

News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamilll1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Claretian Missionaries Archives USA-Canada

The working committee charged with synthesizing the presentations and input from the Boston College Conference “Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives” announces the release of a working paper titled *Preserving the Past, Building for the Future*. The paper provides a broad outline of the major areas of concern for Catholic religious leaders, scholars, and archivists who are invested in the long-term preservation of these valuable collections. The committee recommends that this paper be used as a framework for considering possible solutions to specific challenges faced by each religious community. The working paper can be found at <https://catholicarchives.bc.edu> along with the video recordings of conference presentations. As ongoing dialogue is critical to this initiative, a Google group, Archival Resources for Catholic Collections (ARCC), to facilitate connection among the

three primary constituencies has been formed. Please email archivalrcc@gmail.com if you wish to join the conversation.

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) Archives

The Leto M. Furnas Information Resource Center and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) Archives stand on a solid foundation laid by the original vision of the Hansen-Furnas Foundation in the summer of 1986. IMSA is grateful that the foundation has continued to show support for the work of the archives with a 2018 grant, which has allowed staff to build and expand on that ground work. This grant funded a major revision and digitization of IMSA’s Archives Finding Aid and Oral History Collection, now available online worldwide via IMSA’s institutional repository, DigitalCommons. Updating and digitizing the Finding Aid and Oral History Collection has been part of a larger project of reorganizing and curating current collections. Because of the 2018

Hansen-Furnas Grant, this ongoing project is now up to date. Locate the Finding Aid at https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/archives_finding_aid and the Oral History Collection at https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/oral_histories.

INDIANA

The Great American Songbook Foundation

The Great American Songbook Foundation’s archivist and volunteers were busy in the last quarter of 2019. At the annual meeting in July, the foundation’s board approved the purchase of mobile shelving for its off-site facility. Archivist Lisa Lobdell worked with Joe Eberhardt of Shelving Guys, Inc., to maximize the 3,000-square-foot space that overflowed with collections. The newly installed Montel shelving provides space for audio formats, books, archival boxes, and music arrangements. The old shelving was donated to other cultural institutions to make room for the new and improved units. The urgent need for the shelving was created when the foundation acquired a large collection of music arrangements from the West Coast. The shipment of 486 crates arrived two days after the shelving installation crew left. Unfortunately, the project remains far from finished as the physical locations need to be updated and collections moved from the foundation’s main office.



Volunteer archivist Christian D. Nekkentved, PhD, IMSA History Faculty Emeritus, in the reorganized, relabeled, and recently digitized IMSA Archives. Photo Credit: Emily Holda, MA, archive aide for Finding Aid project.



A before-and-after view of shelving

KANSAS

American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) has announced a new publication entitled *A Pocket History of Family Medicine in the United States*. Colorful and richly illustrated,

the small “pocket-size” booklet is designed to give a brief history of the specialty to family physicians, students, residents, and members of the public to help educate them on the history and evolution of family medicine. For more information, or to order copies of the *Pocket History*, please visit the AAFP Foundation website at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/chfm>. The Center for the History of Family Medicine serves as the principal resource center for the collection, conservation, study, exhibition, and dissemination of materials relating to the evolving history of the specialty of family medicine in the United States for the benefit of the specialty and the public.



Family physicians who served as Surgeons General: David Satcher, MD, PhD (1998–2002) and Regina M. Benjamin, MD (2009–2013)

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University

A first-year honors class studying material culture recently read *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien, which talks about what young men carried with them when they fought in Vietnam. Dr. Andrea Gazzaniga’s honors class visited the Special Collections and University Archives to see the Al Murphy Vietnam Military Service Papers and meet Al Murphy. He discussed objects from his collection, explaining what they were and

how he used them in Vietnam. His boots, P-38 can opener, dog tags, and other objects were passed around for students to examine. One student wrote: “Being able to hear Al’s story and have a personal narrative about such an emotional event was really amazing. I was also inspired by Al’s motives to give away his items [to the archives]. He wants to be able to continue the legacy of not only himself, but more importantly all of the men who served with him. He feels as if he carries their stories along with his.”



Objects from the Al Murphy Vietnam Military Service Papers

MICHIGAN

Michigan State University

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections has a new website! UAHC previously had an independent website, but it has now been merged into the framework of websites belonging to the MSU Libraries. § This academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University Archives and Historical Collections. To celebrate, UAHC installed new exhibits, one on the archives’ history and the other as a retrospective of 1969–1970. These two exhibits will be on display from February through May 2020. § UAHC has been making the university’s athletics films more accessible. Audiovisual archivist Matthew Wilcox has been digitizing MSU basketball films dating from 1941 to 1981 to be seen on video monitors at

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the Basketball Hall of History in the Breslin Center. Next, attention will be turned to hockey films.

Michigan Tech

The Michigan Tech Archives has been awarded a Digitizing Hidden Special Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The project Michigan Miners at Home and Work: Digitizing, Mapping, and Sharing Employee Records will digitize a subseries of 40,000 records from one of the repository's most prized collections, the Calumet and Hecla Mining Companies Collection. This particular subseries provides insights into the lives of mine company workers and their families unavailable in other public records. The project is a collaborative effort between the archives, Michigan Tech's Social Sciences Department, and the Historical Environments Spatial Analytics Lab. The go-live date is anticipated for early 2022. Principal investigators for this \$240,014 grant are Lindsay Hiltunen, university archivist, and Social Sciences faculty members Sarah Fayen Scarlett and Don Lafreniere. David Holden is also an important contributor. The CLIR grant program is made possible by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



Photo courtesy of Michigan Tech Archives 2017

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library

More than 1,100 high school yearbooks were recently added to the Kansas City Public Library's digital history site, KCHistory.org. Missouri Valley Special Collections staff worked for over two years sending yearbooks off-site for scanning, overseeing their safe return, and creating metadata for each volume. The yearbooks were uploaded to the site as text-searchable PDFs that can be downloaded and shared by users. The bulk of the schools represented are from the Kansas City, Missouri, School District, but others from surrounding communities and a few from outside of the immediate Kansas City area have also been added. While in the past using the collection required a visit to the research room, now researchers interested in genealogy, history, or simply taking a trip down memory lane can access this high school yearbook collection from home free of cost and with no need to register with a website.



Yearbooks in the stacks of the Missouri Valley Special Collections

OHIO

Ohio History Connection and State Library of Ohio

The Ohio History Connection and

State Library of Ohio are thrilled to announce that Ohio Memory is celebrating 20 years in 2020! Since its inception as a state bicentennial project in 2000, this collaborative digital library program has added over a million items to ohiomemory.org from nearly 400 contributors across the state. Materials cover prehistory to present day, all 88 Ohio counties, and a variety of primary and secondary source formats. Thanks is due to contributors; current and former staff; federal, state, and local funders; users; and champions across the state and beyond who have helped make Ohio Memory the amazing resource it is today. Learn more at ohiomemory.org.

Xavier University

University Archives and Special Collections at Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of coeducation in the university's undergraduate day school throughout the 2019–2020 academic year. Collaborating with the Office of Marketing and Communications, UASC produced a portable display that has been shown at events for the Center for Mission and Identity, the President's Office, and many more. Grace Longmuir, a senior history major, curated an exhibit in the library titled *Extraordinary Women* using University Archives ephemera, records, and photographs. Other highlights included a donation and scan station at Alumni Reunion Weekend, the creation of a website, and a Twitter campaign. University members have incorporated research from University Archives in music performances, art shows, publicity, and television interviews. The anniversary activities successfully engaged alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community in honoring

the trailblazing women who came to Xavier as undergraduates in 1969.

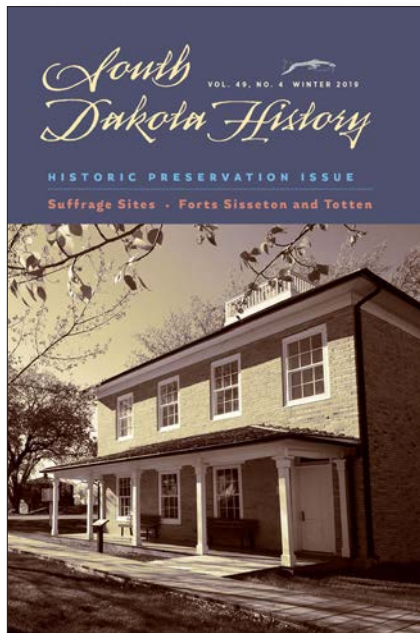


Xavier staff members view 50th-anniversary display. © Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society–State Archives added nearly 700 digitized maps and made them accessible online in the South Dakota Digital Archives thanks to an Outside of Deadwood grant from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission. Six hundred ninety-eight maps were digitized, cataloged, and placed online at <https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital>. They include tourist maps, such as maps of snowmobile trails and maps of caves, maps of the Custer National Forest and the former Harney National Forest; as well as city plans of Sturgis, Custer, and Rapid City; various South Dakota dams; American Indian reservations; highway maps; and a few aerial photomaps. § Three new South Dakota towns, Warner, De Smet, and Mobridge, are now represented in the digitized historical newspaper collections on the Library of Congress's *Chronicling America* website at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/south%20dakota>.



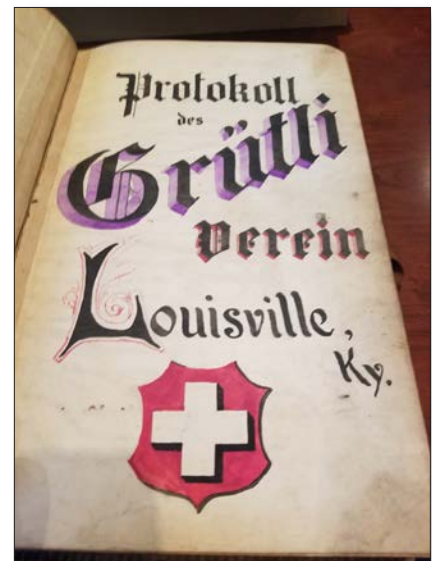
This new batch includes the *Warner Weekly Sun*, 1883–1885; the *Warner Sun*, 1885–1888; the *Kingsbury County Independent*, 1904–1911; and the *Mobridge News*, 1909–1915. They join 54 other newspaper titles from across South Dakota that were digitized and made available during prior grants.

WISCONSIN

Swiss Center of North America

The Swiss Center of North America, located in New Glarus, has acquired the historical records of the Grütli Verein Association of Louisville, Kentucky. The Grütli Verein Association was formed to create bonds among local Swiss; assist the sick, widowed, and orphaned; and nurture love and loyalty for fatherland and respect for the Swiss in their new homeland. The collection consists of 98 volumes of minute books, treasurers' ledgers, protocol volumes, and more dating back to the 1850s and written in

German and later in English. A cornerstone of the Swiss Center's mission is to be the repository of Swiss American records as it becomes aware of Swiss historical records in danger of decay or being lost forever. In 2014, the Swiss Center's Donald G. Tritt Library and Archives was awarded the Governor's Award for Archival Achievement because of the center's development of a significant Swiss American heritage research collection.



Protocol book of the Grütli Verein Association of Louisville, Kentucky