Putting the crowd to work: Transcribing documents through flickr

Lisa Gregory, State Library of North Carolina
Society of North Carolina Archivists Annual Meeting
March 29, 2012
• Managing the workflow
  – Scope/goals of project
  – Uploading
  – Flickr wrangling
  – Getting the content back out
  – Promotion

• What we’ve seen
  – Participation numbers and trends
  – Transcription quality
Managing the workflow: Scope/goals of project
Managing the workflow: Scope/goals of the project

Scan, process, metadata

© ?

CONTENTdm

flickr

transcribed

transcriptions extracted

on-site system

transcribed

transcriptions extracted

Coming mid 2012
Title: Help us transcribe this document! fhp_vf_cooper_folder1_0104.jpg

Description:
Type the text you see on the page above in the comments box below. Don't worry about structure, even if the data is in a family tree format. Just type what you see without correcting it. FEEL FREE TO ONLY TRANSCRIBE A SMALL PART OF THE PAGE.

If the text is too small to read, consider opening the image in a new window by right clicking on the zoom magnifying glass at the top of the page. In the new window, you can select different image sizes.

Your help will make this document more easily "findable" by those who need it.

The entirety of this collection can be seen here: http://digital.ncdcr.gov/u/?p15012coll1,29175

Tags: genealogy, North Carolina, transcription, Cooper family, research
Managing the workflow: Uploading

You’ve selected a batch of 11 photos.
You can now replace all titles with a new one, add to existing descriptions, add more tags or add to more sets.

Replace titles:

Who can see these photos?
- Only you
- Your friends
- Your family
- Anyone (default)

Add to existing descriptions:

Who can see these photos?
- Only you
- Your friends
- Your family
- Anyone (default)

Add to existing tags:
- genealogy, North Carolina, transcription, Cooper Family, research

Who can see these photos?
- Only you
- Your friends
- Your family
- Anyone (default)

Safety level:
- Safe (default)

Add to more sets:
- Civil War
- Digital Preservation 2011 Family History Transcription Project
- Graphic elements in NC State Publications
- Historical Places in North Carolina

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- Civil War
- Digital Preservation 2011 Family History Transcription Project
- Graphic elements in NC State Publications
- Historical Places in North Carolina

Who can see these photos?
- Only you
- Your friends
- Your family
- Anyone (default)

Content type:
- Photo / Video (default)

Add to more sets:
- Civil War
- Digital Preservation 2011 Family History Transcription Project
- Graphic elements in NC State Publications
- Historical Places in North Carolina

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- Civil War
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- Graphic elements in NC State Publications
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Upload
Managing the workflow: Flickr wrangling

Comments and faves

hblack4d (4 weeks ago | reply | delete)

James Howard Barnes (1896-1987) was married (1) in 1923 to Lydia Katherine "Kate" Masten (1894-1929). Their child was Anna Kathaleen (1924).

James Howard Barnes (1896-1987) was married (2) in 1931 to Ruby Lillian Sapp (1902).

Anna Kathaleen (1924) married in 1947 to John Burton Snyder Jr (1922). Their children were Carolyn Ann (1948) and John Howard (1950).

Help us transcribe this document! fhp_vf_ball_0737  Letter from Andrew to Lucy

July the 1
1864 Memphis Tenn.

Dear sister I take this pen in hand to let you now how I am getting a long I took sick the day we landed here I did not feel very bad tho yestaday I went to the Overton Hospittle to see uncle he had got well and of I am in the Washington Hospittle now I have bin here a week or more I have had the Meazels very bad but I can eat

In John Brownies satchel you can get them ______ you have a chance that is all a bout _____ The ridgement is camp in a nice place now so they say they have good water now it is very hot now you had better think now I think we will stay in Memphis is our time out fore guard duty I have not got any letter fore a long time I would not write if it was not for to learn to write letters

Help us transcribe this document! fhp_vf_ball_0739  August _____ 1864
helena ark.

Dearest brother
I take my pen in hand to let you now that I am well and hard as a brick and that the time is becoming shorter and shorter.
Managing the workflow: Promotion

The State Library of North Carolina has just digitized and posted some Cooper family documents on Flickr. We would love your help with transcription. They can be found here:

http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=14247749@N00&g=cooper

Transcribed images will remain on Flickr and will be full-text searchable along with other family records as the North Carolina Family Records Online project (available through http://digital.ncler.gov). If you'd like to be notified when we add more images, or if you have any questions, please email digital.info@ncler.gov. And thanks!
Genealogy Vertical File Transcription Project

We're currently digitizing our genealogy vertical files to make them more accessible to researchers. A lot of the information is handwritten or hard to read, so we're asking volunteers to help us and their fellow researchers by transcribing the images.

**How to help:** Just head on over to Flickr (a photo-sharing site), find an image that needs transcribing, set up an account (if you don't already have one), and type what you see in the image's comment box.

**What is a vertical file?**

Over the years, researchers of all ages and all skill levels have contributed their genealogy information to our collection. Printed copies are kept in filing cabinets in the Government & Heritage Library's genealogy research room. They're filed alphabetically by last name.

**Where can I view the vertical files that have been digitized?**

Images that we believe are out of copyright are available online from any location. Copyrighted documents are only available for full-text search and review at the Government & Heritage Library at the State Library of North Carolina.

Special thanks to our SUPER SCRIBES!

- Sharon Kay 8 (1054)
- familytranscriber (272)
- tobkick4d (183)
- no return of the salad days (88)
- bivet36 (54)
- MCoote2012 (43)
- elafreye2012 (31)
- lyricwinn (29)
What we’ve seen: Participation numbers and trends

- Only keeps the last 28 days
- Shows you number of views/day
- Doesn’t let you aggregate your comments or commenters in one spot
- Suggested tool for long-term stats: [http://statsr.net/](http://statsr.net/)
475 pages transcribed in 51 days

1 to 20 transcriptions per day
What we’ve seen: Participation numbers and trends

63 volunteers

10-80 documents each

1-9 documents each
What we've seen:

Transcription quality

Blanks for unreadable content

[handwritten] Y. Baker Family

Wilmores new

Analytical Reference Bible containing the following

Four invaluable aids to the proper study of the Word of God:

The Holy Bible, with marginal notes and analytical references

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Comprehensive Bible Helps;

Arranged in Alphabetical Order.

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Phillip Schaff, D.D., LL.D.

Professor of Church History in the Union Theological Seminary, New York; Author

History; "Creeds of Christendom," "Bible Dictionary," and editor of "International

Commentary," Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia?

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A Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible;

or,

The Whole Bible Arranged in Subjects.

Edited by Roswell D. Hitchcock, D.D., LL.D.,

Late President of the Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Diligently Compared and Revised.

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Cruden's Concordance to the Bible.

Revised by John Estell, D.D., LL.D.,

Late Professor of Biblical Literature in the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland.

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Illustrated with Maps and Engravings.

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New York:

J. A. Wilmore & Co.

1880

[Stamp]

Charles G. Weston

Notary Public

Republican County

Annotations

Blacks for unreadable content

Question marks for unsure/unreadable content
What we've seen: Transcription quality

Sheet No. 2

BRANCH: Joseph Spencer Mann

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Claudius David Davis
Mattie Undine Mann
B. Nov. 13, 1918
M. Thos. B. Davis
M. Sept. 4, 1917
D. Dorothy Elizabeth Davis
B. Aug. 11, 1922

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Claudius Alexander Mann
B. Feb. 10, 1862
Olis Gibbs Mann
B. Dec. 1, 1920
Bettie Gibb
B. Oct. 13, 1895
D. Mch. 14, 1921
Feb. 4, 1891
M. Kathleen Bryan
Aug. 15, 1917
Rosalind Mann
D. Dec. 1, 1921
M. 14, 1921

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Elmo Mann
B. Jan. 30, 1898
M.

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Annie Mary Mann
B. Mar. 26, 1905
M.

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Eva Spencer Mann
B. May 9, 1864
D. Mar. 17, 1885

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What we’ve seen: Transcription quality

lyricwinn (4 weeks ago)

K_Smith51 (2 weeks ago)
I’m trying to find out if these are some of my Grandfather’s family I know he was born to Owen Barnhill and Mary Steele from the Ga, Al area

Government & Heritage Library, State Library of NC  pro (2 weeks ago)
You can see this entire document here: digital.ncdcr.gov/u?/p15012coll1,42358. You might also be interested in other “Barnhill” family records in our collection: bit.lyb20efJ.
Check this out, too:

Thank you.

Lisa Gregory
Lisa.gregory@ncdcr.gov
Project site: http://1.usa.gov/GQFlqD