

"ACID-FREE"

The Newsletter of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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November 2011

New Collections Corner

The new collections listed here appear in the order in which they were received by us.

Mobile Daily Examiner — Three issues of this nineteenth-century newspaper: January 18, 1838, January 27, 1838, and February 12, 1838. They were donated to us by Neal Iverson, a Texas attorney who purchases items at auction and then gives them to us, for which we are very grateful.

Blaine Logan Photographs — Two panoramas showing workers of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America at conventions in 1966 and 1976. Included in the groups are employees of the Courtauld's plant at Axis, Alabama.



Canoeing on Dog River. Fruitdale Glass Plate Collection.

The Fruitdale Glass Plate Collection — Twelve glass plate negatives of this unincorporated community in Washington County. Included

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Meet the Staff

Our newest staff person, **CHRIS BURROUGHS**, sat down with your editor for this recent interview:

Q. When did you begin working for The McCall Library?

A. I started as a graduate assistant in September 2008 and worked in that position until May 2011. From June through the middle of July 2011 I was a temporary replacement for **SCOTTY KIRKLAND**, who recently took a job with the Museum of Mobile. In the middle of July that job became permanent.

Q. What do you like about working at The McCall Library?

A. I have always loved history, even as a child. Delving into the manuscripts and historical photos we hold lets me do what I love doing.

Q. If you could have dinner with any historical figure, living or dead, who would it be and why?

A. General Joshua Chamberlain. I find his ability to work his way up through the Union army during the Civil War and his courage at the Battle of Gettysburg fascinating. Although he had no formal military training, he was able to rise from being a lieutenant colonel at the start of the war to a brigadier general at its end.

I have always loved history, even as a child . . .

Chris is married to the lovely Joy Coburn and is the father of 4-year-old Joshua, who likes to put rocks in his ears. I hope everyone will join me in welcoming Chris aboard! ☺

New Collections

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are shots of the railroad station, as well as images of a cattle drive, a milk delivery wagon, and men in a canoe on Dog River. None of the images have been printed.



At the Fruitdale railroad station. Fruitdale Glass Plate Collection

In addition to these new collections, we also recently received additions to the Azalea City Quilters Guild and Robert Giddens collections. ☞

Getting to Know SimpleDL

We continue to try to find new ways to show off both ourselves and our collections. Since our last issue we have entered into a contract with a company called Roaring Development, which hosts digital content. That is, we scan our images, provide the information about them, and send them up to Roaring's site. To date we've started modestly with only fifty images, but we hope to add to that at a steady rate. You can check it out by going to <http://alabama.sdlhost.com/>. We also created a Google Places site for ourselves. Millions of people use Google every day. In the past month, 13,407 of them have seen our listing as a result of a local search they conducted. Of those, 335 took further action by either clicking straight through to our web site, searching for driving directions to our location, or clicking for more information on Google Maps. ☞

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FOML Corner

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome **BOB** and **RITA GLENNON** as the newest life-time members of The Friends of The McCall Library! We are so grateful for the continued support of our Friends, who have made many contributions to our success over the past seventeen years.

Have you ever tried Wordle? This free web site (www.wordle.net) let's you input text from a document on your computer, which it then turns into a "word cloud." The more frequently a word appears in the document the larger it is in the cloud. I went to the site and put in the text from our Friends constitution and by-laws and this is what I got:



Give it a try. The site lets you change the cloud's font, layout, and colors. Wouldn't it be interesting to see what the words on your birth or marriage certificate look like? ☞

Tidbit

In the late 1960s the Spring Hill College student government association invited LSD guru Timothy Leary to speak on campus. Needless to say, city leaders and others in the community howled at the thought and the advocate of tuning in, turning on, and dropping out never made it to the city. ☞

... tuning in, turning on, and dropping out...

"Character, like a photograph, develops in darkness." Dousuf Karsh

Poetry Corner

For the past two years the Society of American Archivists has run a Haiku contest. A Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry with three lines. The first line contains five syllables, the second seven syllables, and the last five syllables. Below are some of the entries for 2011.

Seven cubic feet
Enticing, what mysteries!
Wooden cart awaits...
by Kate Mollan

First there was chaos
Then the manila folder.
Now I can find stuff!
by Debi Griffith

Alone with the dust,
family correspondence
evokes silent tears.
by Ricky Erway

Trickle trickle fizz
That's why beverages are banned
In the reading room
by Rebecca Goldman

The time out of joint
doctor Leary's papers
preserved acid-free
by Brett Bodemer

Many papercuts -
The mark of an archivist?
Don't bleed on the files!
by Kathryn Kramer

And some entries for 2010:

"Digitize!" they cry.
"Too expensive!" you reply.
Who will win the fight?
by Veronica Marshall

Endowment way down
Budget cuts everywhere. Here,
A silverfish sighs.
by Kathy McCardwell

I describe your life
Everything you thought you'd wiped
I show to the world
By Ian McCulloch

Am I Archivist?
Records Keeper, Anarchist?
Id is confusing.
by Mary Schleifer

It'll be interesting to see next year's entries. ☺

Did you know . . .

That we recently supplied Hankins Middle School, the Escambia County Historical Society, and O'Charley's in Daphne with photographs for various projects. In addition, the Museum of Mobile has gotten a number of our images for upcoming exhibits. ☺

We're on the web!

[Http://mccalllibrary.southalabama.edu](http://mccalllibrary.southalabama.edu)

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