

AACR

Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable
Newsletter



Spring 2015

Volume 29, Issue 2

Michiana Memories

By Allison Stankrauff, Archivist and Associate Librarian, Franklin D. Schurz Library



Streets Family Collection of the Indiana University South Bend Archives

In May 2014, University Archivist and Associate Librarian, Alison Stankrauff, Joe Sipocz, Manager of Local & Family History Services at the St. Joseph Public Library, and George Garner, Tours and Collections Coordinator of the IU South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center, received a 2014 Indiana Memory Digitization Grant for their project proposal entitled, St. Joseph County African American History Collection.

As part of this project, the website [Michiana Memories](#) has been created and will debut on February 3 at a special launch event at the Civil Rights Heritage Center, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Attendees will have a chance to use the website and enjoy community and academic presenters such as Ball State University's [Dr. Nicole Etcheson](#) speaking on Southern Indiana's soldiers of color during the Civil War. This event is also part of the [South Bend 150th anniversary celebration](#).

Some of the items available on the website include photographs from the Dr. Bernard Streets Collection; a nearly complete run of *The Reformer*; an African American newspaper printed 1967-1971; and historical documents and studies on race and housing in South Bend. A more detailed list of items included in the website is available [here](#)

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Letter from the Senior Co-Chair

Greetings Archivist & Archives of Color Roundtable Members,

I am pleased to welcome you to another issue of the AACR Newsletter. Since the last issue, the roundtable and its members have been busy advocating for archives of color, connecting with members in a more profound way, and planning for the future of the Roundtable. Here are a few recent efforts that I would like to draw your attention to:

- **Advocacy**

Recently, the Roundtable sent a letter to Johnson Publishing Company regarding the sale of its photo archives. The letter, included in this newsletter issue, reminded the company of the historical and cultural significance of having the photographs preserved and accessible to the public and offered assistance to help find a suitable home for the collection. The letter was a collaborative effort of the Roundtable co-chairs and the members of AACR's Outreach and Advocacy Task Force.

- **Member Engagement**

We've heard you loud and clear and have worked to create opportunities to engage more members outside of the annual business meeting. Our members have already hosted meet and greet activities in Washington, DC and Atlanta. On March 26, 2015 AACR will host a joint "Meet and Greet" with the Los Angeles Archivists Collective and another "Meet and Greet" will be hosted in Chicago on April 1, 2015. Many thanks to Steven Booth, Anu Kasarabada, Derek Mosley and Angel Diaz for their willingness to host activities in their cities on behalf of the Roundtable.

Even if you have not been able to attend any of these events, you can get to know members even through this issue of the newsletter. We have featured two of our colleagues in the "Member Spotlight" series. If you would like to host a meet and greet in your city or nominate someone for the Member Spotlight, please let me know.

- **Strategic Planning**

I am very excited to present the first draft of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable "Mission, Vision and Core Values" statement. This draft will be available for review and comment until April 15, 2015. A special thanks goes out to the AACR Steering Committee members Aisha Haykal, Derek Mosley, Holly Smith, Sonia Yaco and Amber Moore for their work on the first draft.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the roundtable, send me a note at gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu.

Cheers,

Gabrielle



Draft: Mission, Vision and Core Values Statement

Please submit your comments on the 1st Draft of the Mission, Vision and Core Values Statement for the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable by **Wednesday, April 15th**. The comment submission page is available at <http://goo.gl/forms/ySmOVhQzfl>. If you have questions, please contact Gabrielle M. Dudley at gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu.

Mission:

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable seeks to create a platform and open environment for archivists and archives of color to advance within the archives profession. We partner with organizations, committees, working groups, and other roundtables to promote the interests and concerns of our membership. As a Roundtable, we support the continual recruitment, development and retention of archivists of color in the archives profession. We serve as advocates for the access to and preservation and documentation of the histories of communities of color.

Vision:

We provide a space for discussion about issues affecting archivists and archives of color

We provide a platform to advocate for archives and archivists of color

We encourage the use of archives of color by various constituents

We are a resource for working with donors of color

We support the recruitment and retention of archivists of color through the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Travel Award

We advocate for more representation of archivists of color in all aspects of SAA – awards, publications, decision-making

Core Values:

Advocate for and educate the public about the historical and cultural value of materials related to archives of color

Support and encourage practicing archivists, graduate students and other individuals to actively participate in the archives profession through conference attendance, presentations and other avenues

Acknowledge the professional accomplishments and achievements of roundtable members and colleagues

Promote a sense of camaraderie and professional support network within the profession

Equip archivists with tools and resources to flourish in the profession including facilitating a communication forum to address concerns, offer solutions, and provide access to information about professional development opportunities

Member Spotlight

The Annual Business Meeting should not be your only opportunity to get to know members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable! A new "Member Spotlight" will appear in each issue of AACR Newsletter and monthly via social media sites.

Name: T-Kay Sangwand

Position Title & Institution: Human Rights Archivist, Human Rights Documentation Initiative & Librarian for Brazilian Studies, Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Current City: Austin, TX

In your own words, describe what you do:

As the archivist for the Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI), I work directly with organizations and individuals, that are either collecting or creating documentation related to human rights violations, to ensure the long term preservation and access of their materials. We believe that human rights documentation will be most useful and powerful when it remains within the communities to which it pertains so it can be used in truth commissions, legal proceedings, community memory projects, educational efforts and for individuals to seek information and closure about their loved ones.

Organizations and individuals shouldn't have to give up custody of their materials to a distant archive in order for it to be preserved. If we waited for that to happen, valuable historical material might never be preserved. Instead, we use our expertise as archivists to build up that preservation capacity within organizations and individuals so that they can preserve their own materials.

How do you work with communities of color:

The HRDI serves as the repository for the digital copies of our partners' materials should anything befall the originals. We also make the materials available for scholarship and teaching at UT Austin and beyond. Since 2008, we have partnered with organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the US to preserve documentation such as survivor testimonies from the Rwanda Genocide; oral histories with people who have been affected by capital punishment in Texas; documentary footage on the effects of sexual violence during the civil war in Sierra Leone, gender based violence in Mexico, human trafficking in eastern Europe, internally displaced peoples in Burma, activism around the prison industrial complex in California, and social movements that emerged during the armed conflicts and dirty wars in Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala.

What are you listening to and/or reading:

Listening to Ana Tijoux, FaltyDL, Flying Lotus, Slim Rimografia, Shabazz Palaces. Reading Alejandro Jodorowsky, ferréz, and Wax Poetics magazine.

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Member Spotlight continued...

What is something that you are most excited about in the archives profession:

Re-surgng interest in the implementation of the post-custodial model. Librarians and Archivists with Palestine network.

What professional organizations, besides SAA are you a member of?

Academy of Certified Archivists, Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Material (SALALM). Archives Leadership Institute alum '13.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents or skills?

Music is one of my lifelines. I try to find ways to incorporate it into my work at the library/archive and have helped organize multiple live music concerts in the reading room of our library. Whenever I travel, I like to buy records and music as a way to remember my trips. It's always an adventure! I made a good friend in São Paulo because of records and music. I received a marriage proposal (I think the person was joking?) while digging in Lisbon. One of the staff members at our partner organization in Kigali, Rwanda invited me to be a guest dj on his hip-hop radio show. Since 2001 I've worked in college/community/internet radio hosting music programs. I'm currently a resident DJ at dublab.com (LA) where I host the semi occasional program, "The Afternoon Love In" and play a lot of the records I collect on my travels. I also co-host the weekly program "Hip Hop Hooray" at KOOP 91.7 fm (ATX) where I play hip hop from around the world, with an emphasis on Latin America.

Why did you choose the to become an archivist?

I wanted to find a way to combine social justice with a professional practice and it was Dr. Anne Gill land's introduction to archives class learned about the concrete ways that archives could be used for social justice and in service of community empowerment.

Anything else you want to share?

Let's keep in touch!

Dublab.com/t-kay

Twitter & IG: @tttkay

fb.com/hiphophoorayradio

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as the "Member Spotlight" please email

gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu

Letter to Johnson Publishing Company

Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable
Society of American Archivists
17 North State Street
Suite 1425
Chicago, IL 60602-4061

February 20, 2015

Linda Johnson Rice
Chairman
Johnson Publishing Company
200 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Linda Johnson Rice:

The year 2015 marks a century of African American life, history, and culture as a field of study. Since 1942, Johnson Publishing has served as a print and photographic repository of the world's collective memory of the African American experience. Too often, the history of people of color goes undocumented and the Johnson Publishing Photo Archives consisting of photographs from both *Ebony* and *Jet* fills a much needed void in the documentary heritage of African Americans. The company, its magazine, and its photographs have helped to uplift us, as a people, showcase our challenges, celebrate our triumphs, and demonstrate our beauty.

The Society of American Archivists' Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable recently learned that you plan to sell the photo archive of 5 million African American images, which includes the Pulitzer Prize winning photo of Coretta Scott King at the funeral of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for 40 million dollars. While we are aware of the challenges facing print media in the digital age and honor your decision to seek alternative methods to increase your capital, we are concerned that the loss of this type of collection to a for-profit entity could have serious ramifications for future generations.

As professionally trained archivists and individuals concerned with the history of people of color, we ask that you consider the long-term ramifications of a short term financial solution. We urge you to reconsider your decision to sell the collection, but if it must be sold, please consider working with an institution like the Library of Congress or Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture that can ensure continued access and preservation of the entire Johnson Publishing Photo Archives. It is imperative that this collection be accessible and preserved for future generations so that they too can see and learn from our triumphs, challenges, and beauty. We welcome the opportunity to create a dialogue about the sale and offer possible alternatives to you.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle M. Dudley
Chair, Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable

Aaisha Haykal
Chair-Elect, Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable

cc: Desiree Rodgers, Chief Executive Officer
cc: Cheryl Mayberry McKissack, Chief Operations Officer
cc: Kathleen Roe, President, Society of American Archivists
cc: Nancy Beaumont, Executive Director, Society of American Archivists

Member Spotlight

The Annual Business Meeting should not be your only opportunity to get to know members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable! A new "Member Spotlight" will appear in each issue of AACR Newsletter and monthly via social media sites.



Name: Jarrett M. Drake

Position Title & Institution: Digital Archivist, Princeton University

Hometown: Gary, IN

Current City: Philadelphia, PA

In your own words, describe what you do:

My primary responsibility is to develop the infrastructure for the Princeton University Archives to acquire, preserve, and describe born-digital collections. This involves accessioning collections (both analog and digital) as well as enhancing current accessioning workflows. I also spend roughly one week on reference duty fielding research queries related to University Archives and Princeton's Public Policy Papers. In addition, I chair a Library working group that brings together librarians and archivists handling born-digital materials and I contribute to the University Library's digital preservation framework task force.

How do you work with communities of color:

Because my day-to-day work involves working with collections as opposed to communities, I volunteer with the Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative, serving as an instructor at a youth prison in New Jersey. While this role is unrelated to archives and libraries, I find it to be incredibly meaningful and am appreciative of the opportunity to teach students seeking an associates or bachelors degree through the local community college.

What are you listening to and/or reading:

Since the events in Ferguson, I've been listening to some combination of J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar, and Nina Simone pretty consistently for the last two months. I'm reading *The New Jim Crow* as part of Ta-Nehisi Coates's virtual book club.

What is something that you are most excited about in the archives profession:

I'm excited to see the archives profession begin to assert itself in public consciousness more prominently. We have much further to go, but it's encouraging to see archivists leaving the comfort of our repositories and engaging ordinary people on their own terms, not ours. From the growth of community archives to archivists documenting Ferguson, I hope to see similar efforts develop across the country.

(Continued on page 8)

Member Spotlight continued...

What professional organizations, besides SAA are you a member of?

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) and Delaware Valley Archivists Group (DVAG)

Do you have any hobbies or special talents or skills?

I enjoy live performances, especially athletic contests and theater. In another life, I would be a sports journalist or theater critic.

Why did you choose the to become an archivist?

I majored in history as an undergraduate and I wanted to find a career that allowed me to put it to use. At the time, I thought I might end up as a dramaturg or as a historian, but the world of archives and libraries bit me and I haven't looked back since.

Anything else you want to share?

Given that I have lived in 7 states in my life, I'm hoping that they give you the 8th one for free!

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as the "Member Spotlight" please email

gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu

Michiana Memories

Continued from page 1...

Stankrauff, who is active in local history and a member of the [Civil Rights Heritage Center](#) faculty advisory committee, is excited by the impact this collection will have on the community.

"This project helps to tell the full story of Michiana," she notes. "It adds the voices and stories of local African Americans and activists to show the amazing and important history we all share."

The project began in January 2014, when Sipocz contacted Stankrauff and Garner about applying for the grant. The fact that the three organizations were working together and combining their resources and skills was an important part of the proposal's success. "Digitally scanned, cataloged, and presented together online, our combined archives document the history more completely than each of our institutions could do on our own," said Sipocz. Stankrauff concurs. "Institutions partnering really help make history more representative and rich. This partnership helps to make that happen."

The Michiana Memories collection will also be included in the [Indiana Memory](#) and [Digital Public Library of America](#) collections.

To learn more about the Michiana Memories project, contact Alison Stankrauff at 547-520-4392

or astankra@iusb.edu

Now Available: The Digital Archive of Massachusetts Anti-Slavery and Anti-Segregation Petitions database

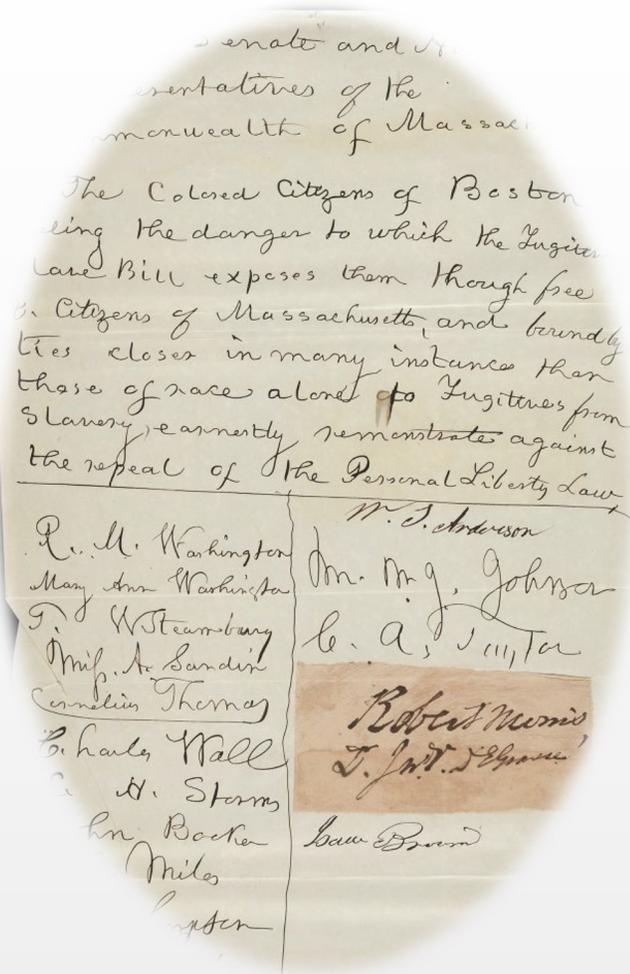
By Nicole Topich, Project Archivist, Harvard University

On February 27th, 2015, [The Digital Archive of Massachusetts Anti-Slavery and Anti-Segregation Petitions](#) was released through the Harvard Dataverse Network. This searchable online database includes almost 3,500 petitions with nearly 282,000 signatures sent to the Massachusetts colonial and state legislatures from the years 1649 to 1870, now located at the Massachusetts Archives. Each petition image is annotated with detailed information, and the dataset provides web-based browsing, searching, and filtering, along with images of the digitized documents.

The documents and subjects from this database include freedom petitions, black military service from the 17th century through the Civil War, petitions from or about people who were enslaved, religion, education, racial discrimination, Native American connections, and national anti-slavery issues, such as protests against additional slave states or slavery in Washington D.C. Many prominent black abolitionists signed the petitions, including William C. Nell, Sarah Remond, Charles Lenox Remond, Charlotte Forten, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Paul Cuffee, Quock Walker, John T. Hilton, Prince Hall, Sojourner Truth, Lewis Hayden, Henry Box Brown, William Craft, Ellen Craft, Thomas Sims, William Wells Brown, Benjamin Roberts, Robert Morris, Thomas Dalton, John Rock, John de Grasse, Leonard Grimes, John Coburn, George Ruffin, James Trotter, J. Sella Martin, and Aaron A. Bradley.

The [database](#) is available and was made possible through the generous support and assistance of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Massachusetts Archives, and the following Harvard University affiliates: the Harvard University Libraries, the Institutional Development Initiative, the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, the Center for American Political Studies, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and Professor Daniel Carpenter, the principal investigator. An exhibit on Lewis and Harriet Hayden is now on view at the Massachusetts state museum with documents from the project.

Any questions on the database may be directed to the project archivist, Nicole Topich, at ntopich@fas.harvard.edu



Passed Acts. Acts of 1861 chapter 91, Remonstrance of Henry Mitchell and 406 others. SC1/series 229. Massachusetts Archives. Boston, Mass.

AACR “Meet and Greet” Activities

In an effort to engage members, friends and supporters of the Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable we have begun to host “Meet and Greet” activities in cities across the country. If you are interested in hosting an activity in your city, please contact Gabrielle M. Dudley at gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu.

November 8, 2014: Vapiano (Washington, D.C.) hosted by Steven Booth and Anu Kasarabada



December 18, 2014: Café Circa (Atlanta, Georgia) hosted by Gabrielle M. Dudley and Derek Mosley



Cynthia Lewis, Gabrielle M. Dudley, Holly Smith, Derek Mosley and Andrea Jackson

****UPCOMING****

- March 26, 2015: HMS Bounty Bar & Restaurant (Los Angeles, California), 6:30pm-9:00pm, [RSVP](#)
- April 1, 2015: Ja’ Grill Hyde Park (Chicago, Illinois), 6:30pm-8:30pm, [RSVP](#)

Thanks for reading— See you in the Summer!
The deadline for the next newsletter is June 5, 2015

