



THE CHARTER

The State Archives of North Carolina
Spring 2019



Archives from Anywhere
Digitization Means 24-7 Access,
Mountains to Sea

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in partnership with the Friends of the Archives

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The mission of the **State Archives** is to collect, preserve, manage, and provide access to information that protects citizen rights, documents North Carolina history and culture, promotes transparency, and encourages stewardship of government records.

The Charter is a publication of the Division of Archives and Records, funded by the Friends of the Archives, Inc., a nonprofit organization. Copies are electronically distributed to FOA members twice annually.

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Map of North Carolina prepared by N. C. Geological and Economic Survey from Base Map Compiled by the United States Geological Survey in Co-operation with the State of North Carolina. 1911. North Carolina Maps, State Archives of North Carolina



From 109 East Jones

A great deal has changed since I started working at the State Archives of North Carolina over twenty-five years ago. We serve just as many patrons, but most of them are served remotely now in a variety of new ways. Digitization of our collections allows us to expand our reach and serve our patrons anywhere the Internet can be accessed. Using digital images, we can create new resources for educational purposes, provide instant access to some of our popular collections, and share stories of North Carolina history and culture through social media. Digitization plays a key role in making archives available from anywhere.

I am frequently asked how we determine what collections to digitize. That is a great question, because with hundreds of thousands of cubic feet in our collections, we do not have the resources to digitize and index everything. By collaborating with a variety of groups, we are able to make large portions of our collection available online on a variety of sites, including FamilySearch, Ancestry, the Digital Public Library of America, and Digital NC. The bulk of our digitized content can be found in the North Carolina Digital Collections, a shared repository with the State Library. We post content to Flickr, Internet Archives, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and our new Pinterest page. The beauty of digitization is that the images can be used in many places for many purposes.

Each year the management staff reviews potential projects to add to our digital collections. We look for ways to provide access to underutilized materials in particular. We review which departmental program themes could be enhanced with the availability of digital collections, and we seek to add to our existing digital collections, such as African American Education or Historical Governors Papers.

Beginning in March the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources kicked off "[She Changed the World: North Carolina Women Breaking Barriers](#)," a programmatic theme celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage and women who make or have made a difference in their communities. We anticipate digitizing materials from our special collections and government records that will enhance the programs and resources developed in support of this theme. We are already looking for materials we can digitize in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War and the founding of our country. This issue of *The Charter* highlights some important work being done in support of making archives available anywhere. Digitization is one means of increasing access to our collections and extending our reach beyond our Search Room. We have come a long way in twenty-five years.

SARAH E. KOONTS

State Archivist and Director
Division of Archives and Records

*Grosgrain Ribbon
Sash: Vote for Women.
P.C. 1618, State Archives of
North Carolina.
[Click here to view in our
digital collections.](#)*

From the President



One of the digital collections found on the North Carolina State Archives website is titled Treasures. It contains digital images of documents that are rare and/or unique. They are often too fragile to withstand much handling, but through the miracle of digitization, they are still available to the public. And they are being cared for by the Archives staff.

Each of us has treasures that we hold on to—things that are significant to us or our families. But some of those things may need to be in the Archives as well. When items are donated to the Archives, they are usually still available to those who wish to view them, but they are also protected. Sentimentality causes many people to hold on to important documents. What they fail to consider is what will happen to

those family treasures once the current owner is gone. Will the next generation care about the items enough to continue to preserve them, or will the material end up on a trash heap somewhere?

Over the years I have given a number of things to the Archives. My father had a yearbook of his unit in World War II. By placing it in the Military Collection of the Archives, I guaranteed that it will be cared for. And if I need or want to look at it, I know where it is. I also have donated a few pictures. The good thing about those is that I can retain copies for myself while still making them available for researchers. Among my mother's photographs I found a picture from the 1930s that showed my grandfather cooking a pig over a pit. Another photograph pictured my

uncle standing in front of his tent at the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the Smoky Mountains. In those cases it is not the people who are in the picture that make them valuable to researchers but the activities and lifestyles they depict. They are important visual images of our past. Think about your own treasures. You may have pictures and documents that would be valuable to others as well. Encourage friends and relatives to find a safe home for their own treasures so they don't end up in the Dumpster one day.

JO ANN WILLIFORD

President of the Friends of the Archives



Original documents from the Lords Proprietors to Governor Stephens and Governor Carteret, 1664–1674/5. V.C. 19. Vault Collection. State Archives of North Carolina. View this document and more by [clicking here](#).

\$1.1M Grant from the Mellon Foundation

CAMILLE TYNDALL WATSON, Digital Services Section

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has received a grant for \$1.1 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a project to develop a tool set that will enable institutions to more quickly and efficiently process emails included in

born-digital collections. The UNC School of Information and Library Science (SILS) is partnering with the State Archives of North Carolina (SANC) for the two-year project, which launched in January. The Review, Appraisal, and Triage of Mail (RATOM) project's

goals are particularly significant for organizations that need to provide public access to records while protecting private information, including libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs).

"Email is often present in collections, series, or acquisitions that include other types of materials," said SILS Professor Christopher "Cal" Lee, who will serve as principal investigator (PI) for the project.

"LAMs are increasingly looking for tools and methods to identify and document both the records and contextual relationships between them." RATOM will focus on developing new software and procedures that will help institutions identify email in born-digital

collections, review email sources for sensitive or restricted materials, and perform appraisal and triage to identify and annotate records. The project will specifically explore the use of machine learning and natural language processing methods to improve organization and retrieval.

Despite 47 years of email creation and the vital role of email as documentation of activities across all sectors of society, the professional curation of email is still relatively immature. With RATOM, we hope to significantly advance the process.

—Cal Lee

In addition to Lee, RATOM project personnel will include SILS research scientist Kam Woods (Co-PI) and SANC Digital Services Section head Camille Tyndall Watson (Co-PI).

To learn more about RATOM, visit <http://ratom.web.unc.edu/>.

FOA Spotlight

Joe A. Mobley, of Raleigh, taught history at North Carolina State University after retiring as administrator of Historical Publications at the Office of Archives and History. He has authored several articles and books, received the North Caroliniana Book Award for the best book on the state's history, and served as president of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and the Historical Society of North Carolina.



Making Archival Collections Available 24-7

DONNA KELLY, Special Collections Section

"Nurses Are Needed Now." State Archives of North Carolina

The North Carolina Digital Collections (NCDC) contain over one hundred thousand historical and recent photographs, state government publications, manuscripts, oral histories, and other resources on topics related to North Carolina. The website provides online access to both current and historical North Carolina state government information and other North Caroliniana. These digitized materials are free and full-text searchable, bringing together content from the State Archives of North Carolina and the State Library of North Carolina and making these unique and valuable collections [available 24-7 here](#).

Each year proposals are made by staff of the State Archives and those selected are digitized, either as part of an existing collection or as part of a new collection. Some represent full archival collections, while others are a sampling of

materials around a single theme, for instance, African American Education, Food and Cooking, and Women in the 20th Century. Some collections comprise specific groups of records spread across collections, such as Alien Registration and Naturalization Records, Treasures (valuable documents stored in the vault), and WWII posters and maps.

New collections are added regularly. Having these materials available online from anywhere and at any time opens up the State Archives to a global audience.

First Lt. Bennis M. Blue (third from left) pictured during parachute jump training for the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 1978. Blue was the first female officer of the 82nd Airborne. Her oral history is included in this collection. From the Bennis M. Blue Papers, Cold War Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina





Online Programming at the Archives

In late 2018, the State Archives added a new staff position to address the importance of online resources and online programming for both our existing users and for people who may never have visited the State Archives. In November 2018, Randon McCrea joined our staff as the first digital archivist for online programming, taking responsibility “for the coordination and dissemination of the division’s educational programming for online platforms, including social media.”

What does that mean? Randon will be evaluating our current social media channels to see what we’re doing well and where we can improve; researching new tools and platforms to help us reach new audiences and adapt to the ever-changing world of online content; and reviewing our existing paper-based content to turn it into something better suited for the Internet. In addition, Randon is

working with the Digital Access Branch’s spring semester intern, Laura Burgess, to develop social media postings relating to Dorothea Dix Hospital, Alien Registration documents, and other archival topics.

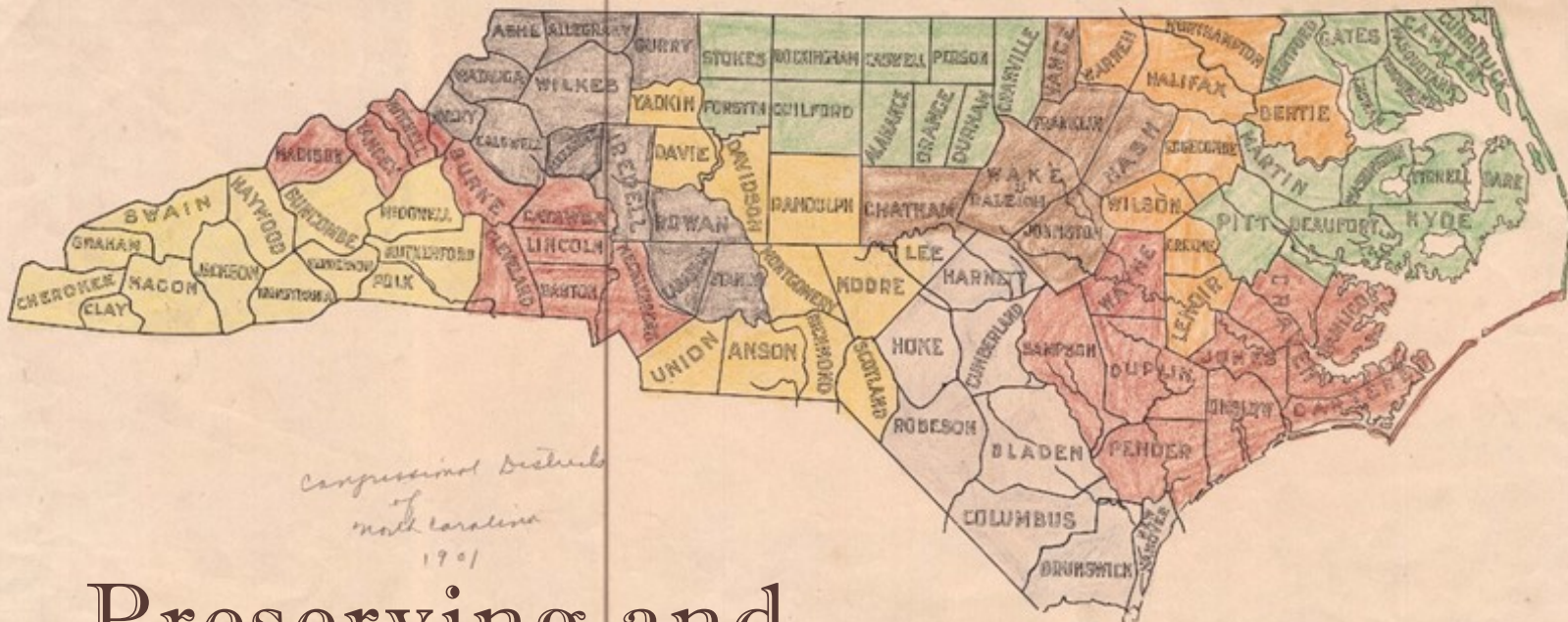
Although it’s still early days for Randon, here are some of the projects he and our staff are working on:

- Developing volunteer guidance for upcoming crowdsourcing efforts.
- Creating content to support departmental outreach initiatives, such as “Come Hear,” a celebration of North Carolina music, and “She Changed the World,” commemorating the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.
- Planning short videos about archival services or subjects.

Above: Trademark Application: Perkins Products Company (SS.II.Trademarks.Box.4.448) and Trademark Application: New Prague Flouring Mill Company (SS.II.Trademarks.Box.4.448), State Archives of North Carolina

FOA Spotlight

Francis King was reared in New Bern and received his undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and his MBA from Duke. From an early age, his parents and grandmothers instilled in him a love of history and the preservation of North Carolina’s culture. He is excited to be a part of this organization as it seeks to safeguard our state’s documents.



Preserving and Making the Map Collection Available Digitally

DONNA KELLY, Special Collections Section

The maps located at the State Archives and the Outer Banks History Center are a fantastic resource for all types of research. However, the originals are sometimes oversized or fragile, so most of them have been digitized for easier accessibility. In 2007, a collaborative digitization project by the State Archives, the Outer Banks History Center, and UNC-Chapel Hill was initiated through a grant. The resulting resource is found on the website [North Carolina Maps](#). This project included original, printed maps of North Carolina published prior to 1923 (to

avoid potential copyright issues); manuscript maps; maps from books and atlases published prior to 1923; and selected maps published by state government after 1923.

We began a project in 2017 to conserve space on the Archives servers by eliminating digital duplicates. Its goal was to compare more than six thousand digitized maps, in TIFF format, with what is available through North Carolina Maps. Those maps that were not included as part of the original digital project but that have nonetheless been digitized are currently being moved to the North Carolina

Digital Repository for preservation. What is located in the repository will be converted to lower-resolution access copies that can be made available to patrons upon request.

To facilitate this project, Rachel McManimen, a spring 2018 intern from UNC-Chapel Hill who has since become a volunteer, has been working to compare the maps and has plans to complete the project this spring.

Above: MC.150.1901uk from the Map Collection showing North Carolina's Congressional Districts in 1901. This map is not included on North Carolina Maps but has been digitized and will be added to the North Carolina Digital Repository.

Digitization of Government Records by State and Local Agencies

BECKY MCGEE-LANKFORD, Government Records Section

State and local government offices routinely use digitization as a tool to store and provide access to the records created in their office, decreasing the physical space they need for records storage while also increasing ease and speed of access.

As defined by statute, the Government Records Section is responsible for providing records management guidance to these government offices. To address this trend, we conduct workshops and consultations, and we've published a series of guidelines and best practices that focus on the digitization of state and local records, including:

- *Best Practices for Digital Permanence*
- *File Format Guidelines for Management and Long-Term Retention of Electronic Records*
- *Guidelines for Managing Trustworthy Digital Public Records*

We also help agencies to complete an electronic records policy, which is the first step toward establishing a digitization program. To that end, the Digital Services Section has provided a *Sample*

Electronic Records and Imaging Policy For Use by Local and State Agencies that can serve as a template and can aid agencies in answering the questions that they need to consider prior to beginning a program of mass digitization.

So, in addition to the storage and access advantages discussed above, when is digitization advisable for state and local agencies?

- To make documents quickly and simultaneously available to multiple users;
- To integrate hardcopy documents into new or existing sets of electronic procedures or records;
- And to protect important or essential documents as part of business continuity or disaster recovery planning.

Agencies should always bear in mind that digitization may not be the best answer for permanent and archival records. Rather, agencies should look at microfilming or retaining paper as the most secure formats for permanent retention.

Digitizing NC's Hidden Collections

The State Archives and the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) are midway through a grant that provides online access to historical records by digitizing them. Working with the Digital Heritage Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, SHRAB has identified and transported records from across the state—from Cherokee to Currituck counties—as the cornerstone of "Digitizing North Carolina's Hidden Collections." Records from ten institutions have been digitized, and they include photographs, private papers, administrative records, research notes, yearbooks, and scrapbooks. This program makes available those records that might not otherwise be accessible to scholars and the public. It is funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. To access digital records from throughout the state, [click here to visit Digital NC.](#)



This still from *Concord, N.C., 1930s, 1940s* was filmed as part of H. Lee Waters "Movies of Local People" project. This and more has been digitized by the NC Digital Heritage Center.

[Click here to watch the video!](#)



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Exploring Photograph Collections Online

321st Infantry, 81st Division, WWI

The Audiovisual Materials Unit of the Special Collections Section makes its photograph collections accessible to the public using a variety of platforms. In addition to the North Carolina Digital Collections (NCDC), which contains approximately five thousand images from the Herbert Brimley Photograph Collection (PhC.42), archivists have made nearly seventy-eight thousand images available on the [State Archives Flickr website](#).

Mollie K. Dunn WWII Army Nurse Corps

Ranging from entire collections, such as the Albert Barden Photograph Collection, a rich collection of over eighteen thousand images, to selections from its General Negative Collection, an assortment of negatives copied from photographs owned by private individuals or created by departmental personnel, researchers can find photographs documenting a wide range of subjects related to North Carolina history. These digitized materials are free to view or download.

High School Men's

Researchers may also consult the many finding aids on [our website here](#) to identify photographs or collections of interest.

Finally, the Audiovisual Materials Unit promotes its photograph collections on its Facebook and Instagram social media accounts. For more information or to follow the Audiovisual Materials Unit, please [click here](#).

FOA Spotlight

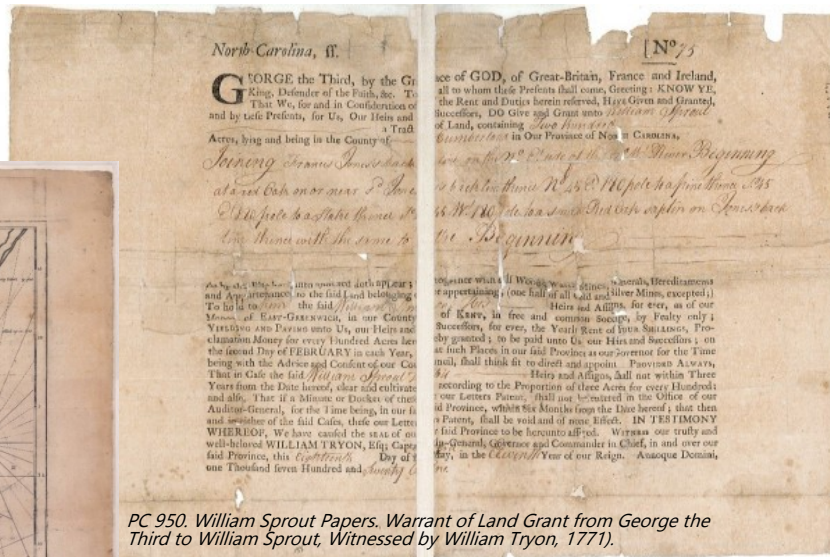
Retired from thirty-four years as woodworking instructor and Crafts Center director at North Carolina State University, **George Thomas** now loses himself in a passion deplete of material worries. From an initial curiosity about family, his interests encompass all things North Carolina. He lives to refine understanding through obscure records with particular emphasis on land and its evolving use. He enjoys breathing life into the memories of those whose stories would otherwise end with a census notation of "farmer."

Documenting the World of OUTLANDER

Blog Series Connects TV Show Fans to Historical Records

JOSH HAGER & ALISON THURMAN, Reference & Correspondence Units

In its fourth season, the hit Starz show *Outlander* shifted its setting from



PC 950. William Sprout Papers. Warrant of Land Grant from George the Third to William Sprout, Witnessed by William Tryon, 1771.

William Tryon, the records of enslaved persons, the Cherokee land boundary in western North Carolina, colonial-era maps, and piracy.



Map of Cape Fear River and its vicinity from the Frying Pan Shoals to Wilmington MC.167.C237.1798ps

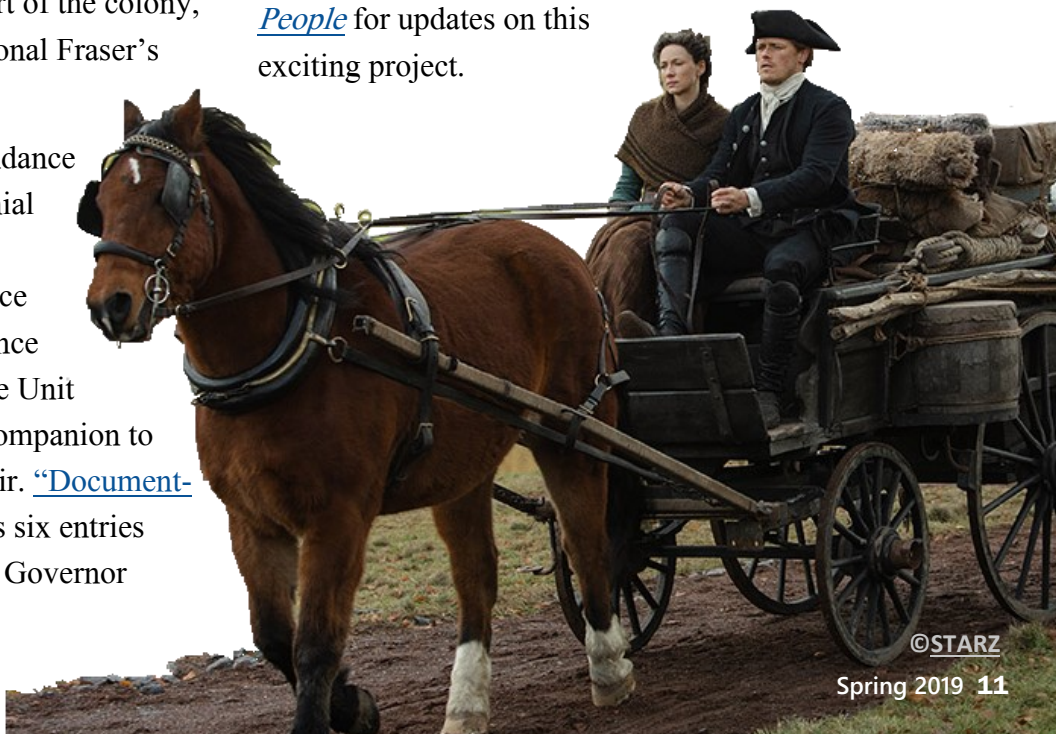
Scotland to North Carolina in the 1760s. The protagonists of the

Future articles will cover mill stores, the War of the Regulation, and (since Claire Fraser is a time traveling nurse from the mid-twentieth century) World War II posters and nursing records.

We are excited to continue publishing this series monthly while *Outlander* is on hiatus, connecting this fan-favorite TV show to the real history present in the Archives. Keep an eye out on [History for All the People](#) for updates on this exciting project.

series, Jamie and Claire Fraser, journey from the port of Wilmington through Cross Creek (modern-day Fayetteville) and into the western part of the colony, where they create a home at the fictional Fraser's Ridge.

Since the State Archives has an abundance of fascinating records from the colonial era that mesh nicely with the themes addressed in the show, correspondence archivist Alison Thurman and reference archivist Josh Hager of the Reference Unit decided to create a blog series as a companion to the historical content shown on the air. "[Documenting the World of Outlander](#)" includes six entries addressing land grants, the papers of Governor



Comings & Goings

Ellen Brooks was hired into the Special Collections Section effective January 1 as the Archives' oral historian. She came from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, where she oversaw its oral history program for the past five years. Ellen has an undergraduate degree in history and communications from Fordham University and a master's degree in oral history from Columbia University. She is a current member of the Oral History Section Steering Committee within the Society of American Archivists and current chair of the Emerging Professionals Committee within the Oral History Association. Her first major project will be gathering interviews from notable women across the state in cooperation with the departmental initiative "She Changed the World: NC Women Breaking Barriers," which runs from March 2019 through November 2020.

After twenty-six years of service, **Paul Dasinger** retired effective February 1, 2019. Paul started in the mail room and then in 1998 became processing assistant at the security desk of the State Archives. In 2005 he became the accounts technician, the position he held at the time of his retirement. For sixteen of the years that Paul was with the department, he also worked at UPS, from which he retired last year. During his retirement Paul and his wife will likely continue traveling but will also divide their time between Garner and Topsail Beach.

The Division of Archives and Records welcomed a new preservation officer on February 1 with the arrival of **Cindy Bradley**. Cindy grew up in Old Fort, near Asheville, but comes to us most recently from Bend, Oregon, and the High Desert Museum, where she was the collections manager and exhibitions coordinator. No stranger to DNCR, Cindy also worked for the Maritime Museum in Beaufort from 2015 to January 2018. She has a diverse preservation background, with education from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and the University of Georgia, as well as underwater archaeology experience. Most recently she has been involved with the preservation of Native American collections.



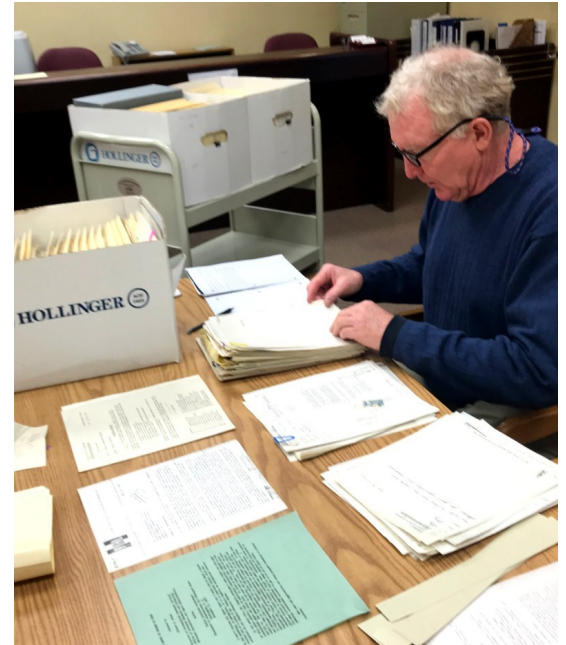
Mike Rogers joined the Government Records Section on November 1, 2018. Mike transferred from the Johnston County school system. Prior to that he worked for a manufacturing company, where he was an administrator working closely with schools on purchasing marketing material. Mike has been instrumental in facilitating pickups and getting supply orders to agencies.

On November 1, 2018, **Randon McCrea** joined the State Archives as the digital archivist for online programming. Randon is from Maryland and has a communications/emerging media degree from Bowie State University. He has eight years of experience managing institutional social media content and creating online programming, first as a digital archivist for the National Archives at College Park and later as a social media and web-content specialist for Bowie State University.

Anna Peitzman started as the new metadata archivist with the Digital Services Section on December 17, 2018. She is working on the District Superior Court Records, Secretary of State Wills, and World War I digital collections. Anna is also arranging and processing the Council on the Status of Women records.

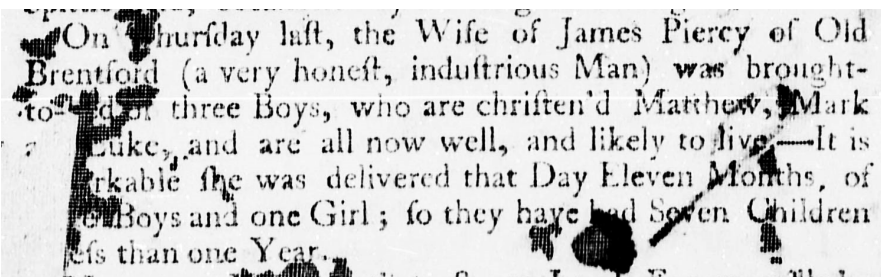
Volunteer Spotlight

Billy Vaughan is currently completing a volunteer project with the Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) to process the papers of Francis Rogallo, an American aeronautical engineer and inventor of the "flexible wing," a precursor to the modern hang glider and paraglider. Originally marketed as a toy, Rogallo's invention attracted the interest of NASA during the space race of the 1960s, and the government conducted experiments and test flights using Rogallo's technology. Billy, who has long been interested in hang gliders and their history, was introduced to Rogallo's work when he was searching for a writing project and began to explore Rogallo's large (unprocessed) collection at the OBHC as a researcher. This semester, he is completing a 150-hour internship with the OBHC in pursuit of a museum studies certificate from John Tyler Community College. The internship, sponsored by the Rogallo Foundation, will allow him to become more familiar with cultural heritage work in preparation for a Francis Rogallo museum, which the Rogallo Foundation hopes to open in the coming years.



Historical Hoot

DEBBI BLAKE
Head, Collections Services Section



On Thursday last, the Wife of James Piercy of Old Brentford (a very honest, industrious Man) was brought to bed of three Boys, who are christened Matthew, Mark [and] Luke, and are all now well, and likely to live—It is [rem]arkable she was delivered that Day Eleven Months [ago], of [thr]ee Boys and one Girl; so they have had Seven Children [in l]ess than one Year.

New Bern Gazette, March 13, 1751

Upcoming Events

Treasures of Carolina Exhibit

Museum of the Albemarle
Elizabeth City, NC

May 3—July 23, 2019
(252) 335-1453

Bill of Rights on Display

NC Museum of History
Raleigh, NC

June 29—July 7, 2019
(919) 814-7900

More events and additional information can be found on our website here: <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/events/list>.

FRIENDS of the ARCHIVES

The Friends of the Archives, Inc., was formed in 1977 to provide non-profit support to the State Archives of North Carolina. Through generous donations, the Friends have purchased valuable collections for the Archives, helped to conserve documents and maps, and purchased chairs for the Archives' Search Room. The Friends also sponsors workshops and other activities, and helps coordinate a volunteer and intern program for the State Archives.

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