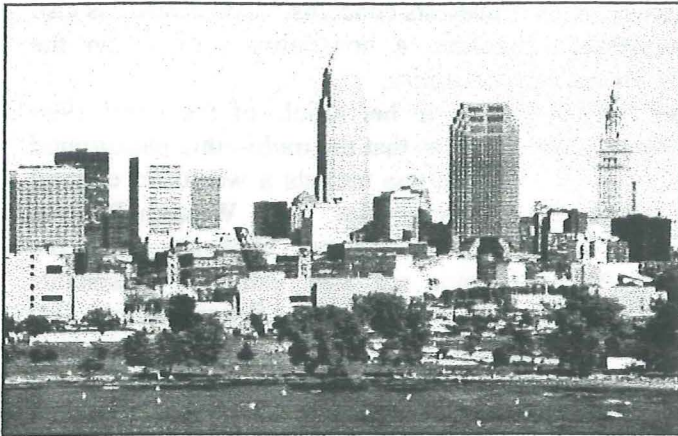


COME TO CLEVELAND! ACWR HOSTS THIRD CONFERENCE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO



The third ACWR Conference with the theme "Memories, Millennium, the Message" begins September 28, 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio. By now the brochure for the conference has reached you. The Board and planning committee have tried to prepare a program that will provide inspiration, in-service and fun for beginners and veterans of archival ministry alike.

ACWR ELECTS TWO NEW OFFICERS

The Election Committee is pleased to announce the results of the recent election for the offices of Vice-President-President Elect and Secretary. Sister Edna McKeever, CSJ has been elected Vice-President-President Elect and Sister Elvira Kelley, OSF has been re-elected to the office of Secretary.



Sister Edna McKeever returns to service of the ACWR membership. Sister served on the election committee from 1994 to 1996 and as Secretary of the ACWR from 1996-1998. Sister Edna earned a BA in French from St. Joseph's College and an MA from Brooklyn College. She began her work in archives in 1991 as an assistant to the Archivist. She has attended many workshops, including ones held at the National Archives and at Greymoor, New York. Sister Edna received a certificate in Archives Management from Palmer School of Long Island University.

We are pleased to have Clare Fitzgerald, SSND as keynote speaker to set the stage with her reflections on the importance of history and a gospel-oriented message in our ministry. Sister Clare Fitzgerald is a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Northeast Province where she served as Provincial Leader of the Congregation. She was elected President of the United States Leadership Conference of Women Religious and was appointed to the Vatican Commission on the Study of Religious Life in the United States. She has taught in schools from the elementary through post-graduate level. She is a spellbinding lecturer in this country and abroad and has won many awards for outstanding contributions to education and Church leadership.

The conference offers many opportunities for professional development. If you need help with:

- ◆ computers for archives, COME TO CLEVELAND
- ◆ moving your archives, COME TO CLEVELAND
- ◆ doing oral history, COME TO CLEVELAND
- ◆ policies and records management, COME TO CLEVELAND;
- ◆ etc., etc. You get the message.

We hope to see you there!

In 1994, Edna McKeever became the archivist for her institution. She has served on the boards of the Long Island Archives Conference and the Archivists of Religious Institutions. Sister Edna is a member of ACWR, SAA, MARAC, ARI, NEARI, and LIAC.

Sister Elvira Kelley, OSF continues in her current position of Secretary, an office she has held since 1997.



Sister Elvira has been the archivist of her congregation for the last five years. Prior to that she spent fourteen years as Director of Pastoral Planning for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Other ministries of Sister Elvira include congregational leadership, formation work and education.

The Election Committee is grateful to all the members who participated in this year's election process. The ACWR would also like to thank the members of the Election Committee, Angela Feeney, PBVM, Pauline Ingram, OP and Anita Therese Hayes, BVM. The current Election Committee has served for two years and will continue one more year. At that time, another chairperson will be named and a new committee will be formed.



Dear Sisters,

As you have studied the program for the ACWR Conference 2000 in Cleveland, you are very much aware we continue living our philosophy of preserving the history of the present so that the future can build on its past.

Sisters Elvira Kelley, OSF, and Marjorie Buttner, OP, of the

Program Committee have done an outstanding job of offering programs based on our mission statement; ranging from basic to more advanced archival practices, such as "Why Oral History," "Putting Up a Web Site," and the "Basics of Using the Internet." Whether we are beginners or seasoned archivists, there is something beneficial for all of us.

Being fully aware of the need to play as well as to work, the Site Committee has set up the following tours: a guided trip around Cleveland on "Lolly the Trolley," a tour through the Ursuline Sisters Motherhouse Archives and Heritage Room, and a tour of the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse, Archives and Regional Health Center, an

Inter-Congregational Nursing Home. The ACWR Board has been meeting at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Cleveland and can attest to great hospitality and historicity.

Frequently we feel that so many events have been scheduled at these meetings that there is not enough time to visit/discuss archival interests/concerns. This desire has also been addressed; therefore, a hospitality suite is on the schedule for such opportunities.

Sister Patricia Hodge, in her article of the April 1999 *ACWR News*, shared with us that the multi-ethnic background of the city of Cleveland offers tourists a wealth of cultural dining and shopping opportunities. The Western Reserve Historical Society, The Cleveland Orchestra and the Cleveland Public Library are also within a reasonable distance from the conference center. Sister Patricia also notes that Cleveland promises to be a vibrant site where ACWR members will gather once again for professional sharing and enrichment.

The Red Carpet is being put out to welcome you, one and all. The Board will be there to assist in any way we can. See you September 28 to October 1, 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio! You will be happy you came.

Sincerely,
Sister Sabina Collins, OSF
President, ACWR

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In three months (July 1, 2000), it will be time to renew membership in the ACWR. Some of you have already renewed for 2000-2001. To be certain you need to renew, please check the expiration date of your membership. You will find your expiration date located in the top right-hand corner of the address label of your newsletter. If you need to renew in July, your address label will have a X/00. If you do not, it will say X/01.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

The Executive Secretary's office hours have changed. The office hours formally were 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

EST, Tuesday and Thursday. The hours are now 9:00 am to 2:00 pm EST. The office continues to be open on Tuesday and Thursday.

**GENERAL EDITOR—DOLORES LIPTAK, RSM
CONTENT &
PUBLICATION EDITOR—MARY BETH FRASER**

**PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS TO:**

ACWR NATIONAL OFFICE

TRINITY COLLEGE

125 MICHIGAN AVE., NE

WASHINGTON, DC 20017

202-884-9441

FAX: 202-884-9229

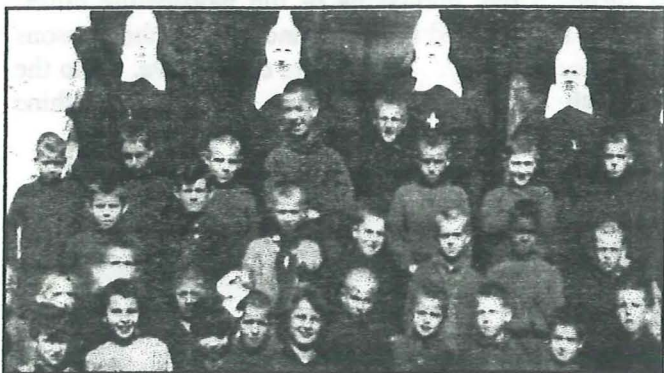
E-MAIL: ACWR@JUNO.COM

WEB PAGE: WWW.HOMESTEAD.COM/ACWR

PROVIDENCE ARCHIVES ASSISTS HOME CHILDREN

By Gayle Desarmia, SP

Between 1869 and the Great Depression as many as 100,000 Home Children were sent to Canada for various reasons. Although referred to at the time as "English Orphans", they were not all orphans. Agencies in England arranged for children in homes to be sent to Canada for placement in foster and adoptive homes. These Home Children lost contact with their family in England. Today, their descendants are trying to trace their family roots through the Canadian orphanages.



From the first week after their foundation in Kingston, Ontario (1861), the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul began to receive orphans into their House of Providence. In the 1880's they were contacted by Mrs. Lacy of the Catholic Protection Society in Liverpool, England, to take some of these children and place them in good homes in Canada. It is not surprising that the congregation agreed and the children began to arrive May, 1888. The Annals paint a touching picture. "Mrs. Lacy...arrived bringing to us one hundred and thirty children ranging in ages from 3 to 15 years. Many persons were already in the House prepared to adopt these poor little strangers. It was a touching sight to see these poor little creatures clinging to each other, dreading a separation from each other. In all cases where it was possible members of the same family were placed as near each other as they could be." In 1891 the congregation ended its contract with the Catholic Protection Society. In this short time it had received over 570 children from England.

The archives has correspondence regarding these Home Children and a register listing the names of the children and their new families. The archives has established a database to compile the information found in the registers regarding these Home Children. It is

hoped that this database will help their descendants to trace their family history.

Gayle Desarmia, SP is the Archivist for the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston, Ontario.

CREATING A HERITAGE TREE

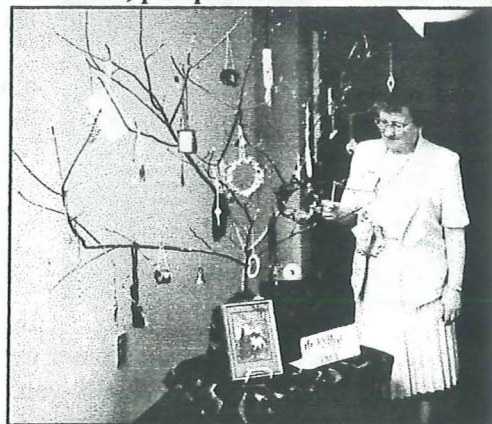
By Evelyn Strei, OSB

After reading the article in the April 1999 *ACWR News*, "Saving Sacred Things," by Timothy J. Meagher, Ph.D., I wondered what I could do to raise awareness of the existence and importance of the many "Sacred Things" in our monastic archives and how I could display the very small items which would be lost in a regular display case with habits, vestments and sacred vessels. My first step was to make the monastic community aware of this need by sharing the following quote from Meagher's article in the weekly community newsliner: "Paintings, stained-glass windows, holy cards, vestments, rosaries, statues, crucifixes, medals and scapulars are essential instruments of our devotion, markers of our faith. Such varied mementos embody the stories of the faith that Catholics have lived out in America over four centuries. When they are abandoned or lost, those stories, like pieces of our collective past, may be lost."

While considering a way to display the many small heritage items, I thought, "Since we have trees decorated for Christmas, egg trees for Easter, pumpkin trees for Halloween, why not a Heritage Tree for any time of the year?" So, because of limited space for displays, a tree became my solution.

Located in the Red River valley with acres of trees surrounding the monastery, there was no problem in finding just the right branch for my Heritage Tree. A friend with her saw came to my rescue and we searched, we struggled through the deep snow of the Minnesota winter, looking for the perfectly-shaped six or seven foot branch on a leafless tree. Having found the most suitable branch, my friend and I finally succeeded in standing it straight and firm and ready to display our archival treasures.

Yes, the time had come to decorate! The tree extended its tiny "branches" to receive our "Sacred Things." Using colorful lengths of yarn, I hung the small, precious



memorabilia: gold crowns worn for jubilees which gave the tree a glitter effect, rosaries, scapulars, medals, small crucifixes, and holy cards for the sisters to see and to remember. Each treasured item was the beginning of story telling which deepened each one's appreciation of the past and created much joy and even a little laughter.

For me, working in the archives, creating the Heritage Tree was a fun experience, which gave me the opportunity of sharing monastic art and artifacts with my community. It also enabled me to help preserve "pieces of the past which could be lost."

Evelyn Strei, OSB assists in the archives at the Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Crookston, MN.

SO YOU'RE AN ARCHIVES VOLUNTEER

By Anne Courtney, SC

You should pay for the privilege. You spade the loam of your congregation and loosen up roots that have engendered rich life. Today when the branches look more withered than green, you learn that deep down the soil is pulsing, and that new tendrils are reaching for the sun. There will be green leaves again.

You can count on being stimulated. In the staid world of manuscripts and faded copies, adventures can be a phone request away. How numerous are the great-aunts and the great-grands that wander



through family lore. "My grandmother used to refer to her aunt or great-aunt," a voice tells you, "but I don't know on which side. She may have been a (paternal) or a (maternal). Her name was Lizzie." The archivist is happy to let you fill your time going into boxes, going over lists, checking long gone missions. Sometimes Lizzie doesn't stir, but sometimes she sits up, stretches and smiles up from a thin entrance application, or a written request for her vows. You can tell her twenty-first century relatives that she entered young, matured in various classrooms or wards or asylums, ended her days abruptly or slowly and rests in a congregation plot.

When groups come you tend the door and organize the passage for comfort and speed. Older people

empathize. They remember their grade school sisters and classrooms and school outings. The little grade schoolers are filled with wonder and self-importance. They are learning so much from so long ago! College youth are funniest. On their Orientation tour of the campus, they are surface-bored, uneasy, inquisitive, and see you as their grandmother, ending up liking you. In every meeting, you realize how warm and vital is daily life.

Best of all, you get the chance to forage. You can take your time through accounts of long past happenings, of missions that rose and faded, of the many stalwarts who persevered through hardship years. Most of them never saw the final success: they remind us of the worthwhile effort. You can associate scattered incidents and put together seasons of congregational activity. The leaders come alive, as do the followers, both dutiful and querulous. It's like sunshine glinting thorough dust.



Volunteering in the archives adds up to perks without responsibility and a carefree and satisfying experience. There's security in it, too. In any archives, there are always loads of detail, waiting to be classified, and an archivist, happy to delegate the task. After a life of schedule and daily routine, your comparative freedom is a delightful pattern. The option is yours, too: you can allocate your time. If you're willing and able, the opportunity is priceless.

Anne Courtney, SC is a volunteer for the Sisters of Charity of New York, Bronx, NY.

Come to Cleveland!



ARCHIVES ON THE MOVE

By Hildegard Varga, OP



Being community archivist for St. Benedict Monastery has been a moving experience—LITERALLY. On June 8, 1999, we moved from a monastery composed of two houses joined by an enclosed passageway, which doubled as our library, to a new 18 bedroom multi-level

monastery. In our old location, the archives was housed first in three large metal filing cabinets and then moved into a combined office and document storage area the size of a walk-in closet. In our new location, the archives consists of a document storage room (15 ft. x 14 ft.) and an office-workroom-research area (9 ft. x 14 ft.)



I am the second archivist in the history of St. Benedict Monastery. Sister Charles Marie Foster, OSB, one of the charter members of St. Benedict Monastery, set up our archives in the late 1980s. St. Benedict Monastery is a foundation of St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, Arkansas (mission house 1971; dependent monastery, 1981). Sister Charles Marie's accession log contains entries made from 1988 to 1991. After her death in 1993, documents were merely saved until I accepted the position of community archivist in the summer of 1997.

Previously, I had been acquainted with only archives from the standpoint of a researcher but I also have strong organizational skills and a quick mind. I have joined the appropriate archival and historical organizations on the local, regional, and national levels in order to avail myself of the education and networking opportunities available through these groups. Last summer, I attended

the "1999 Religious Archives Institutes" and Saving Sacred Things Conference," both at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. These programs were well worth the time, expense, and effort involved.

I have completed the appraising and arranging of existing materials into record groups based on the principles of provenance and transferring the documents from filing cabinets to acid-free folders and document cases/boxes (eight linear feet). In accomplishing this, I received guidance from Sister Mary Dominic Frederick, OSB, of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, Indiana, and from Sister Mary Paul Valdez, DCP, of the Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio, Texas. I have also arranged our photographic collection of approximately 1200 photos, including a complete pictorial history of the construction of our new monastery. A complete set of blueprints for our new monastery will also be placed in the archives. Present finding aids are limited to a list of all folder titles. I have had little time to write much in the way of descriptions. However, a basic description of the St. Benedict Monastery Archives is listed on the U.S. Catholic Documentary Heritage Project web-site.

I am also the archivist (vice-chancellor) for the Diocese of Amarillo, but that is another moving story.

Hildegard Varga, OSB is the archivist of St. Benedict Monastery in Canyon, TX and is the archivist for the Diocese of Amarillo.

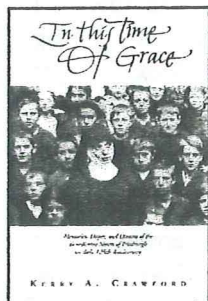
ACWR MEMBER HONORED WITH PAPAL MEDAL FOR ARCHIVAL SERVICE

On January 29, 2000, forty-two lay persons and twenty-seven clergy and religious received papal honors from Pope John Paul II. Archbishop Francis B. Shulte distributed the medals. This medal is given in recognition of service to the Church and papacy—the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal.

Sister Joan Marie Aycock, OSU, community archivist of the Ursuline Sisters in New Orleans, LA was among the religious who were recipients of this award. As community archivist, she has been able to help the city and the Archdiocese of New Orleans prepare for some of their many celebrations, including the Louisiana World's Fair in 1984, the visit of Pope John Paul II in September 1987, and the Archdiocesan Bicentennial in 1993. In receiving the honor, Sister believes she is representing all of the Ursuline Sisters, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in New Orleans since 1727.

The ACWR congratulates Sister Joan Marie Aycock for a great recognition. We all feel honored that an archivist has been deemed worthy of such an award.

KERRY A. CRAWFORD, *IN THIS TIME OF GRACE: MEMORIES, HOPES, AND DREAMS OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PITTSBURGH ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY, (1997).*
Reviewed by Mary Beth Fraser



In this Time of Grace, a book by Kerry Crawford, tells the story of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh from the beginnings in 1870 to the present day. By using personal remembrances of women religious, the author examines the spiritual and material growth of the Benedictine Sisters.

Kerry Crawford writes in the introduction: "Many years ago—when times were simpler and quieter—the call to religious life seemed to be heard with greater clarity." With this theme of "clarity," Crawford highlights the simple grace of the lives of the Benedictine Sisters. The author looks at their early mission to the German immigrants of late-nineteenth-century Pennsylvania and continues the story to their expanded ministry in parishes, hospitals, and the community at large. Crawford uses not only the records of the St. Benedict Monastery Archives, but most importantly numerous oral interviews that bring color and life to the story. Crawford uses the remembrances of the individual sisters to enliven the various aspects of the history. The author examines the different stages in the life of a Benedictine Sister, such as the "calling", life as a young novice, going on "mission" and the community's spiritual life through the words of the Benedictine sisters themselves. Crawford continues her story up through the changes of Vatican II and includes a final chapter of the sisters' lives today.

In her book, *In this Time of Grace*, Crawford examines the "clarity" of the call to the Benedictine Sisters over their 125-year history. The strength of the work is the professional use of the historical documents and oral histories. The author skillfully brings to light the Benedictine past through the individual memories of sisters of the community.

Mary Beth Fraser is the ACWR Executive Secretary and Ph.D. student in history at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY BOOKS

KATHLEEN NORRIS, *CLOISTER WALK*, (BERKLEY PUBLISHING GROUP, 1996).

Kathleen Norris, a Protestant, immersed herself in the religious world as a lay oblate at St. John's Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in Collegeville, MN. In *Cloister Walk*, the author recounts her experiences within the monastery. By doing so, Norris brings the reader through one liturgical year and shows the relevance of the spirituality of Benedictine monastic life to the twenty-first-century world.

MARY C. SULLIVAN, ED. *THE FRIENDSHIP OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND MARY CLARE MOORE*, (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS, 1999).

Dolores Liptak, RSM, Past-President of the ACWR and archivist of the Sisters of Mercy, Connecticut Region, has recently reviewed this new book which features this intriguing friendship. The review can be found in the *History of Women Religious*, February 2000 issue.

Patricia Kelley, *Fifty Monsoons: Ministry of Change Through Women of India*, (Louisville: Harmony House Publishers, 1999).

Phil Kilroy, *Madeleine Sophie Barat: A Life*, (Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press, 2000).

Phyllis Zagan, *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church*, (Herder & Herder, April 2000)

HERE'S A QUESTION, QUESTION, QUESTION!



Some articles dealing with the ethics of archival collecting mention the necessity and value of a collecting policy statement related to adding new materials (accessioning) to the existing collection.

As an archivist, are your decisions as to what (or what NOT) to add to the collection influenced by the specific guidelines expressed in a viable collecting policy statement?

In 200 words or less, describe your experience and send your reply to Mary Beth Fraser, ACWR Executive Secretary, 125 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017; or email to: acwr@juno.com by July 1, 2000.

ACWR

Third Triennial Conference

MEMORIES MILLENNIUM THE MESSAGE

September 28 - October 1, 2000

Holiday Inn
Independence/Cleveland, Ohio

REMEMBER CONFERENCE 2000

Your packet of information for the conference should have arrived by now. Be sure to send your reservations as soon as possible. **All fees are due by June 20, 2000.** If you need further information or directions, please contact Sister Joann Kessler, OSU, at

JK138@Juno.com. She will be happy to send whatever is needed.

Please give the inserted envelope to your "Superior" for her consideration to attend. We would like very much for the Superiors to be a part of the conference and learn more about the work of the Archivist. The special session on cooperation between LCWR and ACWR should be very informative for both organizations.

Come to Cleveland!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Amelia Akers, OP
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Houston, TX

Jane Aucoin, CSJ
Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille
New Orleans, LA

Mary Alena Bernert, RGS
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Columbus, OH

Michael Ellen Carling, OP
Grand Rapids Dominicans
Grand Rapids, MI

Marianne Cosgrave
Sisters of Mercy of Ireland
Dublin, Ireland

Theresa Foglietti, CPS
Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
Toronto, Ontario

Lisa Gibbon
Catholic Foreign Mission Society of
America
Maryknoll, NY

Marie Gillen, SC
Sisters of Charity
Halifax, Ontario

Jeanmarie Gustitus, OP
Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de
Ricci
Elkins Park, PA

Mary F. Lavelle, SSJ
Sisters of St. Joseph
Holyoke, MA

Patricia Morisset OP
Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma
Tacoma, WA

Mary Susan Rathburn, OSU
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Cleveland Heights, OH

Kathleen Skuta, CSFN
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Milwaukee, WI

Blaithin Sullivan, SCJ
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Brighton, MA

Marian Sweeney, PBVM
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, IA

Olivia Wassmer, OSC
Order of St. Clare
New Orleans, LA

Susan Zion, OSU
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Lakewood, OH

**W
E
L
C
O
M
E**

ACWR National Office
Trinity College
125 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017

HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE:

The fifth triennial History of Women Religious conference will be held at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 17 through June 20, 2001. The theme of the conference is *Individuals in Community: Women Religious and Change--Past, Present, Future*. HWR requests proposals for papers and panels by August 1, 2000. For information, contact Elizabeth McGahan, Department of History and Politics, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 5050, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada E2L 4L5. Phone: 506-648-5600; fax: 506-648-5799, E-mail: emcgahan@nbnet.nb.ca. For more information on the conference and themes visit the HWR conference website:

www.unbsj.ca/arts/history/emcgahan/conference.htm.

KEEPING YOUR PAST:

The Kansas City Area Archivists announce the publication of the new revised version *Keeping Your Past: A Basic Guide to Preserving Your Family Papers and Photographs*. The guide provides an introductory look at the guidelines for preserving papers and photographs. It also discusses the types and causes of damage to historical materials and how they can be prevented. For more information, contact Marilyn Burlingame at Kansas City Area Archivists, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499; phone: 816-235-1539; fax: 816-235-5500; e-mail: burlingamem@umkc.edu.