

Oral History Section Newsletter

Issue 1

December 2004

From the Chair: **Pam Hackbart-Dean** *Georgia State University*

What a memorable SAA meeting in Boston! The 2004 Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committees did a superb job in providing a wonderful experience to members old and new. We especially owe a debt of gratitude to all the folks at the Boston's Children's Museum who provided such a delightful Thursday evening – finding our “inner child” and a glimpse of the harbor – what a combination!

The Oral History Section had over 50 members in attendance at this year's business meeting. **Elizabeth Adkins** provided a thought provoking presentation on privacy issues as they relate to oral histories. This was followed by **Bonnie Gurewitsch** highlighting an exhibit mounted by the Museum of Jewish Heritage which utilized oral history as its central component.

Congratulation to our new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect **Eileen Simon**, as well as to the new members of our Steering Committee: **Kim Winters** from the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming and **Lauren Kata** from Georgia State University. **Rebecca Hankins** from Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A & M University has been appointed newsletter editor.

The most noticeable thing you may have observed is our Section's newsletter is now available via the SAA website. Debbie Whalen, who has graciously agreed to continue serving as our web liaison with SAA, and Rebecca Hankins will shepherd this process. Thank you Debbie and Rebecca!!

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Steering Committee with any concerns or inspirations relevant to our Section. Happy interviewing!!

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies *University of Georgia*

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies is pleased to announce that Series II in the Harold Paulk Henderson, Sr. Oral History Collection is now open for research. This series consists of oral history interviews relating to the political and personal life of former Georgia governor S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. and includes discussion of notable events from his gubernatorial administration, 1959-1963, such as public school integration and the Sibley Commission. The interviews were conducted in 1993 and 1994 by Harold (Hal) Paulk Henderson, Sr. during research for his monograph, *Ernest Vandiver, Governor of Georgia* (2000). The series complements the *S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. Papers, 1954-1998*, (bulk 1954-1972), also housed at the Russell Library. Information about these oral histories as well as others in Russell Library collections is available in the special formats section of the collections page on the Russell Library website:

<http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell/collections/index.html>

For more information contact the Russell Library at 706-542-5788 or russlib@uga.edu

A Decade of Capturing Labor Stories: Voices of Labor Oral History Project *Georgia State University*

The *Voices of Labor* Oral History Project, established in 1994 at Georgia State University's Southern Labor Archives, is an on-going enterprise to record the personal experiences of men and women who

participated in the labor movement, especially in Georgia and the Southeast. Despite a rich labor heritage, most accounts of Georgia's past have overlooked its workers and their unions. This project continues to help correct this omission and fill in these gaps by gathering the stories of key figures in the local and state labor movement. These stories are collected through audio or video recorded interviews and are autobiographical in nature, covering the subject's personal background, work history, participation in the labor movement and key events and developments in local labor history. To date, twenty-five interviews have been completed.

Once preserved, these memories will not only document an important part of our heritage and be available for further research and analysis, but will also be made available to the general public through incorporation into exhibits, programs, documentaries, and other venues. Thus, this project enables individual workers and unions to gain a better knowledge and appreciation of those who preceded them—of the issues they faced, the tactics they utilized, the lessons they learned and the victories and defeats they experienced.

The *Voices of Labor* Oral History Project, through the staff of the Southern Labor Archives, assures that all interviews are recorded, transcribed and cataloged. They are available to researchers at the Southern Labor Archives, Special Collections Department, Georgia State University Library. To learn more about this ongoing project, visit our website at

<http://www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/Labor/voices/VoLprogram.htm>

Oral History Program *University of South Carolina*

The South Carolinian Library at USC is establishing an oral history program and expect to have a full time oral historian on staff during calendar 2005 to conduct two oral history projects - - documenting business leadership in

South Carolina and the second project will document the career and impact of former South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell. This program is being funded privately for one year and the success of this endeavor will generate support for its continuation.

For more information on the position offered or the projects contact Herbert J. Hartsook, Director, herb@gwm.sc.edu, (803) 777-3131 Fax: (803) 777-5747.

Alan H. Stein, Oral Historian, Chosen to Head Louisiana Division, New Orleans Public Library

Alan H. Stein, oral historian, succeeded Collin B. Hamer, Jr. as head of the New Orleans Public Library/Louisiana Division in July, 2004. Stein was a Junior Fellow at the Library of Congress in the Manuscript Division in 1994, and a USIA Research Fellow in 1995, the year he completed his Certificate in Archival Administration at Wayne State University's Walter P. Reuther Library. In 1997 he received his MLS at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and was hired by the California State Law Library, where he continued to work as a librarian and archivist for the State of California for five years.

Stein (a member of SAA since 1997) has organized sessions and presented academic papers at the annual Oral History Association conferences, at the Midwest Archives Conference, The Society of American Archivists, and Society of California Archivists. He is also a contributor to Newberry Library's forthcoming Encyclopedia of Chicago History, and Encyclopedia of the Midwest. His book reviews have been published in The Oral History Review, and The Library of Congress Information Bulletin.

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**The Moakley Archive & Institute
U.S. Congressman John Joseph “Joe”
Moakley Oral History Project
*Suffolk University, Boston MA***

The Moakley Archive & Institute at Suffolk University is collecting oral histories about the career and legacy of Congressman John Joseph “Joe” Moakley (1927-2001). The project seeks to expand the documentation of the Congressman’s life by recording the observations and opinions of eyewitnesses around particular themes including Moakley’s public service, his work in El Salvador and Boston’s desegregation crisis.

Moakley is most famous internationally for his work throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s on Salvadoran immigration issues and the congressional investigation into the murders of six Jesuit priests and two women at the University of Central America in 1989. Suffolk’s oral history interviewers and a Northeastern Oral History class recorded constituents, Salvadorans, congressmen and his staff. These interviews provided content and source material for the Institute’s traveling exhibition, *El Congresista: Joe Moakley en El Salvador*.

The Moakley Archive is also collaborating with the Boston Schools Desegregation Archives Project on an oral history project called “Look Back to Understand: Cultural Memories of Boston’s Desegregation Crisis.” Interviews are being collected from teachers, administrators, students, parents and politicians who were directly involved or affected by the desegregation of the Boston public schools that began 30 years ago. The project is seeking funding to train members of historical societies and community organizations to conduct additional oral histories for this project.

To date the archive has collected 35 oral history interviews of Moakley’s family, friends, staff, colleagues and constituents. The master recordings, transcriptions and supporting documentation make up the Moakley Oral History Collection. The Moakley Archives plans to place transcripts of the oral history interviews on its website: <http://www.joemoakley.org>.

For more information please contact Steve Kalarites, Oral History Project Coordinator at 617-305-6295 (skalarit@suffolk.edu) or Beth Bower, Moakley Archivist at 617-305-6255 (bbower@suffolk.edu)

Submitted by Beth Bower

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Committee
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