will begin at 1:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Regions Board Room on the third floor of ADAH.

## Records commission members come and go

Eliza Marshall, who has represented the Secretary of State's Office on the State and Local Government Records Commissions since 2003, recently resigned to accept a position with the Montgomery County Board of Education. The Secretary of State's new representative is Ed Packard of the Elections Divi-

sion. ADAH appreciates Ms. Marshall's service on the records commissions and looks forward to working with Mr. Packard, her successor in this important work.

Another departing commission member is Dr. Joe Turrini, who has represented Auburn University since 2005. He has also headed its graduate program in archives. ADAH will miss Dr. Turrini's contribution in both areas, as Auburn has recently provided us with several excellent student interns. We wish him well in his new position at Wayne State University.

## Focus groups to continue HRB strategic planning

The Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board (HRB) convened on October 24 at ADAH, where members reviewed the results of our summer surveys of historical records users and repositories (see *State and Local Records News*, August 2007).

As the next step in the planning process, Government Records Division staff will contact representatives of the various constituencies that responded to the surveys (historical researchers, genealogists, academicians, librarians, archivists, and members of the public) and solicit their participation in two focus groups. These groups, consisting of about ten members each, will discuss and prioritize problems identified in the two surveys (difficulty in accessing historical records, improper records storage and preservation methods, inadequate funding for records preservation programs, etc.). Plans call for the focus groups to meet in Birmingham and Mobile, respectively, during the first week in December.

Armed with the group participants' conclusions, the HRB will reassemble after the new year to complete a strategic plan for records preservation. Once its report has been approved by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the HRB will be ready to apply

for more state and federal funding to pursue the goals outlined in the statewide plan.

For more information on the HRB and its plans for preserving Alabama's historical records, contact Tracey Berezansky, HRB Deputy Coordinator, or Tom Turley, local records archivist, at (334)242-4452 or [records@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:records@archives.alabama.gov).

## CoSA/FEMA to train agencies in emergency preparedness

ADAH learned in November that the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) will receive \$2.6 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) Project.

This three-year project will develop web- and CD-based training for state and local government agencies on vital (essential) records, as well as records-related emergency preparedness and response. The curriculum will be based on workshops developed by the National Archives and will incorporate additional content of special interest to state and local officials.

In March, delegates from each participating state will attend a "kick-off" conference in Atlanta, where they will discuss ideas for developing the curriculum and bringing state and local agencies into the program. Each state will spend the next 12 months tailoring and testing its curriculum. Some may participate in pilot workshops. Later (2009-2010), IPER will sponsor "train the trainer" institutes, where five-person teams will deliver training in each state, with content customized to reflect that state's own procedures and resources. Each team will include members from state archives and records management agencies, emergency management agencies, IT agencies, and local government.

*State and Local Records News* will report on Alabama's version of this program as it develops. Meanwhile, for more information contact the Government Records Division at (334)242-4452, or [records@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:records@archives.alabama.gov).