

ARCHIVES

In 2015, the diocesan archives went through a major move and provided materials for exhibits related to the celebration of the diocese's 150th anniversary. The traveling exhibit continued to circulate to parishes until June 2016, and was displayed at 18 of the parishes in the diocese. It is still available for booking. The on-line exhibit was completed and published on the archives web site at the end of May 2015. It remains up and is a permanent resource for the founding years of the diocese. The on-site exhibit for the convention presented a major logistics problem when the site of the convention was changed to St. Paul's, but I was able to prepare and pack the exhibit and then had a set of willing helpers load and unload the cases and materials that made the exhibit possible. Special thanks to Steve Fekete and Kathi Workman, and to those like Joan Morris who helped disassemble the exhibit and repack it for return to the archives.

We were lucky to have volunteers throughout 2015, although it was a disappointment that the student originally scheduled to work through the Pitt Partner program of the School of Information Science dropped out of Pitt after only a month. Two members of the Diocesan Archives and History Commission, Joan Morris and Karen Rose Overholt Critchfield, volunteered as processors during the first part of the year. Betty Duckstein and Darrell Powell spent several full days working on the ECW materials that had been left in the old ECW office. The diocese had the help of Sister Grace, a student in the Pitt Archives graduate program, as a volunteer in the fall 2015 and for the first half of the winter 2016 term. She then returned to do her field experience at the archives in the summer. Sister Grace completed a number of projects that had been left unfinished by previous workers. For the first half of 2016, Richard Syracuse provided six hours of volunteering a week. One result of his work was the cataloging of about 20 percent of the archives library. He also made considerable progress on a large collection of photo albums from St. Andrew's, New Kensington.

During 2015, the archives dealt with research questions from 17 people not on staff, and answered a number of research questions for staff related to buildings and clergy. This included making available the blueprints and construction plans for several buildings the Board of Trustees was considering selling.

The remainder of 2016 has brought its own challenges and rewards, but I will leave those for the report next year.

Joan R. Gundersen
Archivist