

## **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**

**NAR06GRANT-048**

**“Bringing Alabama’s African American History to Light: A Model Partnership.”**

**Report 3 (August 1, 2007 - January 31, 2008)**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this project is to organize and make available a number of currently inaccessible African American collections at the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library at the University of Alabama and at the Tuskegee University Library, to learn and pass on archival skills, and to create a project web site and a finding aid web site.

In the second six months of the grant we expected to:

- Hire project archivist at Tuskegee
- Begin processing collections at Tuskegee
- Complete processing the Septimus Cabaniss Papers at the University of Alabama
- Begin processing the Shelby Iron Company Records at the University of Alabama

### **PROGRESS**

#### **Hiring Project Archivist**

Though expected to take place in February, the hiring of Tuskegee’s project archivist was delayed, and the project archivist, Dana Chander, began work on March 22, 2007. Due to scheduling problems, the planned training session was not held in Tuscaloosa until April 27.

#### **Processing**

##### *At the University of Alabama*

Work has continued on the Septimus Cabaniss Papers. The extent of the Cabaniss Papers on which the original work estimate was based was found to have been in error, and the processing of the collection took longer than anticipated to complete. The finding aid is now being edited. Work on the Shelby Iron Company Records has begun, and an existing, incomplete box list has been compared to the boxes on the shelves. A report by the project archivist is found in the Appendix.

##### *At Tuskegee University*

The project archivist immediately began the process of locating subject collections. In moving material to the new archives facility, a great deal of material unsuited for the archives was brought there. The new project archivist found upon reporting for duty a large storage area filled with marked and unmarked boxes. He immediately began to sort through these, identifying collections and removing trash. The following collections have been processed and finding aids completed:

- Papers of Charles Goode Gomillion, 1928-1995
- Tuskegee Crisis Study, August 1957
- Luther H. Foster, Jr. Ephemera Collection, 1940-85
- Tuskegee University Autograph Collection

Note that the last two collections were discovered in cleaning out the archives storage area. Due to their small size, these were processed at once.

In addition, a phone system is in place and operational. New lights will soon be added to the collections area., and new shelving is being ordered for the Archives. Forms for research room use are being developed. Daily observations are made regarding temperature and humidity in the archives. Testing for vermin and insects has been done. No infestations have occurred since materials were moved to the Archives..

**Website**

The project website, located at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/NAR06GRANT-048> has undergone no changes since its creation. We have been awaiting the arrival of our newly hired Head of Web Services to address revising and expanding the website, especially in regard to mounting the project finding aids. These discussion should begin this week or next.