

Delaware Caucus Report, July 29, 2011

Winterthur Library

“The Butcher, The Baker, & The Tallow Chandler: Crafting Tangible but Temporary Goods in Early America” is now on view inside the library. Curated by Tyler Putman, WPAMC 2011, the exhibit highlights common items like meat, bread, and candles that are destroyed in use. See how published guides and books of trades, craftsmen’s account books, invoices, indentures, and even poetry enable us to recreate practices and products of historic trades.

Start at the case opposite the circulation desk to learn about butchering and continue down the staircase to read about baking and candle-making. The show will be on view through September

The Fairy Garland, celebrating the tenth anniversary of Enchanted Woods, is now on view outside the library. Curated by Linda Eirhart, the exhibit showcases a selection of picture cards, postcards, calendars, and children’s books from the Grossman Collection featuring images of fairies and floral ladies and children. The show will be up till the end of July.

Temple University

"Marty Levitt, who teaches Archives at Temple University and is the Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, has accepted a Fulbright Specialist appointment over part of the summer of 2011. Levitt is in Kigali, Rwanda, where he is helping to organize governance and administrative structure that will lead to the opening of the first public library in that country. Rwanda suffered a terrible internal genocide in 1994, and the country is finding ways to re-build its culture and promote healing and reconciliation. For more about the

Hagley Museum and Library

Hagley Announces New Director of Library Services

Hagley Museum and Library Executive Director Geoff Halfpenny has announced the appointment of a new director for the Hagley Library. Taking over the leadership as Director, Library Services, on July 1, 2011, is **Erik P. Rau, Ph.D.** Dr. Rau comes to Hagley from Drexel University where he was an assistant teaching professor in the Department of History and Politics.

According to Mr. Halfpenny, “The Hagley Library is the nation’s leading business history library and archive. With collections that include 36,000 linear feet of archival material, 290,000 printed volumes, more than 2 million pictorial images, and a growing digital repository, the Hagley Library has international recognition. As a historian of technology, information, and organizations, Dr. Rau brings to Hagley a keen understanding of the issues now facing independent research libraries and the insight to guide the Hagley Library into the future.”

Dr. Rau serves on the board as vice chairperson of the Delaware Humanities Council and is project director of their Delaware Industrial History Initiative, a digital humanities program of the Delaware Humanities Forum. The initiative includes Hagley’s “Industrial Brandywine” project. He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in the Department of History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. from Stanford University.

Hagley Museum and Library collects, preserves, and interprets the unfolding history of American enterprise. The Hagley Library is a member of the Independent Research Libraries Association. For more information, call (302) 658-2400 weekdays or visit www.hagley.org

Delaware Public Archives Commemorates the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War with a recently acquired donation and a new project on Twitter

In May, the Delaware Public Archives received a donation of American Civil War documents consisting of approximately 65 original letters written during the war by Stephen Taylor Buckson. Donated by a Florida woman who is the great-granddaughter

of Buckson, the letters were written to Buckson's wife Harriett from 1862 to 1864. Stephen Buckson enlisted in Wilmington in 1862 and eventually reached the rank of First Sergeant in the Fourth Regiment of Delaware Volunteers. In these letters, he asks for information about family and friends while discussing the different places his unit had been, the terrible casualties suffered by the Union forces, the deteriorating condition of the Confederate Army; and his feelings of loss and isolation. Buckson was killed during an attack on the Confederate defenses near Petersburg on June 18, 1864. Archives Director Stephen M. Marz states that "this is a fascinating firsthand account of the Civil War as experienced by a Delaware soldier. We are fortunate that such a collection is now housed at the Public Archives for all to see. It's such a valuable addition to our existing Civil War Collection that we've already set up a display in the Archives about these newly acquired primary source documents. Along with the letters, the person donating the collection included a photograph of Sergeant Buckson in his 'dress coat' uniform." The Buckson Papers, along with typed transcriptions and other documents related to his military service, are available in the Mabel Lloyd Ridgely Research Center at the Delaware Public Archives.

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the American Civil War, the Delaware Public Archives has begun tweeting entries on Twitter and posting entries on Facebook and the Blog that are taken from the diary of Delaware soldier Cyrus Forwood.

Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/CyrusForwood>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CyrusForwood>

Blog <http://cyrusforwood.blogs.delaware.gov/>

Citizens can now follow, in real time, the travels of Forwood as he experienced the war exactly 150 years ago. Forwood's first entry states:

May 11th 1861. Volunteered in U.S. service for three months in the "Blue Hen's Chicken's."

From that day on, for the next several years, people can check into these Archives social media outlets to view Forwood's entries and other related Civil War information pertaining to him. Forwood served in the military for approximately three years. Most of his time was spent with Company A, 2nd Delaware Volunteer Infantry Regiment. His diary reveals both the mundane nature of camp life along with the sheer terror of Civil War combat.

Check in each day to see - in what battles did he participate? What did he eat? What did he wear? Who were his leaders? These and other questions will be revealed as the diary progresses through the war.

Attached photograph is Sergeant Stephen Buckson



R. C. Holmes

DOVER, DEL.

MARAC

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Maryland Caucus Report Steering Committee Meeting Baltimore, MD July 29, 2011

Maryland Caucus – Tour of Frederick, Maryland

Eleven members of the MARAC Maryland Caucus visited the Historical Society of Frederick County (HSFC) and the C. Burr Artz Public Library's Maryland Room in Frederick, Maryland, on July 11, 2011. Brigette Kamsler, Archivist and Research Center Coordinator for the HSFC, discussed archival issues from the perspective of a private, non-profit organization. The tour began at the HSFC's offsite storage facility, which houses unique collections on the history of the county including museum artifacts, textiles, and archival collections. The tour then moved to downtown Frederick to visit HSFC's headquarters building, with a focus on the Archive and Research Center facility. After the HSFC tour, attendees enjoyed lunch at Cacique Restaurant, which offered Mexican and Spanish cuisine. In the afternoon, tour attendees had the opportunity to visit the Maryland Room at the C. Burr Artz Public Library. Mary Mannix, Maryland Room Manager, presented information about the history of the library and providing access to local history and genealogy materials in a public library setting.

Bowie State University – Archives and Special Collections Department

Bowie State University's Archives and Special Collections Department is now open four days per week. Since May 2009 the collections have been undergoing reappraisal and reorganization following nearly twenty years without dedicated staff. Katherine A. Hayes worked as a consultant for the first year and was hired by the University in July 2010 to continue this work.

University Archives includes records created by the Office of the President; student seminar papers and graduate theses; administrative and departmental records; and student records that date from the 1920s-1980s, including grade and roll books. The collection also includes the first student register for the Baltimore Normal School, dated 1866-1907. There are over fifty linear feet of university publications, including yearbooks, announcements, catalogs, class schedules, magazines, newsletters, commencement programs, brochures, and department annual reports.

Manuscript collections include the papers of the Goodloe Family (1910-1988). Don S. S. Goodloe was the first principal of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School, and his house is now the Bowie State University Alumni House. The collection includes family artifacts and photographs from the Goodloe family.

Organizational records include the Lanham-Bowie Chapter of the American Association of University Women dating from 1959 through the 1990s; Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP, 1981-1987; the Maryland Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, 1975-1987; and the Prince George's County Women's Political Caucus, 1980-1991.

Approximately fifty linear feet of photographs includes images documenting the early history of the school after its move to Bowie in 1911. Other subjects depicted include the demonstration school for teacher education; alumni, students, faculty/staff, and department activities; athletics; landscape, buildings and grounds.

Archives and Special Collections also is home to approximately 75 linear feet of books on Maryland History, and 125 linear feet of rare books including over 100 bound original reprints of Congressional speeches from 1820-1890, on the topics of abolition of slavery, civil rights, and Reconstruction. More than a third of the rare book collection dates from the nineteenth century and earlier, and covers history, natural history, social sciences and culture.

Collections are being cataloged for inclusion in the USMAI online catalog and OCLC. The department was recently awarded grant funding from the Bay and Paul Foundations for a Preservation Assessment Survey to be conducted later this year. Access to collections is by appointment. Please contact the archivist at (301) 860-3851, or khayes@bowiestate.edu.

University of Maryland, College Park – Special Collections in Performing Arts

Special Collections in Performing Arts at the University of Maryland, College Park is pleased to announce that the Jacob M. Coopersmith Collection is now processed and available to researchers. Recent additions to the collection are currently being added, and a full finding aid will soon be available. An abstract of the collection may be found at <http://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/13402>; a finding aid is available upon request.

Jacob M. Coopersmith (1903 – 1968) was an American musicologist whose research focused on the composer George Frideric Handel. Coopersmith was also a performer, conductor, teacher, and librarian, holding the post of senior music cataloger at the Library of Congress for nearly twenty years. He wrote the first thematic catalog of Handel's works, published a critical edition of Handel's *Messiah* that incorporated all the known variations in text and music, and wrote numerous articles in the field of music history.

The Coopersmith Collection contains original and facsimile libretti of Handel's vocal works, manuscript and published scores, his personal research materials, pertinent catalogs he collected from a variety of institutions, and a unique assemblage of music history and Handel-related books, dating from the early 18th - to the mid-19th centuries. For more information on this collection, please contact the Curator of Special Collections in Performing Arts, Vincent J. Novara, at vnovara@umd.edu.

Report Submitted by:

Elizabeth A. Novara, Maryland Caucus Representative

New Jersey Caucus Report July 29, 2011

New Jersey Historical Commission:

The Historical Commission, along with many state departments, is in flux and a decision must be made as to which programs will be maintained with the limited resources available – there are currently five project grant rounds in addition to General Operating Support, and there is a proposal to reduce project grants to two rounds. As it stands, the PARIS program remains inactive.

In the state budget passed July 1st, the Governor vetoed funding for the Battleship New Jersey, Old Barracks, and Newark Museum that the Democratic Legislature had attached to funding for the Council on the Arts; last year funds from the Historic Trust were utilized for these institutions after their traditional line items were eliminated from the budget. A set percentage of the Hotel-Motel Tax is supposed to be dedicated to arts and history funding, which this year's budget met at the lowest possible level.

New Jersey Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Survey (CAPES):

Capes consultants completed one survey in the second quarter of 2011, with four pending. The Advisory Board met on June 13th to discuss changes to the Historical Commission's funding priorities and grants calendar, continued outreach efforts to historical organizations, and the subsequent increase in applications.

Monmouth County Library:

Jane G. Clayton Award Winner 2011 – Joseph G. Bilby has been chosen to receive the 2011 Jane G. Clayton Award, to be presented at Archives and History Day at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan, on October 15. Created in 1997, the Clayton Award honors an individual who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to an awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of the history of Monmouth County, New Jersey. It is named after the former County Clerk who was responsible for the creation of the Monmouth County Archives.

Past winners have been George Moss, Mary Lou Strong, Louise Jost, Wesley Banse, Douglas Foulks, Gail Hunton, Michael Adelberg, Lee Ellen Griffith, Flora Higgins, Gerald Ceres, Karen Schnitzspahn, Lydia Wikoff, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Edward J. Raser.

Joe Bilby received his BA and MA degrees in history from Seton Hall University. A Vietnam veteran, he has taught military history on the community college level and lectured widely on Civil War and New Jersey history. He is currently part-time Assistant Curator of the New Jersey National Guard and Militia Museum in Sea Girt, New Jersey and a free lance writer and historical consultant. He is the author, editor or co-author of twelve books and more than 300 articles on New Jersey history and folklore, military history and outdoor subjects. His Monmouth-related books include Monmouth Court

House: The Battle That Made the American Army, Asbury Park: A Brief History; and Sea Girt: A Brief History, and his several books on New Jersey's Civil War regiments such as Remember You Are Jerseymen: A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War co-authored by William C. Goble includes information about Monmouth soldiers.

Mr. Bilby has appeared on the History Channel's Civil War Journal, the Discovery Channel's Discovery Magazine, and RTE, the Irish National television network, as an expert on the Civil War and 19th century firearms. He is a Trustee of the NJ Civil War Heritage Association, a member and publications editor of New Jersey's official Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, and content editor of the Committee's website.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey V. Moy
State Chair

New York State Caucus report, July 25, 2011
Brian Keough, Caucus Chair

DORIS/DCAS proposed merger

The New York City Council is considering New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed legislation to change the administrative structure of the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS), the department that is responsible for the NYC Municipal Archives, City Hall Library, and records programs. The proposed legislation merges DORIS into the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). The Archivists Roundtable Table of NYC (ART) is working with NYC Councilwoman Brewer to add ART's recommendations to the proposed legislation.

New York EAD Collaboration Group

A small group of New York archivists from the University at Buffalo (SUNY), the University at Albany (SUNY), Syracuse University, Colgate University, Historic Hudson Valley, and the Rockefeller Archive Center have joined together to support the use of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and help coordinate statewide EAD activities.

The group prepared an EAD survey sent in July 2011 to 500 institutions of all sizes across New York State. The objective was to solicit information about the current status of EAD implementation in the State and gauge the interest of institutions' willingness to deposit EAD finding aids in a centralized repository similar to that of the Online Archive of California. The survey results will also provide base information for any attempts to establish a statewide mechanism to encourage and assist institutions not yet producing EAD to do so. Although the group has no official standing at this point, being simply a group of interested independent advocates, it believes that this data will be valuable no matter what agency might pursue such a project. Survey results will be shared with interested participants.

**Pennsylvania Caucus Report
Summer Steering Committee Meeting
July 21, 2011**

Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh

Ed Galloway

In April, the Archives Service Center (ASC) at the University of Pittsburgh added 60 years' worth of alumni publications published by Pitt between 1926 and 1985 to our Documenting Pitt website. Over 13,000 pages were scanned by the ULS Digital Research Library. The publications document news of University events and activities to alumni, and are especially rich during the WWII years. The seven new alumni publication titles represented on the website reflect the changes and growth happening at Pitt during these six decades. The alumni publications are available here on the Documenting Pitt website:

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/documentingpitt/alumni.html>.

“Yinz” excited to announce the revamped Pittsburgh Speech & Society Project website which focuses on disseminating research and educational materials relevant to the Pittsburgh dialect. It now includes conversational interviews that capture examples of such dialect. This website also features a dictionary to explain some common Pittsburgh words such as “gumband” and “redd up.” We are grateful to Dr. Barbara Johnstone, Professor of Linguistics and Rhetoric at Carnegie Mellon University, who conducted the project (along with Dr. Scott F. Kiesling, Associate Professor of Linguistics at Pitt) and donated the interviews to the ASC and subsequently partnered with us to create the new site. The Pittsburgh Speech & Society Project website is available at <http://pittsburghspeech.pitt.edu/>.

We also continued our digitization of glass plate negatives found in our Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection. We recently added over 1,000 images to the online collection which can be found here: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/images/pittsburgh/cityphotographer.html>. Presently, almost 13,000 images are available online from this collection.

Senator John Heinz History Center

Matthew Strauss

In June 2011, the Heinz History Center Library and Archives was awarded an \$88,738 grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The grant will fund a two-year project to provide access to more than 600 archival collections that reside in the History Center's backlog. These "hidden" collections, which contain material dating from the late 1700s until the present day, document western Pennsylvania's business and industry, vibrant ethnic communities and arts organizations, religious groups, civic entities, and political life. The grant will allow the History Center to hire a full-time project archivist to work on the project. The collections will be made accessible through History Center's online catalog and the Historic Pittsburgh website.

Pennsylvania State University, Paterno Library

Sue Hamburger

On July 6, Tim Pyatt started as the new Dorothy Foehr Huck Chair and Head of the Special Collections Library at The Pennsylvania State University. Most recently from Duke University, Tim has worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in archives in Maryland. We welcome Tim back to the MARAC region.

Submitted by Pat Scott, PA Caucus Chair

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Virginia Caucus Report MARAC Steering Committee Meeting 22 July 2011

Norfolk Southern Archives

Museum Renovations and a Mobile Phone App

Norfolk Southern traces its beginnings to 1830; the modern corporation was formed in 1982, when the Norfolk and Western Railway and the Southern Railway merged to form Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The Norfolk Southern Archives includes the records of nearly 400 predecessor railroads and related companies in the South and Midwest, beginning in the 1820s. The collection includes a wide variety of materials—such as photographs, documents, artifacts, blueprints, and drawings—and is housed in repositories in Norfolk and Roanoke, Virginia. A museum in Norfolk showcases the archival collection for visitors to the corporate headquarters, and is open to the public five days a week, free of charge.

Clothing, tools, locomotive and train parts, signage, maps, and advertisements are among the more than 500 images and artifacts dating to the 1830s that are showcased in the museum. Visitors can drive a locomotive simulator formerly used to train Norfolk Southern engineers. A narrated, plasma screen-based interactive program for the simulator allows them to experience the thrills and challenges of operating a locomotive. Exhibits include sections of Civil War track; vintage hand tools; a 900 pound railroad coupler; photographs of workers past and present; and diagrams used to teach hand signals and lantern use to railroad trainees. A new interactive wall and floor digital multimedia projection system is being installed in the museum this summer.

Materials from the archives are often featured on Norfolk Southern's Facebook page, which has more than 14,000 fans from around the world. The Archives has worked with the manager of Community Outreach to incorporate historical content on Facebook. The Archives is also working with the corporation's public relations firm, The RP3 Agency, on a free mobile phone

application, which will deliver the company's latest news, stock information, and social media postings to smart phone users.

The Norfolk Southern app will be available for iPhone and Android phones through their application stores later this year. It also features company photos, videos, a timeline, and quiz.

The app includes a photo of the day, daily trivia, and a historical time line illustrated with materials from the Archives. Annual reports, company magazines, advertisements, and a wide variety of photographs from the Archives helped to illustrate this history of the company. Touching a picture enables the user to find more information on the event or image. The app balances current events with historical content.

"This puts NS information into the proverbial palm of the hand," said Frank Brown, assistant vice president corporate communications. "It's available wherever there is a mobile signal, and it doesn't hurt that it's free and easy to use."

The app's "News" button gives users a choice of company news releases or real-time feeds of the NS Facebook and Twitter pages. The "Stocks" button provides related industry financial news in addition to the latest available NS stock price. "Media" offers photos and NS-produced videos. "Timeline" lets users explore company milestones going back to 1827. The NS system map and other general company information are found under the "About Us" button.

By forging a cooperative relationship with Community Outreach and Public Relations, the Norfolk Southern Archives has crafted a new way to use its collections for education and outreach. While the Archives continues to reach out to the community in traditional ways (by speaking to groups, giving tours of the museum, and participating in Archives Month), we're excited to be exploring this new avenue and working collaboratively with others who care about the company's history. Another first—an Archives podcast—is currently in production and will be available on the Norfolk Southern web site this fall. The slogan for the Norfolk Southern museum is "Where the Past Meets the Future, Daily." The same can now be said for the Archives as we explore social media.

Norfolk Southern Archives Helps to Honor African American Railroaders

The Norfolk Southern Archives participated in an event at the Virginia Museum of Transportation (VMT) in Roanoke on June 11, 2011, to honor the contributions of African American railroaders. The VMT is housed in the former Norfolk and Western freight station. Jennifer Davis McDaid, Norfolk Southern's historical archivist, worked with the African American N&W Heritage Celebration Group and Rails of Color on the project. The Norfolk Southern Archives displayed items from its collections at the event, and visitors could train on a locomotive simulator, ride in a caboose, and tour the museum. A ceremony in the evening keynoted by Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman honored the veterans.

Norfolk Southern donated framed photographs copied from the historical collection for the groups to sell in a silent auction to raise money for their college scholarship fund. This year, the auction raised nearly \$2,000.

The groups in Roanoke include retired workers, many in their eighties and nineties, as well as current Norfolk Southern employees. They work with local schools to mentor young students, as well to provide scholarship opportunities for college.

African American workers—among them brakemen, firemen, porters, chefs, mechanics, and laborers—made significant contributions to the building, maintenance, and operation of the railroad. The Norfolk Southern Archives helps document their stories, past and present.

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., a 32-year employee of the University of Virginia's Special Collections Library, was elected to a three-year term on the Gettysburg Foundation Board of Directors during its June 2011 meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The Foundation oversees the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, a multi-million dollar multimedia facility that opened in 2008. The Board's president remarked that Jordan's "integrity, insight, and thoughtfulness, as well as his commitment to tell the inclusive stories of the people and communities affected by the Civil War, will be an incredible gift to the mission and vision of the Foundation and the battlefield." As a private, non-profit educational organization the Foundation's mission, in partnership with the National Park Service, is to enhance preservation and understanding of the lasting national significance of the Gettysburg Campaign, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and President Eisenhower's residence in the Gettysburg community.

Jordan is an Associate Professor and Research Archivist at UVA's Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, specializing in Civil War and African-American history. He is the author of three books including the nationally acclaimed [Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia](#), a History Book Club selection. Jordan has been a member of MARAC (and its Virginia Caucus) since 1979. He served as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee (1987-88) and was again elected to the committee and served 2005-2006; he was MARAC Vice-Chair during 1993-95. Jordan is also a member of Virginia's State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Supreme Court of Virginia Historical Commission.

William and Mary College

Civil War Document Transcription Project The transcription project of Swem Library's "From Fights to Rights: The Long Road to a More Perfect Union" is a massive effort by volunteers to transcribe manuscripts such as diaries and letters in the Special Collections Research Center and make them available online.

Staff and volunteers have begun scanning thousands of documents from the Civil War era and making images of the documents available online using Omeka. After the documents are digitized, they are then available to volunteers to transcribe. Nearly all of the volunteer transcribers are working from home, but volunteers are welcome to transcribe from the original documents in Special Collections if they wish. Staff & volunteers will check completed transcriptions before adding them to the online collection.

The next phase of the effort will see volunteers transcribing material from the Civil Rights Movement. More information is available at <https://swem.wm.edu/news/fights-rights/transcription-project>.

From Fights to Rights: The Long Road to a More Perfect Union is a four-year project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement from 2011-2015. The "From Fights to Rights" project has three aspects: a series of public programs and exhibits in Swem Library; the digitization of theses and dissertations by W&M alumni on Civil War and Civil Rights topics and their inclusion in the W&M Digital Archive; and the volunteer effort to transcribe manuscripts. The project was named by William and Mary alumnus Charles E. Fulcher, Jr. '99 after a contest by Swem in 2011.

William & Mary Catalogs Now Available

Are you an alumnus of the College of William & Mary looking for descriptions of classes you took while a student? Researching your ancestor who attended or worked at the College of William & Mary? The College of William & Mary Catalogs from 1829 to the present are now available through the W&M Digital Archive.

Modern college catalogs are best remembered for detailed course descriptions and information about degree requirements, but catalogs also include other important information about the university, its people, buildings, and history. In the catalog you will find lists of faculty and staff, highlights of facilities and services, academic policies, descriptions of student groups, and much more information intended to inform current and attract potential students.

Catalogs from the 19th and early 20th centuries are a treasure trove for researchers of not only William & Mary history, but also family history as they list faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Researchers of William & Mary and Williamsburg history will not be disappointed though as they follow the growth and development of campus and its buildings through announcements in the catalog and fold-out maps of campus, which were common in the early 20th century.

Catalogs from 2004 to the present were available electronically from the Office of the University Registrar and were added to the W&M Digital Archive. Swem Library was able to digitize the 1829-2004 catalogs with the support of donors to Special Collections.

Digitization by the Internet Archive was made possible through the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative with funding from LYRASIS members and the Sloan Foundation. More information: <https://swem.wm.edu/news/2011/06/william-mary-catalogs-now-available> .

New Exhibits

Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center marked the third semester of class-curated exhibits in Spring 2011 with the opening of "A Century of Student Voices" by students in Prof. Sharon Zuber's "Constructing the News" Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies class and "The World of Henry Billups: Jim Crow at the College of William and Mary" by students in Prof. Jody Allen's history class of the same name. Both exhibits run April-November 7, 2011 and further information is available at <https://swem.wm.edu/exhibits>.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Newman
VA Caucus Rep.

MARAC
WV Caucus Report
July 29, 2011
Nat DeBruin, Caucus Representative

Former Congressman and WV Secretary of State publishes new book on the Civil War

Dr. Kenneth W. Hechler's latest book *Soldier of the Union* (2011) has just been published. The book contains several hundred wartime letters written by Hechler's grandfather George Hechler and his brother John, both of whom served with the 36th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War and spent considerable time in what is now West Virginia. Hechler holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and has taught political science at Columbia, Barnard, Princeton, and Marshall universities.

Dr. Hechler's public and private papers are housed in the Special Collections Department of Marshall University in Huntington, WV, and the Department provided research assistance to him during the preparation of the book. (Portions previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Vol. 12, No.5, July, 2011], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.)

Records Management and Preservation Board Statewide Preservation Project

The statewide records preservation project was initiated by the Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) to create and/or preserve offsite microfilm of county clerks' deed books. When the project was in its planning stages, a statewide survey of county officials was conducted to determine county microfilm and digital holdings. Personnel, space, and equipment requirements were determined, and the RMPB approved purchasing equipment and hiring personnel.

The initial equipment, consisting of an archive writer (digital image to microfilm camera) and a microfilm scanner (microfilm images to a digital format), was purchased in January 2010. Later, in January 2011, a large document scanner (paper documents to a digital format) was acquired. Putnam County records served as a pilot project, which involved taking digital images of the county clerk's records (1992–2009) and creating rolls of microfilm. Filming began on March 22, 2010, and took just over six months to complete.

The RMPB project has expanded to more than 19 counties, with county deeds being its main thrust. Several counties are loaning the State Archives their original deed books to scan on the large document scanner. This allows the best possible images to be preserved for microfilming and eventually downloaded to the county digital storage system for county clerks' office usage. Several counties also have transferred microfilm that is onsite at the county courthouse to the State Archives for eventual digitization. (Previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Vol. 12, No.6, August, 2011], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.)