

# THE CHARTER

The State Archives of North Carolina  
Fall 2019

## Advocacy for in Archives



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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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Cover Photo:

*Hyde County Civil Rights and School Protest March, February 1969.*  
From the News and Observer Negative Collection, State Archives of North Carolina; Raleigh, NC.

[Click here to view this photo on our Flickr page.](#)



# From 109 East Jones

**H**ave you ever thought of yourself as an advocate?

Dictionary.com defines an advocate as, “a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.” In my work with the Council of State Archivists, a membership organization supporting the work of all state and territorial archives, I am involved with efforts to advocate for funding that supports archival programs on a national level. “Archives on the Hill” was a time when archivists from across the country visited their representatives and senators to advocate for archives. This work has provided me with a greater understanding of how important the voices of everyday citizens can be in advocating for causes that are important to them. This is true at the state and local level—your voice counts.

You may never have considered the importance of advocating for archives. What does that kind of advocacy look like? Raising awareness of what we do and who we serve in the archival profession is an important first step in advocacy. It can be as simple as telling your elected representatives how much you appreciate the work of your local archives or special collection. Your elected officials, such as the registers of deeds, care for critical public records. Be sure to speak up at the local level about the importance of fully funding their needs for records access and preservation. Invite your representatives to tour an archives or special collection.

Several grants support archives across North Carolina. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is the grant-making arm of the

National Archives. Its funding is currently supporting work on the [“People Not Property” grant](#) at UNC Greensboro. The grant will include indexed slave deeds in the Digital Library of American Slavery. Another NHPRC grant supports the State Historical Records Advisory Board’s work to assist small cultural heritage



organizations in digitizing materials for inclusion in the N.C. Digital Heritage Center’s online collection. Yet another NHPRC grant will fund the State Archives’ work to improve access to our colonial court records. NHPRC is a very small federal grant program with a huge impact in North Carolina. Letting your Congressional representatives know how valuable these grant programs are in making our state’s cultural heritage more accessible is

very important as Congress considers funding for federal agencies.

Advocacy for archival collections at all levels is critical. We do important work to preserve and provide access to records that document our history, protect citizen rights, and promote government transparency. Consider becoming an archives advocate. Your local cultural heritage organizations, public records custodians, and special collections could use your voice in spreading the word about the importance of archives.

**SARAH E. KOONTS**

State Archivist and Director  
Division of Archives and Records

# From the President



**E**ducation has the power to transform society. One of the most prominent examples of a school established for this purpose was Black Mountain College, founded in 1933. During the school's twenty-four-year run, transformative education remained the goal, taking on different forms at different times. As a social experiment, people from many backgrounds lived together and the approach to teaching was innovative. Professors were facilitators of learning instead of traditional instructors. Students participated in their own learning and in making decisions about how their school was run. Curriculum was centered around the arts, yet the student experience involved work, such as growing food, making clothes, and constructing buildings. The school was never accredited, and it had only a few graduates. Clearly, however, the experiential learning that took place there changed the lives of teachers, visitors, and the 1,200 students who attended. The State Archives of North Carolina accepted the academic records of Black Mountain College after it ceased operation in 1957. Before long, former teachers, administrators, and students began to donate materials

from their days at the school. The records were stored in Raleigh, where researchers used them to document this exceptional school and to gain insight into the famous people who visited, taught, and studied there, including John Cage, Josef and Anni Albers, Buckminster Fuller, and Robert Rauschenberg.

In 2012 the Black Mountain College papers—nearly six hundred boxes of materials—were moved to the Western Regional Archives in Asheville. Researchers come from all over the world to explore the collection's holdings, with the added benefit that they can also visit the site of the school. Their topics have shifted from the famous members associated with the school, to an exploration of all aspects of the curriculum. Today's social struggles and an interest in experiential education make investigation into this remarkable school even more relevant, and researchers seek both information and inspiration.

The State Archives maintains the photographs, documents, and other materials in the Black Mountain College collections as part of its service to citizens to

preserve records of enduring value and provide access to them. As in the case of these records, sometimes the documents stored for decades take on a new life, as different generations ask different questions of the past. This is the power of archives.

*To explore the Black Mountain College collections at the Western Regional Archives, see <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/researchers/western-regional-archives>. Digitized items from these collections are available at <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/black-mountain-college>.*

*Karen L Paar*

**KAREN PAAR**

President  
Friends of the Archives



*Buckminster Fuller's Architecture class, 1949 Summer Institute, Black Mountain College.*  
Photograph from the Black Mountain College Research Project, North Carolina Museum of Art, Western Regional Archives.



# Meet Your 2019-2020 FOA Board Members

Left to right back row: Frank King, Treasurer; Bob Moss, Vice President; Jason Tomberlin; and George Thomas  
Left to right front row: Karen Paar, President; Vickie Young; Joe Mobley; Jennifer Daugherty; and JoAnn Williford  
Not pictured: Sarah Koonts, State Archivist and Secretary

**We are excited to introduce our new board for the 2019–2020 year.** They bring to the board a wide variety of knowledge and interest to continue our advocacy for the State Archives of North Carolina.

**Warren Milteer Jr.** is an assistant professor of history at the UNC Greensboro. His research focuses on free people of color in the U.S. South. He has published a book and several articles about North Carolina history.



**Victoria P. Young** completed her B.A. in political science from Dickinson College and has been working as a full-time professional genealogist since 2004, specializing in the Southern U.S., lineage applications, and forensic

research. Vickie has appeared as an expert witness in an N.C. Superior Court, performed research for PBS's "Finding Your Roots," and completed numerous projects as a subcontractor to AncestryProgenealogists.™ Vickie is the past president of the North Carolina Genealogical Society where she has served on the board since 2007.

**Rich Carney** is the special collections archivist at Wingate University. Prior to that position, he worked at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. While there, he supervised a joint digitization project with Ancestry.com. Rich also worked at the State Archives of North Carolina and for the North Carolina History Project in Raleigh and was a Friends of the Archives intern while in graduate school. He received his B.A. in history from Appalachian State University and his M.A. in public history from N.C. State University.



# In Their Own Words

## Oral History at the State Archives

ELLEN BROOKS, Oral Historian

**T**he State Archives Oral History Unit is underway and making strides toward becoming an important part of the Special Collections Section's offerings. The inaugural project for the unit is the "She Changed the World" Oral History Project. The project is one component of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' "She Changed the World: NC Women Breaking Barriers" campaign, which runs through November 2020. It is intended to showcase the stories of women who have made great strides in their field, as well as women who have had a significant impact on their community.

Each narrator is being asked to share her life history and to reflect on how she got to her present position. Narrators represent a variety of fields as well as diverse backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles. Themes that have been emerging from this project include education, definitions of success, and overcoming adversity. This series of interviews will form a collection that will be preserved and made accessible for generations to come — both online and onsite at the State Archives. This collection can be used by educators and students, researchers, and the general public.

In addition to the "She Changed the World" Oral History Project, oral historian Ellen Brooks is working on building the infrastructure of the Oral History Unit. This includes crafting transcription guidelines for our volunteer transcriptionists, creating a workflow for ingesting new interviews into our digital repository, and figuring out the best way to organize and describe interviews so that they will eventually be available to the public. All of these components, and more, are crucial factors for a well-run oral history program.

*(continued on next page)*



The other significant work that is being done revolves around partnership and consultation. The State Archives is hoping to become an invaluable resource, not just for the oral history interviews in our collection, but also for people interested in learning more about oral history and perhaps starting their own oral history project. The oral historian has received numerous calls from other organizations and from individuals who are looking for advice about starting a project

and inquiring about what a partnership with the State Archives might look like. In addition to offering some guidance about oral history best practices, the Oral History Unit is interested in serving as the repository for projects and interviews from around the state that tell stories that might be otherwise underrepresented in our collections. When making decisions about serving as a repository, the unit intends to take a couple of key factors into account:

Does the project/collection fit the State Archives Special Collections Section collecting scope? What rights will the State Archives be given to the materials? Does the State Archives have the capacity to maintain this collection? Will the material be formatted to meet State Archives standards?

As the Oral History Unit continues to develop it will be exciting to see the ways in which it can collaborate with community partners and engage users.

## Activism in Digital Collections

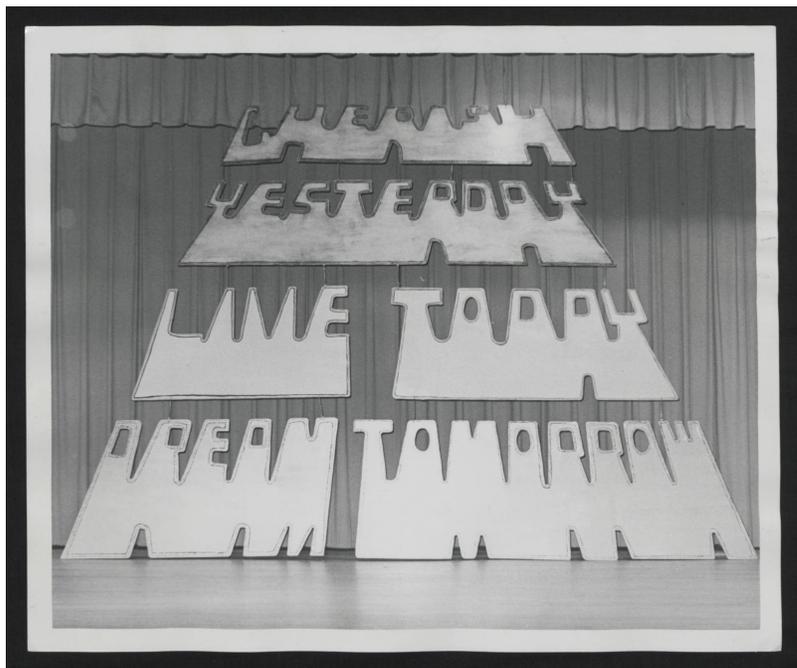
OLIVIA CARLISLE, Digital Archivist

The **Digital Services Section** of the State Archives has been hard at work digitizing records over the past year, including several collections that relate to groups of people advocating for change. You can explore these collections and many more online at the [North Carolina Digital Collections](#).

- **The Future Homemakers of America (FHA) and New Homemakers of America (NHA) associations:** Both of these associations began in 1945 and operated out of schools in North Carolina. They focused on personal growth and leadership skills for use in one's family, career, and community. Our digital collection has materials from 1929 to 1984 and consists primarily of photographs and administrative records. [You can explore the collection here.](#)
- **Council on the Status of Women:** This council started in 1963 as a commission to review areas where women were likely to suffer discrimination (such as state labor laws, employment policies, and legal rights) and then make recommendations for change to the governor. It has evolved over time but continues to act as a catalyst for improving the status of women in N.C. This digital collection contains agendas, reports, correspondence, and publications related to the council's goals. [Browse this collection here.](#)

*"Cherish Yesterday, Live Today, Dream Tomorrow."*

Photograph from the Future Homemakers of America collection, State Archives of North Carolina.



# Protecting Citizens' Rights

DOUG BROWN, Public Services Unit Manager

Occasionally the State Archives of North Carolina will provide documentation for citizens who need entitlement services, such as Social Security or veteran's benefits. To determine the amount of a benefit, one would need official documentation of a marriage and/or a divorce judgment. Most requests are for marriages or divorces that occurred over fifty years ago.

Unfortunately, the patron's memory of the place and date might be fuzzy, but our reference staff will work hard to locate the record and provide a copy as soon as possible.

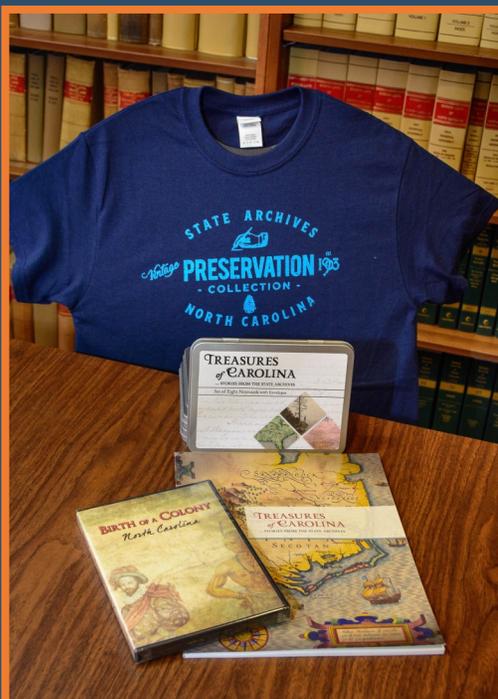
The State Archives also works with law enforcement agencies and citizens to provide criminal dispositions of a court case that occurred over fifty years ago. If an

arrest shows up on a background check for someone purchasing a firearm, obtaining a concealed-weapons permit, or seeking employment, we can search any criminal court records in our custody to determine the outcome of the case. However, we would need to know the county where the offense took place and the approximate date of the arrest or court appearance.

## Donate. Collect. Preserve.

Help support the Archives by purchasing one of our limited collection items! To purchase, visit our web page at <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/support-archives>

Click on "Donate to support the State Archives of NC." Please note which item you'd like to purchase and make sure to include your contact information and a mailing address.



|   | Non-FOA Member   | FOA Member   |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Treasures of Carolina</i> catalog                  | \$18.72<br>\$ 1.28 tax<br><b>\$20.00 total</b>               | \$16.85<br>\$ 1.15 tax<br><b>\$18.00 total</b>               |
| Birth of a Colony on DVD                              | \$11.23<br>\$ .77 tax<br><b>\$12.00 total</b>                | \$ 9.36<br>\$ .64 tax<br><b>\$10.00 total</b>                |
| Bill of Rights Facsimile Poster                       | \$ 4.68<br>\$ .32 tax<br><b>\$ 5.00 total</b>                | \$ 2.80<br>\$ .20 tax<br><b>\$3.00 total</b>                 |
| <i>Treasures of Carolina</i> Notecards with envelopes | \$14.04<br>\$ .96 tax<br><b>\$15.00 total</b>                | \$12.64<br>\$ .86 tax<br><b>\$13.50 total</b>                |
| State Archives of North Carolina T-shirts             | \$18.72 (S, M, L, XL)<br>\$ 1.28 tax<br><b>\$20.00 total</b> | \$16.85 (S, M, L, XL)<br>\$ 1.15 tax<br><b>\$18.00 total</b> |
| State Archives of North Carolina T-shirts             | \$23.40 (2X & 3X)<br>\$ 1.60 tax<br><b>\$25.00 total</b>     | \$18.72 (2X & 3X)<br>\$ 1.28 tax<br><b>\$20.00 total</b>     |

# Word from Around the Archives...

Did you know the Archives has a new catalog? Say goodbye to MARS and hello to DOC! The **Discover Online Catalog (DOC)** is a great tool for searching our holdings and discovering if we have the record you are looking for. [Click here to start searching](#) or [click here to learn more about DOC](#).

The **Imaging Unit** creates preservation microfilm for state agencies, local county governments, and local city, or municipal, governments. The vital preservation function of microfilm ensures that a security copy of a record will survive any local catastrophe such as a tornado, a hurricane, or flood waters. Creating a central repository of municipal minutes not only preserves the record but also benefits researchers who can utilize those records without having to visit each and every city or town in the state.

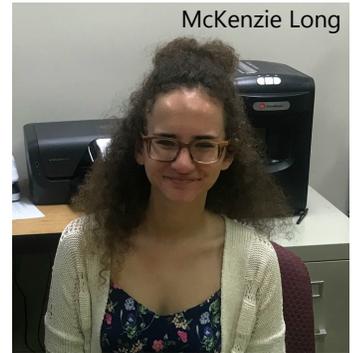
The **Digital Services Section** will be working with the BitCurator team at **UNC Chapel Hill** on the **RATOM** grant. DSS will be building off the successes of their Transforming Online Mail with Embedded Semantics (TOMES) grant by developing an open source software to process archival e-mail accounts and make them accessible to the public using natural language processing and machine learning.

The **Military Collection** is excited to announce that, in partnership with the **Friends of the Archives**, \$3,200 has been raised to digitize approximately 100 original audio and video recordings of North Carolina's military veterans' oral history interviews. These interviews, part of the Military Collection, will allow the State Archives to extend access online to interviews that have previously been only accessible onsite. The interviews include a Congressional Medal of Honor winner, African American WWII veterans, Vietnam War veterans, Korean War veterans, Cold War veterans, Battle of the Bulge veterans, and others. Once digitized, they will eventually be added to the N.C. Digital Collections' Veterans Oral History Collection found here: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/veterans-oral-history-collection>.

The **State Archives of North Carolina** recently received an award from the **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)** to fully arrange and describe and create detailed online finding aids for two collections of early court records—the **Colonial Court Records (CCR)**, and the **District Superior Court Records (DSCR)**, roughly spanning the years 1665–1835. A selection of records will be scanned and posted online for a transcription crowdsourcing project. The **NHPRC**, the funding arm of the National Archives, contributed more than \$86,000 for a total grant of nearly \$140,000 over a two-year period.

# Celebrating Our Interns

**McKenzie Long** was the 2019 David Stick Intern at the Outer Banks History Center. McKenzie is a second year graduate student at UNC's School of Information and Library Science. She focused her internship on processing the records of various women's clubs on the Outer Banks.



**Morgan Johnson**, a history major and senior at Meredith College, interned with the Audiovisual Materials Unit this past summer. Originally from Fuquay-Varina, her knowledge of the people and places of that community were especially useful for enhancing access to the Heulon Dean Photo Collection (PhC.133), a photographer



Clove Bennet and Kathy Hill

from that town. She transcribed the studio indexes, uploaded scanned images to Flickr, and wrote accurate descriptions and citations.

The Western Regional Archives in Asheville hosted two interns this spring and summer, both students of the Library and Information Science program at UNC Greensboro. **Claire (Clove) Bennet** and **Kathy Hill** performed a myriad of tasks and were instrumental in the processing of the Bruce E. Johnson Collection on William Waldo Dodge, architect and craftsman.

## STRANGER MEDIA

The Digital Services and Government Records Sections celebrated Electronic Records Day on October 10 (1010) with their annual video. This year, they spoofed *Stranger Things* and *Dungeons and Dragons* with their video "Stranger Media." In the video, Eleven and the Hawkins gang debate how to best manage social media as a public record and fight the insidious Datagorgon. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/Uy6xQ0GxVHU>

# Comings & Goings

Our new conservation technician, **Abigail (Abbey) Thompson**, is a graduate of the University of Delaware and a former Air Force brat. Before coming to DNCR, she worked in the conservation labs at the National Park Service, Harper's Ferry Center. Outside of work, she enjoys reading and making art.

**Sangeeta Desai** started as the systems integration librarian on August 1. She comes to us from the National Humanities Center, where she was the metadata and content management intern. She has also worked at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, the NC Digital Heritage Center, and Data Rescue RTP. She has her M.S. in information science from UNC Chapel Hill with a certificate in digital curation, as well as her Ph.D. in South Asian religion and literature.

**Katherine (Katie) Crickmore** joined the Correspondence Unit of Public Services as the new correspondence assistant, effective September 16. She received a B.A. in history from Wesleyan College and an M.A. in history from UNC Greensboro. Katherine has experience working in many different areas of the public history field. Most recently she worked as a historic interpreter at Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem.

Raleigh native, **Kelley Young** is the new administrative specialist. Her responsibilities include dealing with budget-related tasks, like travel and ordering. She comes to us from the Disability Determination Services of DHHS where she had similar duties. She started with them in 2016 and came to us May 1.

Along with welcoming new staff members, we are pleased to announce several promotions. **Anna Henrichsen** was promoted to an information management archivist in May, **Erin Fulp** was promoted to a reference archivist in May, and **Josh Hager** was promoted to a records analyst in June.



Back row, left to right: Josh Hager, Sangeeta Desai, Colin Reeve, Chandler Foster, Anna Henrichsen, Katherine Crickmore  
Front row, left to right: Rebecca Cobb, Kelley Young, Erin Gallagher, Erin Fulp, Abbey Thompson  
Not pictured: Ingrid Richardson

**Colin Reeve** is the new appraisal archivist and records management analyst in the Government Records Section. He received his master's in library and information studies from UNC Greensboro and previously worked as the special collections and archives specialist at UNC Asheville. Colin will be coordinating the appraisal of both county and state agency records, as well as working with the court system and registers of deeds to advise on records management and facilitate the transfer of records.

**Ingrid Richardson** comes to us most recently from the Department of Agriculture, where she has worked since 2016. She is the new accounting technician and started work on September 3.

**Erin Gallagher** is the new digital description archivist in the Government Records Section. She comes to us from EPA, where she had been working as a research librarian. Prior to that, she was a born-digital processing graduate assistant at NCSU and an Atkins fellow working on born-digital university records at UNC Charlotte. She has a master's in information science from UNC Chapel Hill. Erin will be working to provide access to our born-digital state agency records in the digital repository.

**Chandler Foster** began processing county records in the Record Description Unit of the Government Records Section over the summer. His first project was processing the Wilson County divorces. He has processed almost 28 cubic feet of records, making almost 4,000 Wilson County divorces accessible to the public. Chandler's next project will be processing Johnston County estates.

Effective October 1, **Rebecca Cobb** joined the Public Services Unit as a reference archivist. She has worked for several archival institutions, libraries, and historical associations in the Buffalo, New York region where she conducted reference services and description work. She also has extensive experience working with customers and giving orientations to students and faculty.

# Historical Hoot

DEBBI BLAKE

Head, Collections Services Section

On occasion one comes across contemporary graffiti in the historically valuable records of the state of North Carolina. Most often found in county court minutes, where it is clear that the business of the court was not riveting, these doodles and caricatures remind us that even 200 + years ago, people found ways to amuse themselves when they were bored.

## Touring Exhibits

The State Archives' traveling exhibit, *"An Absolute Moral Certainty": The Woman Suffrage Movement in North Carolina*, will be displayed around the state to commemorate the centennial of women's suffrage. This display is part of a 15-month long DNCR commemoration of women gaining the right to vote. Titled, **"She Changed the World: North Carolina Women Breaking Barriers,"** it highlights the accomplishments of women across the centuries. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2L7qsp8>.

### Upcoming tour dates

- **November 6, 2019**  
Mars Hill University, Mars Hill
- **March 6, 2020**  
Alamance Community College,  
Graham
- **May 16, 2020**  
Edgecombe County Memorial  
Library, Tarboro



Granville County Court Minutes, 1788

## Upcoming Workshops

**Genealogy Workshops:** The Friends of the Archives occasionally coordinates with other organizations to present genealogical and historical workshops. In January, February, and March of 2020, a beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogical research series will be held at Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site.

**Oral History Workshops:** The State Archives welcomes you to join us at one of our two upcoming workshops to learn about oral history and the oral history projects we are currently working on. Each workshop is split into two sessions: one on general oral history best practices and one on how to be a volunteer interviewer for the State Archives.

We are currently collecting interviews for two major projects: "She Changed the World" and Military Collection interviews.

[Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

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# FRIENDS of the ARCHIVES

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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.

## FOA Officers & Board of Directors 2019-2020

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|   |  |
|---|--|
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|---|--|

## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES TODAY!

Mail this form or join online: <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/support/become-member>

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|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership                                       | (1 year \$35.00)  | \$ _____        |
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| <small>Note: Includes societies, i.e. genealogical, public libraries etc.)</small>   |                   |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Membership  | (1 year \$20.00)  | \$ _____        |
| <small>(Note: Reserved for students, educators, and members of the military)</small> |                   |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership                                       | (1 year \$100.00) | \$ _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership   | (1 year \$500.00) | \$ _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership   | (\$1,500.00)      | \$ _____        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                   | <b>\$ _____</b> |

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The Friends of the Archives, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations may be tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please check with your tax preparer for details. FOA membership dues cover the period of the calendar year January through December.