

Winter 1993

The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 04.04: Winter 1993

Larry J. Wagenaar

Jenifer A. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/jaquarterly>



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Repository citation: Wagenaar, Larry J. and Smith, Jenifer A., "The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 04.04: Winter 1993" (1993). *The Joint Archives Quarterly*. Paper 13.

<http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/jaquarterly/13>

Published in: *Joint Archives Quarterly*, Volume 04, Issue 04, Winter January 1, 1993. Copyright © 1993 Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at Digital Commons @ Hope College. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Joint Archives Quarterly by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Hope College. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

The Joint Archives Quarterly

Volume 4 Number 4

Images of the Past

A Source for Historical Photographs

The Joint Archives of Holland contains tens of thousands of photographic images which help to illustrate the history of the Holland community, Hope College and Western Seminary.

Among the several major projects that are under way at the Archives is a major push to better organize thousands of photos for better access. With a total of some 150,000 images in the collections of the Joint Archives it is a massive endeavor to be able to locate any given photograph or negative easily. We have designed a project that will lead to full photo print control by the end of 1993 and by the end of 1994 we hope to include

(Continued on page 2)



Holland Historical Trust Collection of the Joint Archives

Power Plant Under Construction, 1940

Hispanic Heritage Is Focus of Oral History Project

This year's Hope College Oral History Project is focusing on Hispanic History in the Holland Community. Andrea Peschiera is the student coordinator for the effort in which the Joint Archives hopes to interview 8-12 individuals and transcribe their memories so that they will be available for generations to come.

Of particular interest are the experiences of Hispanic residents in Holland including work and home life, impressions of living in a multi-ethnic community, incidents of discrimination, and other areas that will help preserve the historical story of this significant group in Holland.

(Continued on page 3)



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

The Hope College Pull, c. 1973

From the Director

Changes, that is what the business of documenting history is often about. You might think that working in an archives is a rather static thing where we rummage through old papers and try to find them when you stop by with a research project or historical question. It's not quite that way at the archives!

In the past four months we have said farewell to Craig Wright and welcomed new Collections Manager Jenifer Smith. We have made some outstanding strides in organizing collections and making sure that the historical materials that are placed here can be located and used in historical research whether that be a genealogist's family tree, an exhibit for the museum or a scholar writing a book on why the Dutch came to Michigan.

Although the past itself does not change we, as people charged with collecting, caring for, and making available these materials, must be willing to move forward in innovative ways to meet the challenges of properly storing these precious memories.

In the first five years of the Joint Archives existence we have had to focus on ways we could "catalog" or work with the collections so that you as a researcher could find what you needed when you came to see us. While this was under way — making sure we could find all the archival materials donated to the museum, college and seminary over the years — we had to allow a larger than desired backlog of new material to pile up, which we called "unprocessed." Access to unprocessed collections is more limited as the archivists have not had an opportunity to go through the material, organize it and "catalog" it in a way that makes it fully available for research.

The staff and I can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the amount of work we have to do in the next five years, but, as I have learned from my colleagues throughout the state, every archives has a backlog of material waiting to be professionally processed. Between careful screening of new materials and a great deal of work by our staff we hope to reach a point where we are one of the speediest archives in bringing new materials from the donor's doorstep to a fully processed and organized archival collection.

As our new professional archivist and part-time staff join us we are able to take new approaches and fresh ideas will help us to better manage the important materials entrusted to our care which you, our readers, donors and users, have given us. We're excited about our future and we hope you will take advantage of the enhancements it will provide.

Larry J. Wagenaar
Director



New Collections Manager Named

Jenifer A. Smith has been named Collections Manager for the Joint Archives of Holland.

A 1993 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies, Jenifer has concentrated on archival training through the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. In addition to her degree she has worked as an intern at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village Research Center, a manuscript assistant at the Bentley Historical Library and as Head Librarian for the Oxford Dormitory Library.

Jenifer will be engaged in several important projects. One of these is cataloging the collections so that they can be searched on the national On-Line Computer Library Consortium (OCLC) library holdings database. As Collections Manager she will be involved in processing, the procedure through which collections are arranged and described so that you can use them in research as well as dealing with other collection management issues.

Jenifer comes to the Joint Archives with a wide variety of skills. Next time you are in the archives stop by and say hello!

Craig Wright Takes CMU Post

Craig Wright, who served on the staff as Collections Manager since 1990, has taken a position with the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Craig served on the staff at the Joint Archives for nearly 2½ years.

Craig's efforts helped the Joint Archives make tremendous strides in enhancing access to the collections. Through processing archival collections, helping patrons with reference questions, and cataloging materials for inclusion on the national OCLC network we have been able to make countless enhancements which have benefitted users of the archives.

His last day was in early February. We will miss him!

Images of the Past

(Continued from page 1)

several larger collections of negatives as well.

We thought you might enjoy seeing some of the more fascinating images which have crossed our desks in recent months. Our efforts are aimed at making sure these images are available for generations and can be located and enjoyed by everyone. If you have unique images that you would like preserved for posterity please let us know!



Van Dreezer's Restaurant

Holland Historical Trust Collection of the Joint Archives

The Processor's Table

by
**Jenifer A.
 Smith**
**Collections
 Manager**

In the two weeks that I have been at the Joint Archives I have enjoyed investigating the many different kinds of collections housed here. As the new



Collections Manager I have taken on the responsibilities of my predecessor Craig Wright. Like Craig, I am a graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Information and Library Studies and received much of my archival training from the staff at the Bentley Library in Ann Arbor. I am excited by the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Holland community and I am finding that the Joint Archives has many hidden treasures.

By arranging and inventorying these hidden treasures, I hope to make these materials visible in order for everyone to enjoy them and learn from them. My first hidden treasure was the records of the Allegan County-Lakeshore Chapter of the National Organization for Women. The records include local newspaper accounts of many civil rights controversies, not just concerning women but other minority status groups as well.

My next hidden treasure, although radically different from the N.O.W. collection, includes a level of self-reflection that I, as an archivist, have rarely seen. The records of the Fraternal Society, the oldest fraternity at Hope College, include a number of 19th century documents that detail the society's beginnings at Union College in 1834 and speak of the original eight members' beliefs in morality and higher learning. Imported from Union College in 1863 by Dr. Phillip Phelps, then President of Hope College, the Fraternal Society has been an important part of the College's cultural life ever since.

Covering everything from women's rights to college fraternities to church records, the Joint Archives holds many more hidden treasures which I look forward to discovering and making available to the community.

Hispanic Heritage?

(Continued from page 1)

"As we maintain the archival collection at the Joint Archives of Holland it is painful to see the very limited Hispanic materials available for historical research," commented director Larry Wagenaar. "Hopefully, by making this first step, we can do a better job of collecting and making available historical materials on the Hispanic community here."

Andrea recently commented "The Oral History Project will be a rich resource concerning the history of the Hispanic community for generations to come." In the next several years the archives hopes to be able to increase its holding of historical materials which document the history of this important segment of our city's population.

Summer Resorts Display

Summertime! For more than a century the blue waters, warm temperatures and sandy beaches have been attracting visitors to the Holland area. In commemoration of this favorite time of year, the Joint Archives has put together a display on "Summer Resorts of Days Gone By."

From the early 1880s the area near the channel was developed into a tourist's mecca with numerous large hotels such as the Ottawa Beach and Macatawa and the development of attractions such as the Jenison Amusement Park and Getz Zoo. People came from throughout the midwest to relax near the beach house or take in a sailboat race.

Steamers served the resort area daily and trains could be caught to Grand Rapids, Chicago and beyond. This festive area, which fell victim to repeated fires and the depression, was a marvel. Some feel that had the Ottawa Beach Hotel survived it would rival other magnificent places to stay such as the Grand Hotel at Mackinac Island.

Archives staff members Chad Boorsma and David Evenhuis constructed four displays which tell part of the story. You may want to take a step back in time and stop by the Archives on the lower level of the Van Wylen Library to see our exhibit. Find out what a deluxe room rented for the night or pictures of the rides at Jenison Park.

"It would have been great to live in that era," says Chad. "It's interesting to examine all the different types of materials the Archives has on the resort complex."

The summertime display will be up only until fall so stop by soon!



Dune escalator at Macatawa



Fire at Macatawa Park, 1922

Summer Hours

(Through Labor Day Weekend)

Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m.

Mornings by appointment

Holland Historical Trust Collection of the Joint Archives



The Joint Archives of Holland

HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Holland Historical Trust • Hope College • Western Theological Seminary

Hope College Campus • Holland, MI 49423

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #392