

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 56

Fall 2002

To the Members

Sherry Engle, President
The Ohio State University

In our library, as in many others, we can mark the seasons by the student assignments. Autumn means legislative histories. Although the assignments have not changed much over the years, access to resources certainly has. *LexisNexis Congressional*, *Thomas*, and *GPO Access* enable students to do much of their preliminary work without coming to the library. Students are frequently surprised, however, by the amount of historical material not available online. For example, students researching public laws passed before 1988, must come into the library to consult the *Statutes at Large*, students also may need to examine paper or microfiche copies of congressional prints, reports, and hearings, and the *Congressional Record*.

As the Ohio Bicentennial approaches, I am reminded of the wealth of historic information about Ohio housed in depository libraries. While sites such as American Memory Project (<http://memory.loc.gov/>) and the Ohio Memory Project (<http://www.ohiomemory.org/>) provide electronic access to some of these titles, others may never be reproduced online.

Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1904), *Papers of the Continental Congress 1774-1789* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1958-1959, index 1978), and *Letters of*

Delegates to Congress 1774-1789 (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1976) provide record of the activities of that congress. These include discussion of the western territories. Jurisdiction of the lands was disputed as several states laid claim to the same land. It was during this congress that the states ceded their claims to the territories, the Northwest Ordinance was written, the seven ranges were surveyed, and sales of public lands began.

The second and third volumes of the *Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: GPO 1934) are devoted to "the territory Northwest of River Ohio, 1787-1803." Texts of documents relating to the foundation of the territory (for example, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia cession of western land claims and reports relating to Indian affairs, bounty lands, sale of lands, and unauthorized settlements) are reproduced. The volumes also include correspondence between representatives of the territorial government and the federal government, petitions from settlers, and papers relating to land titles.

Many reports about the Northwest Territory and early statehood Ohio are included in the thirty-eight volumes of the *American State Papers* (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1832-1861). The two volumes on Indian Affairs and the eight volumes on Public Lands are of particular interest. It is in these volumes that the petitions of the French settlers at Gallipolis can be found. The volumes also contain numerous documents relating to land purchases by the

Ohio Land Company, John Cleves Symmes, and others. The *American State Papers* are indexed in the *CIS US Serial Set Index*.

The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States... (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1834-1856), commonly known as *The Annals of Congress*, paraphrase the debates of the first eighteen congresses (1789-1824). They along with the *Journals of the House of Representatives of the United States* and the *Journals of the Senate of the United States* provide a record of congressional action during this period. Federal laws pertaining to Northwest Territory and State of Ohio can be found in the *Statutes at Large*. The law granting Ohio statehood, "An act to provide for the due execution of the laws of the United States within the State of Ohio," for example, can be found in volume 2, chapter 7 (pages 201-202).

Publications of the Census Bureau are perhaps the most accessible federal agency documents containing information about pre- and early statehood Ohio. Data from the 1800 decennial census is scanty. A total population of 45,365 people inhabited the Northwest Territory (Native Americans were not counted). The census counted the number of free white males and females by age groups, slaves (none), and others. Counts for seven counties and townships are provided. By 1810, the population of Ohio was 230,760. Counts on the same variables as in 1800 were provided for 36 counties. Successive censuses provide more details. Although many agency publications were included in the *American State Papers* and later censuses (1830-1890) would be included in the *U.S. Serial Set*, the earliest censuses are found in neither.

The series mentioned above contain many federal government publications about Ohio's history. Series of Ohio documents include the *Journal of Senate of the State of Ohio* and the *Journal of the House of*

Representatives of the State of Ohio (Zanesville: the State, 1803-). The journals provide procedural accounts of General Assembly Activities. *Acts of the State of Ohio* (Chillicothe: Willis, 1803-) are the state counter-part to the federal *Statutes at Large*. These resources and others are available in depository libraries throughout Ohio.

The fall Ohio GODORT meeting will be held November 8 at Cleveland Public Library. Robin Gray is our host. Peter Thayer, our vice-president and program chair has arranged two speakers for our morning session. Curt Witcher, Manager of the Historical Genealogy Department at Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN) will talk to us about Genealogical Research and Government Documents. Sharon Bliss, Community Information Specialist at the Northern Ohio Data and Information Service (Cleveland, OH) will then discuss NODIS Products and Services. In the afternoon business meeting we will discuss a proposed amendment to the Constitution that would designate the State Library as the permanent home for the "Clyde Award." We will also discuss the revision of the State Plan. Members are encouraged to review draft prior to the meeting. (The draft is available on the Ohio GODORT website - <http://www.maag.ysu.edu/ohgodort/>) I hope to see you at the meeting.

From the Editor

Karen Kimber
Wright State University

I am putting the final touches on this edition just after returning from the 2002 Federal Depository Library Conference. As usual, Ohio libraries were well represented. We can be proud that two of our colleagues made excellent presentations. Coleen Parmer (Bowling Green State University) gave part of the presentation "Public Access to CD-ROMs Redux," and Suhasini Kumar (University of Toledo) spoke on "Creating Subject-Specific Modules for Reference Librarians." Of course, it was wonderful to see Mary Prophet (Denison University) begin her term on the Depository Library Council.

Thanks go to George Barnum (formerly at Case Western Reserve and now the Electronic Collection Manager at GPO) for once again arranging our traditional Ohio librarians' get-together for dinner on Tuesday evening. It was such a pleasure to have an opportunity to exchange news and gripes and laughs. It was also good to see another old friend, Sherry Mosley, formerly at Youngstown State University, who joined us for this occasion.

Nerves were a bit on edge because of news of two sniper shootings while we were there, but we all pressed on, and it was certainly a worthwhile conference.

Another opportunity to meet with other documents people and exchange ideas awaits us at our Ohio GODORT meeting on November 8. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Docs Prescriptions

The Newsletter of the Government
Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 56 • Fall 2002

Sherry Engle, President
126 Main Library
The Ohio State University
1858 Neil Ave.
Columbus Ohio 43210
(614) 688-8778
engle.53@osu.edu

Peter Thayer, Program Chair/President Elect
Dawes Memorial Library
Marietta College
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 376-4361
thayerp@marietta.edu

Jan Marotta, Secretary/Treasurer
Serials/Government Documents
Ashland University Library
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 289-5410
jmarotta@ashland.edu

Karen Kimber, Editor
Paul Laurence Dunbar Library
Wright State University
Dayton, OH 45435
937-775-2533
karen.kimber@wright.edu

The Web page of the Government Documents
Round Table of Ohio is at:

<http://www.maag.yzu.edu/ohgodort/>

Minutes

Spring Meeting • May 3, 2002 State Library of Ohio

More than 60 individuals attended the Spring Meeting. Keynote speakers for the morning program were:

- (1) Dr. Rosemary Gliem, Director of The Ohio State University Extension Office, discussing Ohio County Profiles and other publications produced by her office
- (2) Ms. Jocelyn Tipton, Government Documents Coordinator at Eastern Illinois University Library, presenting basic data concepts for librarians.

Following the program, President Heidi Good presented the Clyde Award to Margie Powell. Ellen Conrad (Denison) paid tribute to Margie and noted her many professional as well as personal contributions to the field of government documents librarianship.

A catered lunch, courtesy of the State Library, followed the morning program.

President Heidi Good called the business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A special word of thanks was extended to Program Chair Sherry Engle (OSU) and to the staff of the State Library for hosting the meeting.

Minutes from the Fall 2001 meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter

Karen Kimber (Wright State) reported that 90 copies of the Spring 2002 Newsletter were distributed at a cost of \$77.96. Heidi

Good (U. Dayton) volunteered to help gather regional news for the next edition of the newsletter.

Nominating

K. Kimber presented the candidates for 2002:

- Peter Thayer (Marietta College) - Program Chair/President-Elect
- Joe Salem (Kent) and Jan Marotta (Ashland), Secretary/Treasurer

There were no nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed. Jan Marotta was elected Secretary/Treasurer; Peter Thayer is Program Chair/President Elect.

Collection Development Group

Mary Prophet (Denison) gave an update on the revision of the State Plan. A draft of the Plan is almost complete. All members are encouraged to review the document and to provide input. The plan will be posted on the Ohio GODORT web page. Send comments to Mary Prophet. All comments are due by June 30. The goal is to have this document ready before the Fall 2002 meeting.

Heidi Good volunteered to serve on the State Plan Committee. Coleen Parmer (BGSU) is also assisting with the formulation of the State Plan.

C. Parmer expressed a need for a group to look into congressional district changes and the impact of such changes on depository libraries. H. Good suggested forming an ad hoc committee at the fall meeting to review these changes.

NEW BUSINESS

H. Good distributed a proposed amendment to the Constitution which would designate the State Library as the permanent home for the "Clyde Award". Nicole Merriman (State Library) indicated that the award would

most likely be housed in the display case in the public area of the State Library. In accordance with our bylaws, this amendment will be voted on at the Fall 2002 meeting.

Mary Prophet reported on the latest Depository Council meeting. Some of the issues and concerns at that meeting:

- declining revenue generated by the Sales Program (currently operating in the red)
- documents removed from the depository program due to security issues
- increased promotion and marketing efforts by GPO
- staffing problems at GPO
- two new partnerships announced (1) GPO and Indiana Univ. Bloomington for a backup project for converting materials originally issued on 5 1/2" floppies and (2) GPO and CWRU for backup of Census materials.

M. Prophet has been appointed to the Depository Council. Her term begins in the fall.

The OhioLINK Chat Reference program is currently being tested. Ohio GODORT members may want to determine by fall if there is sufficient interest (and manpower) to consider staffing a Documents Reference service.

Audrey Hall (State Library) gave a demonstration of Bernan's *Government Information on the Internet* service. We will have access to it until May 8.

N. Merriman (State Library) announced that there is a hiring freeze at the State Library and the position of Documents Consultant will not be filled for some time. Gretchen Persohn will be our contact person at the State Library, along with Nicole Merriman and Audrey Hall.

Sherry Engle (OSU) was commended for her outstanding work on organizing the program for the Spring meeting.

Cleveland Public Library will host the fall meeting. A possible date is Friday, October 25. All program ideas should be sent to Peter Thayer, Program Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Around the State

Jan Schnall, Government Documents Librarian at Maag Library, Youngstown State University, is currently the Interim Director of the library. We can imagine how busy she is, but we have confidence in her ability to wear her various hats successfully.

Heidi Good, our immediate past President of Ohio GODORT, got married this summer. We send her the best of wishes as we start getting used to seeing her name as Heidi Gauder.

Dues Reminder

Don't forget that our dues year goes from May to May. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2002-03, Treasurer Jan Marotta will be glad to receive your dues. If you can't remember if you've paid, look at your mailing label. If you do NOT have ** (or another notation) after your name, your dues are not up to date. Contact Jan if you have questions. See the masthead on p. 3 for her contact information

