

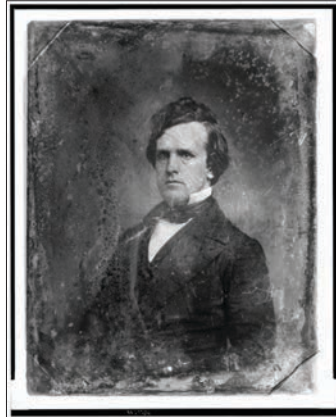
News from the Midwest

Assistant Editor: Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items to Lois at hamill1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has acquired more than 90 letters to and from Richard Yates (1815–1873), Illinois congressman, senator, and Civil War governor. This collection includes Yates's candid descriptions of social and political life in mid-nineteenth-century Washington written to his wife, Catherine, back home in Jacksonville, Illinois. A poignant 1870 letter, written near the end of his Senate term, shows another side of Yates as he begs Catherine to forgive his drunkenness and infidelity. Among his wartime correspondence is a remarkable letter from Governor Samuel Kirkwood of Iowa, a month after Fort Sumter, asking whether Illinois would aid Iowa in case of attack from Missouri. Also revealing is an 1861 letter from Gustav Koerner exploring his options to best lead the Illinois Germans into the war. All told, the collection offers scholars a fresh look at Yates both as a husband and a leader during a pivotal period in US history.



Richard Yates photographed in Mathew Brady's studio, early 1850s. Daguerreotype, Library of Congress.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University

The Special Collections and University Archives has continued work to increase and enhance access to its records. Three new finding aids have been produced for university records—Intercollegiate Athletics, Athletics Administration and Boosters, and Sports Programs, <https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3229>. These finding aids represent years of work processing the records sufficiently to describe them. The Theodore H. H. Harris Local History Research Papers finding aid now links to a number of items in the collection which have been digitized and added to the digital repository at <https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3681>. Harris's research on local buffalo soldier Sergeant Thomas Shaw will be included in a forthcoming book.

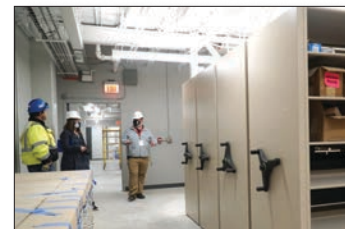
MICHIGAN

Madonna University, Felician Sisters of North America

In December 2021, the Felician Sisters of North America finished moving all local archives to the newly constructed Heritage Center and Archive in Livonia, Michigan. Housed in the Madonna Welcome Center, this is in cooperation with Madonna University. Sister Grace Marie Del Priore, provincial archivist, helped plan and organize the project, and waited as numerous delays arose. Their plans bore fruit, though. Between November and December, the archives of seven former provinces were moved to Michigan. There's much work to be done yet, but this is an exciting move for the sisters!



Sister Grace Marie Del Priore in front of a stained glass window about the sisters in North America



Workers admire their handiwork in the stacks.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

MINNESOTA

St. Olaf College, Norwegian-American Historical Association

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) recently received an \$86,000 grant to digitize a portion of its Norse-American Centennial papers. The Centennial was the commemoration of a century of organized Norwegian migration. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and to demonstrate their American-ness. The celebrations culminated in a major festival held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in June 1925. The celebrations constituted a complex process of identity building and a tricky balancing of old culture and new. The project is financed by funds provided by the State of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The grant has enabled NAHA to hire a full-time imaging archivist for the duration of the project. NAHA archivist Kristina Warner will oversee the project, which is expected to be completed in early 2023.



Group portrait of the Sognalaget, St. Paul, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

MISSOURI

University of Missouri–Kansas City

A newly fabricated edition of the exhibit *Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights* is making the rounds in St. Louis, appearing at multiple organizations, while the original exhibit is now on display at the Meyer Library at Missouri State University. § The Libraries received a gift of \$30,942 from the Herbert Vincent Jones Jr. Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, to fund a term-limited appointment for a Digital Projects Fellow. This Fellow will directly support the migration of UMKC Digital Special Collections, as well as a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) assessment of these collections. § The Marr Sound Archives completed the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Recordings at Risk grant project, Preserving 1940s Radio Broadcasts on Severely Damaged Lacquer Discs. The project utilized the imaging technology IRENE, located at Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). The Sound Archives also initiated a mass cassette digitization station and hired a preservation intern to work on digitizing audiocassettes.

NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska Omaha

The University of Nebraska Omaha Libraries' is pleased to share the opening of the next series from the US Senator Chuck Hagel Archives. Newly available for research is the Legislative Files series, the largest and most content-rich set of materials in the Hagel Archives. Hagel's legislative files cover almost every issue that arose in legislation or was prominent at the national level from 1997 to 2009. Significant events and topics include the Clinton impeachment proceedings in 1998–1999; a contested presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000; the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; US involvement in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the economic downturn of 2007–2009; and disaster and drought assistance for Nebraska's rural areas. Learn more about the Hagel Archives at <https://www.unomaha.edu/criss-library/archives-and-special-collections/hagel-archives.php>. The collection's finding aid is available in Nebraska Archives Online at <https://archives.nebraska.edu/repositories/4/resources/508>.

SOUTH DAKOTA

State Historical Society

More than 3,765 women’s suffrage items from the John A. and Alice Pickler Papers are now available on the South Dakota Digital Archives at <https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital>. In 1991, 65 boxes of Pickler family records were donated including photographs, political papers, business records, and more than four boxes of suffrage-related correspondence, speech notes, meeting minutes, and booklets. To

commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote, the suffrage portion of the Pickler Papers was digitized and cataloged through a generous donation from the F.L. Clarkson Family Foundation. Major John A. Pickler and his wife, Alice, moved to Faulkton, Dakota Territory, in 1882 and became prominent citizens in the area. John was elected to the territorial legislature in 1884 and introduced suffrage legislation in 1885, which was unsuccessful. In 1889, John was elected to the US House of Representatives, making him part of South Dakota’s very first

congressional delegation. He served in this capacity for eight years and actively advocated for women’s right to vote. Alice was also active in the suffrage movement as a member of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association.



Courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives.

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