



Orange County Public Library  
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### Memorandum

Date: April 7, 2009  
From: Lucinda Munger, Library Director  
To: County Manager's Office and Board of County Commissioners

#### **Update: Orange County Library NC Room / Heritage Center.**

In preparation for the move from the Whitted Facility to the W Margaret Lane Facility, Library Management continues to meet and work with specialists in the archival and genealogical fields regarding the local history collection.

The initial work plan presented in February addressed staff collaborating with the archivists, genealogy specialist, curator of the NC Collection at UNC Wilson Library, contacting the Orange County Historical Museum and Society, and establishing an inventory of local history collection items that could be housed in the general reference collection area of the W Margaret Lane facility. Since the February update, staff has met with the Genealogy Librarian from the State Library, completed an inventory of holdings, received an appraisal of the confederate lithograph from Leland Little Auctions and met with the curator of the NC Collection at UNC Wilson Library.

The genealogy specialist has confirmed the twin goals of 1) Public accessibility to the collection as well as 2) Best preservation and protection practices for the long-term sustainability of this unique collection. The specialist agreed that a choice selection of the local history collection can be housed adjacent to the non-circulating reference area of the W Margaret Lane facility. The specialist defined a 'core collection' as: histories from local areas and genealogy documents. The counties that would be represented in the collection would be Orange County's parent county and those who originated from Orange County. These counties are: Orange, Caswell, Person, Granville, Alamance, Durham and Chatham. The specialist commended Orange County for continuing to strive toward open access to the public, where a researcher can browse the shelves for the information that they need.

The genealogy specialist suggested steps in paring down the collection such as: removing duplicates, those items already found in current reference collections, and removal of items already available through online electronic databases such as: Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

The curator of the NC Collection of the UNC Wilson Library also provided confirmation on steps thus far regarding the local history collection. The curator reviewed the materials that were donated and acquired within the collection. While they were found to be historical in nature, she found no items unique in the collection. The curator also indicated that the materials found in our local history collection are also publicly available at the UNC Library and other local libraries.

The library received an appraisal of the Confederate Triad currently on display in the NC Room from Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales. While being considered unique, if not rare, it is still considered a "clever novelty" that might have been commissioned for a gathering of Confederate veterans or for display at an exposition. They value it at \$1,000 based upon today's auction market. A copy of this appraisal has been provided to Pam Jones for insurance purposes.

Attorney Geoff Gledhill is reviewing the will and bequest of Rebecca Wall to determine the funding designations and possible use of the funds received and invested since 1986, and anticipate receiving an opinion by mid-April.

Staff will continue to consult with the specialists to develop a final disposition plan to bring forward to the Board by the second meeting in May. Please let me or Gwen Harvey know if you have questions or concerns about the progress being reported. I am also available for a tour of the facility and in particular the North Carolina Room and its contents.