

THE PULSE OF THE BLUCHER ARCHIVE:  
THE MAKING AND LIFE OF A TEXAN INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVE, 1980-2019

A Thesis

by

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This thesis meets the standards for scope and quality of  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is hereby approved.

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to reconstruct the history of the Blucher Archive. Rather than taking the life of the Blucher Archive to be a self-evident background, institution, and repository, this thesis will explore its “life” in order to understand how the archival turn may shed light on the Blucher Archive. The Blucher Archive has its own history. One that conditions the ability to interact with it, write from it, and understand the large system of power, control, and legibility that records keeping necessarily enables. The archive is the foundation for this thesis, meaning we are considering the archive as a unit of analysis unto itself rather than as a simple repository of historical source materials.

## DEDICATION

For my guardian angel, and life partner Justina Marie Gravagne. I love you always, B.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION: THE PULSE OF THE BLUCHER ARCHIVE

No amount of theory will make a good surveyor unless he has the requisite skill in the art of observing and is versed in field and office practice. A study of surveying is more nearly informational than mathematical in character.<sup>1</sup>

Things of that which will not go away is the subject matter of this thesis. In her 2002 book, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History*, cultural historian Carolyn Steedman explains that the matter of history can never go away, while making visible historians' presence in the perpetuity of the archives.<sup>2</sup> Despite the title's promise, *Dust* is less about an archive and more of an individual historian's reconstruction and telling of the past found within an archive, amongst the dust. Rather than studying the administration and development of an archive, Steedman focuses on the act, significance, and relevance of the writing of history (and its relationship to the archive). Whether they catch a case of "archive fever" while attempting to write a history for marginalized, silenced – disappeared – groups in society, or are feverishly gathering bundles of materials to reconstruct a past event, historians are continuously writing and rewriting history.<sup>3</sup>

In what might be her most evocative chapter Steedman uses the rag rug as a metaphor to remind scholars that history – and an archive – is created, not actual.<sup>4</sup> Like anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot, in his seminal *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, Steedman reinforces the assertion that history – and an archive – is continuously "constructed, policed, experienced, and manipulated."<sup>5</sup> As an archive continues to exist, after being created, historians enter its space, alter the dust, and write about "something that never did happen in the

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<sup>1</sup> M.E. Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Odessa, TX: Author, 1980), 33.

<sup>2</sup> Carolyn Steedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002).

<sup>3</sup> Steedman, *Dust*, 45; Jacques Derrida, *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

<sup>4</sup> Steedman, *Dust*, 112-141.

<sup>5</sup> Antoinette Burton, eds. *Archive Stories: Fact, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 7.

way it comes to be represented...”<sup>6</sup> Just as rag rugs are fragments of people’s lives, Steedman regards an archive as being made from “selected and consciously chosen documentation from the past and also from the mad fragmentations that no one intended to preserve and that just ended up there.”<sup>7</sup> This insight reveals that an archive, contrary to many historians’ imaginations, is both more random than traditionally thought to be, and stands as a forceful reminder to scholars that, despite their desire to uncover a holistic truth, the archive “is not potentially made up of everything... and it is not the fathomless and timeless place in which nothing goes away that is the unconscious.”<sup>8</sup>

Historians must therefore consider what it is they do when using an archive and writing from its materials. Keeping in mind that an archive contains fragments of past happenings and hardly functions as a source of truth, historians are gathering limited information to construct a “holistic” history as they see fit. Rather than viewing these fragments as setbacks in the writing process, they should be regarded as opportunities to construct new stories about the past. Steedman encourages scholars to “deal with the dust” that has no end, only endings that they – as historians – will construct.”<sup>9</sup> In light of Steedman’s assertion that you “find nothing in the archive but stories caught halfway through: the middle of things; discontinuities,” it seems logical to view this thesis as a continuing project rather than a thing with an end.

The aim of this thesis is to reconstruct the history of the Blucher Archive (1985-2019). This is a methodological project: examining the making and life of the Blucher Archive allows the undoing of silences attached to an archive and its holdings. It destabilizes the image of an archive as a virginal territory, where “so many princesses, possibly beautiful, [are] all under a

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<sup>6</sup> Steedman, *Dust* 154.

<sup>7</sup> Steedman, *Dust* 68.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Steedman, *Dust* 167.

curse and needing to be saved.”<sup>10</sup> Undertaking such a project also allows historians to rethink and reflect on an archive’s initial production and immediate reception, along with an archive’s continued use or nonuse, and its arrangement and classification throughout the archive’s life. Rather than taking the life of the Blucher Archive to be a self-evident background, institution, and repository, this thesis will explore its “life” in order to understand how the archival turn may shed light on the Blucher Archive. This archive will no longer be thought of as a noun, instead it will be considered a transitive verb. The Blucher Archive is not a lifeless mass of material, it does things. This thesis will examine what the Blucher Archive is made of, what it was created to do, and what it is about. Moreover, this thesis will look at the nature of the Blucher Archive and the practices of preservation, processing and digitization that have shaped it to demonstrate how the material nature of the Blucher Archive has been altered, and “in the process, how the relationship embedded in them [has] changed, why, and to what end.”<sup>11</sup>

The Charles von Blucher Family Papers – mentioned throughout this thesis as the Blucher Archive – traces the development of a prominent land surveying South Texas family and reflects on the family’s active involvement in the growth of South Texas in the late nineteenth century. In 1996, when the Charles F. H. von Blucher family descendants transferred their family material to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, they were thereafter to be referred to as the Charles von Blucher Family Papers. The material and donor agreement included the “Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection,” which was formerly held by Mr. William W. Green, former Nueces County Surveyor.<sup>12</sup> The Blucher Archive – donated and transferred to Texas A&M

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<sup>10</sup> Bonnie G. Smith, *The Gender of History: Men, Women, and Historical Practice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000), 116, 124.

<sup>11</sup> Michelle Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory and the Photographic Record in Cambodia* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014), 3.

<sup>12</sup> “Donor Agreement between the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Descendants and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) in three significant installments – consists of a broad range of correspondence, business records, publications, notes, drawings, photographs, and other documents dating from the mid-1880s to the 1950s.<sup>13</sup> The third installment of the Blucher Archive contained the bulk of the Blucher Surveying Collection, which consist of a voluminous maps, several hundred field books, index ledgers, files, and other surveying documents. The Blucher Surveying Collection is considered one of the largest collections at TAMU-CC, consisting of over 5,000 maps, a hundred field books, and several hundred job files which contain vital information concerning each map made during the von Blucher surveying era. This thesis aims to present these surveying records, as “records with a pulse.”<sup>14</sup> To approach an archive as something that has a pulse, is to recognize that archives are not subjects that serve as documented stories, but rather “active, generative substances with histories... [and] itineraries of their own.”<sup>15</sup> The Blucher Archive did not become “dead matter once the moment of their making had passed,” instead these surveying records have become an “arsenal of sorts” that are continuously reactivated to suit new objectives from various outside sources.<sup>16</sup>

Although the Blucher Archive is made up of both the family papers and surveying records, this thesis focuses on the social and political life of the Blucher Surveying Collection. While the Blucher Family Papers are historically significant, this thesis poses questions of how the Blucher Surveying Collection was created, why TAMU-CC was interested in preserving the records, how a collaborative project between two university institutions and a third-party stakeholder emerged, and addresses the silences that have transpired throughout the Blucher

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<sup>13</sup> Founded in 1947 as the University of Corpus Christi on the former naval radar training facility occupying Ward Island, the university has been known as Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi State University and finally Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

<sup>14</sup> Ann Laura Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), 80.

<sup>15</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 1.

<sup>16</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 3.

Surveying Collection's life. Focusing on the story of the Blucher Surveying Collection, given its importance to South Texas history, this means though, yet again, silencing the Blucher Family Papers.

Paying attention to the “political life” of the Blucher Surveying Collection means acknowledging the interest of historical actors involved in preserving, processing, and digitizing the archival material and the ways their interests have shaped the archive. Furthermore, the political life of the Blucher Surveying Collection offers a valuable opportunity to study how an institutional repository – in this case, a university – develops power and plays an active role in the history of the Blucher Archive. To argue that the Blucher Surveying Collection is political in nature is to accept that power enters, at various times, the historical production of the archival collection. The “social life” of the Blucher Archive speaks to the archive's ability to interact with the institutional repository housing it.<sup>17</sup> Examining the historical happenings the Blucher Archive endured at TAMU-CC helps historians explore questions of power, unexamined assumptions, and the significance of specific historical actors and the role they play in preserving, processing and digitization the Blucher Surveying Collection.

The Blucher Archive is dynamic and transformative in nature. While the Blucher Surveying Collection can be regarded as fixed in terms of its contextualization, the collection is continuously in the process of becoming something more than its original intended purpose. The Blucher Surveying Collection is much more than a collection of surveys of South Texas. Archivists and their student workers, and university students studying geographical information science are using this collection as a training mechanism. The Archive Department staff are learning best practices for processing and preserving land records, while the Conrad Blucher Institute staff and students are expanding their online database, and georeferencing the land

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<sup>17</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*.

surveys for public use. Since its donation to Corpus Christi State University – known now as Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi – the Blucher Archive has remained in a constant state of motion. Whether it involved its movement across campus for storage and digitization, to the collections processing and preservation, the life of the Blucher Archive has not come to an end. At a critical moment in its existence, the Blucher Surveying Collection collaborative project between the Conrad Blucher Institute and the Bell Library’s Archive Department was grant-funded by the Ed Rachal Foundation. Unfortunately funding from the latter has ended. However, efforts to process, preserve, and digitize these lands records continue amongst the Archive Department staff and the Conrad Blucher Institute.

In the last two decades, historians have begun reflecting on the archive as both subjects and objects of research rather than merely as places where research is conducted. This is usually referred to as the “archival turn.” Historians and practitioners of the archive have therefore asked a different set of questions regarding the body of an archive and the institutional repository responsible for the safekeeping, processing and preservation of its collections. Characterized by a “move from the archive-as-source to [the] archive-as-subject,” the archival turn encourages scholars to think critically about the archive.<sup>18</sup> No longer simply regarded as a source of knowledge, archives have become themselves the subject of critical investigation. Looking at archives as history makers in their own right and less about historical information and sources, the archival turn calls upon scholars to begin taking an ethnographic approach to archives. By analyzing archives as “more than a sum of their parts,” the archive becomes an active creation.<sup>19</sup> Archives are not to be thoughts of as a “prison with numbered locked cells or, for that matter, a

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<sup>18</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 44.

<sup>19</sup> Kristen Weld, *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2004), 19; Kathryn Burns, *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010); Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*.

cemetery where rows of tombstones inscribed with names and dates [that] convey a sense of finality and closure... [nor are they] a mournful place, but one where the living continue to find life.”<sup>20</sup> Citing Michel Foucault, Joan W. Scott explains that archival thinking “is to pass through: it is to question that order, to marvel that it exists, to wonder what made it possible, to seek, in passing over its landscape, traces of the movement that formed it, to discover in these histories supposedly laid to rest, “how and to what extent it would be possible to think otherwise.”<sup>21</sup> Historians actively demonstrate how new avenues for alternative histories are constructed when considering every historical moment an archive endured, and fully comprehend the working parts in and around an archive. When examining every historical moment the Blucher Archive endured, we can better comprehend why it came to exist, and how the archival material made its way to an institutional repository.

Understanding the complex relationships and the history that actively shapes an archive is at the heart of the archival turn. The urge to comprehend these complexities has fostered substantial changes in historical practice. Historians are invited to embrace a more investigational approach to the examination of an archive. Unlike an educational institution, which has the task of certifying its graduates, an archive Scott argues “has no responsibility for the uses of it. Of course archivists try to impose order on the mass of papers they must process, and they set standards for selection, and... inclusion and exclusion... they [cannot] really rein in the imagination of the researchers sitting there, inhaling the dust.”<sup>22</sup> In essence, the archival turn invites scholars to reflect upon the initial perception of an archive, its production, continued use or non-use, arrangement and possible re-arrangement and preservation efforts it may have

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<sup>20</sup> Joan Wallach Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History* (Durham: NC: Duke University Press, 2011), 144.

<sup>21</sup> Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History*, 145; Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1990).

<sup>22</sup> Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History*, 147; Steedman, *Dust*.



endured, rather than remain locked behind ignorance and denial of overlooked, and under-researched aspects of an archive. Consider the Blucher Surveying Collection, whose history remains unwritten. The archival turn encourages scholars to consider the reasons thousands of south Texas land surveys were made, why an institutional repository sought to archive, process, preserve and digitize the surveying materials, and why a local nonprofit foundation decided to invest in the digitization of these records for online public use.

Archives are more than simply “windows into the past.”<sup>23</sup> Historian Kathryn Burns compares archives to a chess game “full of [tricks], scripted moves, and counter moves.”<sup>24</sup> The construction of an archive is deeply immersed and invested into local pressures and anxieties, rendering the archive vulnerable to manipulation. In her 2010 *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru*, Burns stresses that historians recognize the “rule and gambits that contoured the ways people made documents.”<sup>25</sup> A close examination of the extensive strategies and everyday practices and customs adopted and deployed when creating documents reveal relationships of unequal power which often produce silences in the historical record. By revealing and weaving together several incidences when an archive was made through collaboration, underwent competing narratives or endured heavy alterations before reaching its *final* state, Burns demonstrates how archives must be “subjects of inquiry as historical artifact in their own right.”<sup>26</sup> In her introduction to the canonical collection *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions and the Writing of History*, historian of the British Empire Antoinette Burton reminds readers “all archives come into being in and as history as a result of specific political, cultural, and socioeconomic pressures – pressures which leave traces and which render archives themselves

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<sup>23</sup> Burns, *Into the Archive*, 124.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Burns, *Into the Archive*, 125.

artifacts of history.”<sup>27</sup> Considered as active sites of agency, archives have become more than sources for historical research and, instead, have developed into a rich topic of study.

Building on this renewed attention to archives as subjects and not simply as sources of historical writing, recent scholarship demonstrates how the archival turn has changed the nature of historical practice. When we are aware that an archive always contains omissions, has a particular history, and is shaped by and through power, scholars more effectively interrogate silences in history. In the same way that the process of making sources can produce silences – by purposefully or unconsciously rendering certain voices irrelevant – the making and assembling of archives involves a number of selective operations that produce silences when certain aspects of history are dismissed as unimportant for preservation. The assembling of an archive is “not limited to a more or less passive act of collection.... [rather it involves] selection of procedures, selection of evidence, [and] selection of themes.”<sup>28</sup> Exposing the ambivalent workings of an archive further dilutes the objective (and mythical) image of an archive, and its archivist. Historians Ann Stoler and Lisa Moses Leff have shown how central the process of assembling can be to an archive by examining and emphasizing an archive’s history. In her 2009, *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*, Stoler traces the anxieties of nineteenth-century colonial administrators demonstrating that archival assembly work depends upon political, social and economic contexts. Archiving does not mean only “archive-as-subject:” it must therefore be regarded as a process.<sup>29</sup>

Rather than viewing archives as storehouses reflecting an accumulation of historical documentation, or mere repositories of state power, Leff treats them as “unquiet movements in a

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<sup>27</sup> Burton, *Archive Stories*, 10.

<sup>28</sup> Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1995), 52-53.

<sup>29</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 20.

field force, as restless realignments and readjustments of people and the beliefs to which they were tethered, as spaces in which the senses and the affective course through the seeming abstractions of political rationalities.”<sup>30</sup> Leff tells the story of Zosa Szajkowski, a self-made Jewish historian who illegally transferred and sold thousands of French Jewish archival documents from France to the United States from 1940-1961. Szajkowski’s thefts exemplify the complex work done by archives, demonstrating the lasting implications that assembling an archive can have on the shaping of that archive’s historiography. The way an archive is assembled is therefore the result of historical circumstances and choices of categorization that inevitably shape the histories historians write. Therefore, writing the history of the archives themselves is equally important to the history of the stories the archives offer.

The archival turn encourages historians to think of the archive as a dynamic site of human interaction and memory-making instead of succumbing to the limitations and obstacles an archive or even an archivist as gate-keepers present. Far from fixed contents, archival records are boundless, limitless histories awaiting their turn in the spotlight. The archival turn therefore calls into question every historical moment an archive endured and calls upon historians to consider every working part in and around an archive. Paging backwards in history books, Weld’s 2014 *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala* makes sense of how millions of Guatemalan National Police records have “at two historical different moments’ two distinct *archival logics* – two organizing principles, or two reasons for being.”<sup>31</sup> The transformation of the Guatemalan National Police archives from its first logic of “surveillance, social control, and ideological management... [to its second logic] from the records’ rescue” in pursuit of justice for war crimes demonstrates an archive’s ability to change – in meaning or structure – overtime,

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<sup>30</sup> Lisa Moses Leff, *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015), 32-33.

<sup>31</sup> Weld, *Paper Cadavers*, 6.

making crucial a historians approach and analysis of an archive. Historians must think archivally.

In keeping with the archival turn's methodological principles, this thesis takes its cue from anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot's analysis of the making of history in *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Focusing on the silences beneath the histories of the Haitian revolution, Trouillot acknowledges the silences, allowing alternative interpretations of a revolution commonly referenced as a singular struggle of slaves against French masters to emerge. Concerned with how history is produced and how selective silencing occurs, Trouillot reminds historians that the "production of historical narratives involved the uneven contributions of competing groups and individuals who have unequal access to the means for such production."<sup>32</sup> Each narrative examined regarding the Haitian Revolution reveals the power at hand silencing certain voices, events, and people from Haiti's history. To confront these silences historians must examine all aspects involved in the process of historical production. Archives are not produced in a vacuum and power does not exist outside of the creation of history.<sup>33</sup>

In the Haitian Revolution, the role of Africans – namely Jean Baptiste Sans Souci – was written out of texts by western historians. The West's ability to deny that a slave revolt was possible, even as the revolt was occurring, demonstrates how the powerful can produce alternative history, by silencing certain aspects of that history. For Trouillot, this exercise of power is "much more important than the alleged conservative or liberal adherence of the historians involved... for the silencing of that revolution has less to do with Haiti or slavery than it has to do with the West" and its power.<sup>34</sup> Archival power continues to define *what is* and *what*

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<sup>32</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, xxiii.

<sup>33</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 28.

<sup>34</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 106.

is *not* a serious object of research, and therefore of mention.<sup>35</sup> To acknowledge the presence of power in the creation of history – more specifically an archive – is the first step in uncovering silences.

Trouillot argues that there are four crucial moments when silences enter the process of historical production: “the moment of fact creation (the making of *sources*); the moment of fact assembly (the making of *archives*); the moment of fact retrieval (the making of *narratives*); and the moment of retrospective significance (the making of *history* in the final instance).”<sup>36</sup>

Silencing in the making of sources occurs when certain events, or aspects of an event get described or remembered over other parts. When repositories of historical records are created, choices and judgments are made, allowing further silencing of records to occur given, not everything is chosen for preservation. Narrations of history are similar to the choices a sports reporter makes about what or what not to announce: not every aspect of an archive is told, in the same way only certain activities in a game are broadcast. Selective silencing occurs during every process of making history. Within each of these moments, power from competing groups and individuals plays a pivotal role in deciding what become narratives and what is silenced.

In the same manner, the Blucher Archive was not produced in a vacuum and power does not exist outside of the stories held within the archive.<sup>37</sup> This thesis therefore explores the Blucher Archive as both a whole, as well as in its different parts, and considers the facts and sources individually kept and organized within it. To acknowledge the presence of power in the creation, assembly, fact retrieval, and retrospective significance of the Blucher Archive is the first step in uncovering silences that have shaped it. While the Blucher Archive may only contain portions of a story – like the analogy Trouillot makes to a sports reporter and the highlights they

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<sup>35</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 99.

<sup>36</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 26.

<sup>37</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 28.

chose to announce – there are an endless number of silences awaiting to be heard. Admittedly, silences will always exist. They are inevitable. This thesis nonetheless seeks to bring these silences to life in order to write a more meaningful (and the first ever) history of the Blucher Archive. Focusing on the Blucher Surveying Collection, for instance, allows us to consider the agency of the von Blucher men. The history behind the transfer of the Blucher material to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will be explained, and a close examination of the collaborative digitization project that resulted from the transfer is analyzed.

Borrowing Trouillot’s four vital moments as framework for the chapters that follow, this thesis both builds upon as well as challenges Trouillot’s conceptual framework by arguing that the re-introduction of the Blucher Archive into the political, legal and academic sphere provides a platform for the silences left when only selected parts of the archive are made accessible, or when financial exigencies prevent proper organization, classification, preservation, and storage.<sup>38</sup> Rather than viewing the Blucher Archive material as a bottomless collection of silences, this thesis will cast new light on the surveying material to demonstrate how the archive has taken on a life of its own, providing opportunities for educational and professional pursuits in both the surveying and archival sphere. Finally, this thesis demonstrates the expanded concept of the archives following the archival turn. It reveals that the history and life of the Blucher Archive is far from over. To echo historian Kristen Weld, this thesis centers the Blucher Archive at “the heart of research questions rather than simply relegating [it] to footnotes and parentheses.”<sup>39</sup> What proceeds is a case study and analysis of the Blucher Surveying Collection from its original inception to its present existence at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, a regional public university of roughly 12,500 students. Brief explanations of key terms are necessary. When using

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<sup>38</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 12.

<sup>39</sup> Weld, *Paper Cadavers*, 13.

the term “archive,” historians and archive practitioners often mean different things: archive (institution), archive (body of knowledge), collection, and repository. I use all three terms in both the plural and singular – archive, collection, and repository – in the following chapters. For the sake of this thesis; the Blucher personal papers is referred to as the Blucher Family Papers. The surveying portion of the Blucher Archive is referenced as the Blucher Surveying Collection. The Blucher Archive refers to the family papers and the surveying collection, collectively. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Special Collections and Archives Department, which houses the Blucher Archive, is called the institutional repository, and the word collections in the plural tense is used to group together all other special collections and archives housed in that department.

The primary source materials for this thesis include oral histories, university correspondence, surveying records, university and community newspapers, and personal letters and memories from university faculty and staff gathered in Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi’s Mary and Jeff Bell Library’s Special Collections and Archive Department. Oral histories include interviews with former directors of the TAMU-CC’s Special Collections department, Thomas Kreneck and Ann Hodges, who have played a vital role in the beginning phases of this collaborative project, and who continue to ensure the project’s existence: Catherine Rudowsky Dean of University Libraries, and Conrad Blucher Research Specialist Bryan Gillis, were also interviewed to highlight the surveyors’ perspective and projected plans with this project. After using established protocols and techniques, including audio records and interview consent, these materials are made available to researchers interested in local history and in the history of South Texas land surveying in particular.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> To this end, all oral histories will be transcribed following the standards of the Oral History Association. See appendix.

Although some materials came from the university records, the most significant documents were found within the Blucher Donor Files. Materials housed in the donor files are not cataloged. The primary source bibliography reflects this decision and offers readers all available information from each document found within the donor files. Several documents within the donor files are undated, and although the goal is to provide readers an approximation of the date, identifying a specific date is often impossible. Moreover, there are no records to be found concerning transfer decisions, digitization decisions, and institutional conversations regarding the Blucher Archive, or funding decisions by the Ed Rachal Foundation. What then does it mean to write a history when there is no paperwork?

Historians such as Mary Elizabeth and Durba Ghosh have analyzed the challenges of reconstructing a history with incomplete records.<sup>41</sup> Both historians stress the importance of turning to different types of archives, “particularly if we are to better account for the subjectivities and historical agency of groups and individuals whose names [or histories] have been [inadequately] recorded and remain in archives.”<sup>42</sup> These challenges force us to consider the historical actors’ involvement, in addition to considering institutional and historical context surrounding the absence of records. Historians must consider what is being excluded and question why it is being excluded. It is important, argues Ghosh, to understand the terms under which “historical facts” were, or were not recorded.<sup>43</sup> The smallest of details can provide a great deal of information.

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<sup>41</sup> Mary Elizabeth Perry, “Finding Fatima, A Slave Woman of Early Modern Spain,” *Journal of Women’s History* 20, no. 1 (Spring 2008); Durba Ghosh, “Decoding the Nameless, Subjectivity, and Historical Methodologies in Reading the Archives of Colonial India,” in *A New Imperial History: Culture, Identity, Modernity, 1660-1840*, ed. Kathleen Wilson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

<sup>42</sup> Ghosh, “Decoding the Nameless,” 299.

<sup>43</sup> Ghosh, “Decoding the Nameless,” 300.



Take into consideration the timing of the Blucher Archive's transfer to TAMU-CC. Two years prior to the donation of the Blucher Archive, TAMU-CC had become a four-year comprehensive university and enrollment increased to 5,000 students. Before 1995, TAMU-CC, which had until then been known previously as Corpus Christi State University (CCSU), was an upper level institution offering courses only at the junior, senior and graduate level with roughly 1,000 students. Moreover, the Mary and Jeff Bell Library's Archive Department had only existed for eighteen years before the Blucher family transferred their materials. The haphazard creation of the Blucher Archive and the Blucher Donor Files is better understood if we take into account the fact that the university was growing rapidly, and the Archive Department was still relatively new. The history of the Blucher Archive resonates far beyond South Texas history because it forces us to reconsider our understanding of the very nature of institutional repositories such as those housed in universities. As Lisa Leff, said, "typically scholars tend [to] think of these [archival] institutions as a project of nation-building... [telling the Blucher Archive's story] forces us to confront the impossible grandiosity of those visions and the fundamental incompleteness of these and all archives."<sup>44</sup> Though this thesis aims to create a coherent and complete history of the Blucher Archive, that can never be fully achieved.

The Blucher donor files, containing several omissions speaks volumes about the subject or subjects it references. Rather than accepting the absence of records historians are encouraged to listen to the voices that "come through these indirect and far-from neutral documents, [contextualize] them, and [look] for layers of meaning in the words that are used and the information omitted."<sup>45</sup> Exclusions in the Blucher Archive, or the Blucher Donor Files ought not to be regarded as "an insurmountable obstacle," instead consider them "erasures [as] highly

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<sup>44</sup> Leff, *The Archive Thief*, 203-204.

<sup>45</sup> Perry, "Finding Fatima," 16.

instructive for historians today.”<sup>46</sup> To quote Leff, “to aspire to such wholeness is to work against time itself.”<sup>47</sup> This thesis stems from a desire to restore what was lost, “to produce order from disorder.”<sup>48</sup> The incompleteness of the Blucher Archive, specifically the Blucher Donor Files speaks to the ambiguity in and of archives. On the one hand, the creators of the Blucher Archive rescued the past for us. These historical actors gathered together and preserved the Blucher records from the past, making it possible for historians to study them and utilize them “as evidence for our understanding of the past.”<sup>49</sup> On the other hand, as Leff suggests, the very process of making an archive alters our understanding of the past, and the archives themselves.

Ultimately, external factors shaped the Blucher Archive. These, which ranged from questions regarding funding, attempting to find available space for storage, proper staffing, and allocating necessary resources, inadvertently re-contextualized the Blucher Archive. The life of the Blucher Archive stands as testimony to the economic and political changes the collection encountered during every stage in its life, from the moment of creation, to their assemblage at TAMU-CC, and then to their digitization. Absences found in the Blucher Archive are symptomatic of the ways the Blucher Archive collections were created and given shape. Thus, the absences stand as challenges that require historians to pay attention to historical actors as well as institutional and the historical contexts.

The purpose of this thesis is to trace the process of the creation of the Blucher Archive while cautioning us to be critically aware of the silencing of the past and of the inherent precariousness of archives. This thesis is divided into four parts – aligning with Trouillot’s four crucial moments when silences enter the historical production. The introduction provides a brief

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<sup>46</sup> Ghosh, “Decoding the Nameless,” 315.

<sup>47</sup> Leff, *The Archive Thief*, 204.

<sup>48</sup> Leff, *The Archive Thief*, 204.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

historiography of the “archival turn,” and introduce the Blucher Archive and Blucher Surveying Collection. The first chapter, “The Making of the Blucher Archive,” begins with the premise that “history is a production as much as an accounting of the past, and that our ability to recount has much to do with the conditions under which our subjects lived.”<sup>50</sup> This chapter charts the history of the von Blucher family, generations of whom, working as professional surveyors from Corpus Christi, Texas, play an integral role in South Texas land development. Understanding the importance of land surveying in the history of South Texas sheds light on the reasons multiple entities have contributed to the digitization of these records for both the private and public sphere. The von Blucher surveyors will no longer be silenced behind thousands of maps: their story will be pushed to the forefront.

Chapter Two: “A Pulse worth Preserving,” provides an in-depth examination of how the Charles von Blucher Family Papers were assembled into the Blucher Archive. In addition to this acquisition history, this chapter relies on oral histories with past directors of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi University’s Special Collections and Archives department. This represents the moment of “fact assembly” that Trouillot has detailed. It is crucial for understanding both how a collaborative processing and digitization project emerged and how it has continued to make thousands of South Texas land surveying records available. In the same way the process of creating the land surveying records often produced silences, the making and assembling of the Blucher Archive into an institutional repository generated silences of its own. In order to uncover such silences, the chapter examines the motives and stated (official) purposes behind the assembly of the Blucher Archive. Moreover, it examines the complex work done by archivists to show that although institutional repositories are designed to *objectively* preserve records of the

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<sup>50</sup> Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), 12.

past, an archive's assembling is the result of historical circumstances and choices of categorization that inevitably shape the materials historians have access to and thus the histories they write. The silences entered during this moment of historical production refer to overlooked historical, vital moments when relationships were created among scholars from Corpus Christi State University / TAMU-CC and the von Blucher family. Oral histories will shed light on the rationale for the Blucher Archive transfer to the university.

Analyzing the contents of and access to archival materials for political, social, and or personal reasons provide the heart of Chapter Three: "The Politics of Archiving." This chapter explores how preservation efforts actively influenced the production of the Blucher Archive's meaning in the decades that followed its creation. It examines how the collaboration between the Conrad Blucher Institute and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, while resulting in an extensive land surveying digitization project, might have also created silences at the moment of fact retrieval. The conclusion: "Blucher Everlasting," is hardly about archives themselves, and more of a scholar's reconstruction and telling of the past found within the Blucher Archive. The presence of historians, surveyors, and archivists, in the perpetuity of the surveying records will be pushed to the forefront. Although silences that accrue during the first three steps during the process of historical production "intermesh and solidify at the fourth and final moment when retrospective significance itself is produced," "Blucher Everlasting" illustrates how retrospective significance can be productive.<sup>51</sup> It explores instances where retrospective significance has the ability to silence historical happenings, while simultaneously creating space for the Blucher Archive to transform into new narratives.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 59.

<sup>52</sup>Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, 58.

The conclusion demonstrates why an archive is an active creation. In the same way that Carolyn Steedman showed how the dust accumulating within an archive has no end, only newly constructed endings, this chapter provides examples of how the Blucher Archive continuously creates new archival logics, organizing principles, and reasons for being. The conclusion returns to the archival turn which has taught us that archives should no longer be regarded as unproblematic storehouses of records awaiting historians. They are active sites of agency and power: in the same way, the Blucher Archive is a unit of analysis unto itself rather than a “simple repository of source materials.”<sup>53</sup> The Blucher Archive has its own history – “one that conditions the ability to interact with it, write from it, and understand the large system of power, control, and legibility that records keeping necessarily enables.”<sup>54</sup> This thesis stems from a desire to write the history of the Blucher Archive. Only when historians understand the ambiguous and complex issues at the heart of the Blucher Archive, can historians begin to understand the meaning and significance of the Blucher Archive and its surveying collection.

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<sup>53</sup> Weld, *Paper Cadavers*, 13.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

## CHAPTER ONE: THE MAKING OF THE BLUCHER ARCHIVE

Examining the history of an archive expands our understanding of power relations, more specifically how the relationships between client and surveyor affected the production of the Blucher surveying material. At first glance the Blucher surveying material appears to be nothing more than a voluminous collection of land records from the early eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, mapping out South Texas. It is not until one begins to think archivally of these land records, that the archive's story begins to emerge. Thinking archivally refers to the interrogation of the production, organization and classification of physical documents. "The Making of the Blucher Archive" begins with the premise that "history is a production as much as an accounting of the past, and that our ability to recount has much to do with the conditions under which our subjects lived."<sup>1</sup> What became the Blucher Surveying Collection was created during a time when the surveying of South Texas lands reached its apex. The first pulse of the Blucher Archive occurred when land development in South Texas was in high demand.

The von Bluchers were essential to the mapping out of Texas, more specifically South Texas, as land, property, and land grants were central to the making of Texas. Understanding the importance of land surveying to the history of South Texas sheds light on the reasons why multiple professional and scholarly entities – the Conrad Blucher Institution, the Mary and Jeff Bell Library's Archive Department, and the Ed Rachal Foundation – have devoted their time and resources to process, preserve and digitize the Blucher surveying records for the private and public access and use. To think archivally about the Blucher Surveying Collection requires historians to look past the words and drawing of the land records in order to examine the conditions of that collection's production: "how it came to exist, what it was used for, what its

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<sup>1</sup> Marisa Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslave Women, Violence, and the Archive* (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), 12.

form reveals, and what sorts of state knowledge and action is both reflected and engendered.”<sup>2</sup>

Archival thinking demands that we see the Blucher Surveying Collection not only as a source of data to be mined by researchers “but also as more than the sum of their parts – as instruments of political action, implements of state formation (“technologies of rule”)”<sup>3</sup> Understanding Texas’ changing environment, ownership, and land grants illuminates why the von Blucher surveying men played an essential role in mapping out its land.

Revealing the importance of land surveying means paying attention to the Blucher surveying men who forged and shaped these documents yet have received little historical attention from those researching the Blucher Surveying Collection and the institutional repository housing the archival material. Weaving together several events and oral histories – involving and discussing the process of creating land surveying records from South Texas demonstrates how an archive should be regarded as “subjects of inquiry [and] as historical artifacts in their own right...”<sup>4</sup> By placing the Blucher men, their assistants, their training, and practice at the forefront of archival production, rather than allowing them to disappear in the background as subordinate to the materialistic archive itself, “The Making of the Blucher Archive” makes visible land surveyors prominence in early South Texas land development. By thinking archivally, we can understand how land surveyors were responsible for the making of these documents: their actions and moments of inaction, their choices and judgments, and their involvement when creating land records. By foregrounding land surveyors’ agency, historians can better grasp how early South Texas archives were shaped by multifaceted motives and

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<sup>2</sup> Kristen Weld, *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press), 13.

<sup>3</sup> Weld, *Paper Cadavers*, 13; Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1995). See for example, Ann Stoler, “Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance,” *Archival Science*, no. 2 (2011): 87-109.

<sup>4</sup> Kathryn Burns, *Into the Archive: Writing and Political Power in Colonial Peru* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press), 125.

desires from multiple parties. The von Blucher surveying men are more than a mere signature at the bottom of a land surveying record document, they are historical actors with a history of their own.

## **Land and Power: The Making of a State**

The importance of surveying in eighteenth and nineteenth century Texas cannot be overemphasized. Land surveying was a matter of enormous political importance, making the role of a surveyor a crucial one. Early surveying of Texas helped define the boundaries of Spanish and Mexican land grants. A glimpse into the history of land titles in Texas makes evident the “enormous complications of the different types of grants that had been given by Spain, by Mexico, by the Republic of Texas, by the State of Texas and finally legitimized ultimately by treaty between the United States and Mexico.”<sup>5</sup> Moreover, there was a substantial variety of grants in early Texas history ranging from “grants to Indians and to townships, made by Spain” to the Republic and State of Texas making special grants for veterans, and to railroads.<sup>6</sup> These competing claims were given to land surveyors – such as the von Bluchers – to handle and clarify. Loss, theft, and an inability to “locate originals in... archives [often] complicated” the work of surveyors.<sup>7</sup>

The story of these conflicts began during the late seventeenth-century, when Spanish colonization and conquests commenced in what is now central and eastern Texas. Despite external challenges from France and internal conflict from American Indians, Spain claimed

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<sup>5</sup> *The Texas Surveyor* (March 1996), Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX. This article was partially found in the Blucher Donor Files at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Mary and Jeff Bell Library’s Archive Department without a cover page.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Galen D. Greaser and Jesus F. DelaTeja, “Quieting Title to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in the Trans-Nueces: The Bourland and Miller Commission, 1850-1852,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 95, no. 4 (April 1992): 446.



what we now call Texas until 1821, when Mexico secured its independence from Spanish control. Prior to this, little had been done by Spaniards to settle the country land aside from the establishment of a handful of missions.<sup>8</sup> Texas' first land grants were made by the Spanish crown to establish missions and presidios beginning in 1716.<sup>9</sup> Land grants were attempts from Spain to control and lay claim to a new land. Although the granting of large areas took place, the number of inhabitants remained low. To increase settlement of non-Native Americans, Spanish officials experimented with a policy prohibiting American settlers to the frontier on the basis of promised land, religious tolerance, and special privileges for those who vowed to respect the laws and constitution of the country.<sup>10</sup> Throughout the course of Texas history, availability of cheap land has been a prime impetus for colonization and settlement. With more Americans flooding in from the North, however, many sought to formalize grants to preserve their land rights.

The policy of granting lands to Americans continued following Mexican Independence. Mexico established its own land laws – Mexican Colonization Laws – and continued to allow Americans to obtain land as long as they did not settle within twenty leagues of a border with another country, and ten leagues of the coast. A league, an outdated form of measuring distance, is roughly equivalent to three miles. The young nation did not have population numbers that would permit settlement in the north, nor could they stand against encroachment from the United States, while they continuously fought Native Americans who had been inhabiting the land, and foreign powers. The most important of the new empresarios tasked with bringing in new colonists was Stephen F. Austin, a native of Austinville, Virginia, and previously elected to the

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<sup>8</sup> M. E. Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed (Odessa, Texas: Author, 1980). 4.

<sup>9</sup> Aldon S. Long and Christopher Long, "Land Grants," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed October 8, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mpl01>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. There are several problems with any general name for the indigenous peoples of North America. Throughout this chapter I use 'Native American' although I am mindful that a controversy exists concerning the term.

territorial legislature of Missouri from 1813 to 1819.<sup>11</sup> His father, Austin, had earlier worked with Spain, and Stephen received a grant of land in Texas in 1821, from which he introduced a large number of colonists from the United States. Under the new provisions, Austin's American colonists were sworn under oath to obey the federal and state constitutions of Mexico, practice Christianity, and demonstrate their morality and good habits.<sup>12</sup>

However, U.S. immigrants frequently clashed with Mexico's central government over slavery, religion, and land titles. Americans began imposing their own practices on social affairs and violating colonization statutes. With little to nothing being done about their grievances, the Anglo-American occupants of Texas grew restless and "the clouds of war now gathered dark and threatening."<sup>13</sup> On October 2, 1835, the opening battle of the "Texas Revolution" was fought at Gonzales. Regarded as the first shot in the Texas Revolution, the object of contention is now known as the "come and take it" canon of Gonzales. Originally the cannon had been loaned to the citizens of Gonzales to ward off Native Americans, however the Mexican government demanded the cannons' return on account of the growing unrest amongst Anglo-Americans and Mexicans. The following year, a siege of the Alamo "continued almost with intermission from [February 25<sup>th</sup> until March 6<sup>th</sup>]."<sup>14</sup> Amongst the slaughter the young Republic was born.

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<sup>11</sup> D. W. C. Baker, *A Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement: To which is appended the constitution of the state* (New York, NY: A. S. Barnes & Company, 1873), 28-29. Stephen F. Austin "was a native of Austinville, Virginia. At the age of eleven he went to Connecticut to pursue his academical studies. In 1808 he entered Transylvania University, Lexington, KY., where he remained two years. In 1813, having previously moved to Missouri, and at that time twenty years old, he was elected to the Legislature of that territory. To this position he was annually re-elected until 1819, when he removed to Arkansas." *Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement*, 32-33.

<sup>12</sup> Long and Long, "Land Grants," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed October 8, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mpl01>.

<sup>13</sup> Baker, *A Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement*, 40.

<sup>14</sup> Baker, *A Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement*, 50.

Recovery followed April 21, at the Battle of San Jacinto that freed Texas from Mexico, for good. Although Mexico did not acknowledge it, the fact existed beyond the control of that power.<sup>15</sup>

Now independent from Mexico, Texas became a Republic. In 1836, an act defining the newly claimed territory was passed by its newly established Texas Congress. The act included all lands within its present boundaries: these, reached out into the Gulf of Mexico, and included portions of present Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming. The same year, the Texas Constitution – patterned after that of the United States and many southern states – was established recognizing and honoring all valid grants issued by the Spanish and Mexican Governments, and validated orders for surveys made “before Article 14, Adopted November, 1835, [suspending] all operations relative to the location of land.”<sup>16</sup> In similar fashion to that of Mexico, the Republic of Texas issued grants on conditions that specific measures be met by the grantees, such as the improvement of one’s land. To persuade settlers to come to Texas the President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston signed contracts with American colonists providing them settlement of the public domain.<sup>17</sup> These lands were divided into three general categories: (1) unappropriated, “virgin” lands owned by the state prior to disposition, (2) submerged areas, and (3) appropriated public lands.<sup>18</sup> The newcomers attracted by these land grants were crucial in securing national defense and frontier protection, as Mexican invasion and Native American attacks remained a constant threat. Native Americans inhabited North America centuries before Spaniards, Mexicans, Europeans and Americans unleashed massively destructive forces on the Native American population, whether it was violence directly resulting from settler expansion,

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<sup>15</sup> Baker, *A Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement*, 63.

<sup>16</sup> “The total number of acres granted by the Government of Spain and Mexico to the colonists were 26,280,000 acres.” Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 4.

<sup>17</sup> Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 5.

<sup>18</sup> Aldon S. Long and Christopher Long, “Public Lands,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed October 8, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/impl01>.

enslavement, loss of land and resources, or forced removal. Early American policy was grounded in the nation's fundamental commitment to territorial expansion. In order to build "an empire of liberty," policymakers realized they needed to obtain Native American lands. With Americans determined to move west, and Native Americans refusing to leave *their* lands, the United States constantly pursued war against them.<sup>19</sup>

The new nation was therefore deeply vested in land titles. There was a push to get the newly acquired land developed, improved and professionally plotted. Original surveys of the disposition of the Texas public domain are both historically significant and necessary for present land surveyors who are hired to retrace and follow in the footsteps of the original surveys. Following the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1846, demand for surveying of the young state remained high. During this time, conflicts with land titles began surfacing. Many locations of land in Texas since 1837 were copied or mimicked old Mexican grants. Whenever this was the case, the courts typically upheld the validity of old claims. Those with land certificates called upon surveyors, such as the von Bluchers, to have their land professionally surveyed. The surveyor would then go to the General Land Office "with his field notes, and [obtain] his patent or deed form the government by paying the necessary fees."<sup>20</sup> "Half engineer and half lawyer," the land surveyor was tasked with the essential duty of receiving and examining all field notes for surveys made within each county.<sup>21</sup> These records were to be kept in a bounded book and made available to public inspection. Only the County Surveyor enjoyed the authority to establish land lines and boundaries or to vouch for where titles were situated.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Jeffrey Ostler, "Genocide and American Indian History," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History* (March 2015).

<sup>20</sup> Baker, *A Brief History of Texas from its Earliest Settlement*, 87. The history of Texas continues with a joint resolution for the annexation of Texas, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1845 under President of the United States, James K. Polk. James K. Polk was elected President of the United States in November, 1844.

<sup>21</sup> Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 33-34.

<sup>22</sup> Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 35.

As surveyors in Nueces County and much of the Nueces strip, the von Blucher surveying men therefore played a central role in early South Texas land development and were key agents in reckoning with an assortment of land policies established by several different governments. The von Bluchers were tasked with establishing precise boundaries of land tracts and surveying land necessary to the construction of new public and private works.<sup>23</sup> Their work also involved “assessing the possibilities for wagon routes, forage for draft animals, water, and even wood for cooking,” given little was known about the newly acquired lands.”<sup>24</sup> Surveying methods varied greatly before Anglo-American colonization; “distances were occasionally given in such units of measurement as “a cigarette’s length” or “half a day’s walk,” and compass bearings were often inaccurate.”<sup>25</sup> With the surplus of conflicting land claims the von Bluchers were charged with finding a solution to land policies dating back to Spanish government, which allowed them to gain tremendous power in Texas. The von Bluchers were the ones to reconcile vague field notes to grants, overlapping surveys, unmet requirements set down in original grants, and complications of collective ownership, the emerged as Texas developed.

### **Land Surveying: A Technique and Politics**

Developed in the mid-sixteenth century as a “mathematical and astronomical discipline,” surveying in America followed closely the procedures that had developed in Europe.<sup>26</sup> The importance and necessity, “yet enormity, or proper land [surveying] in past American land development is well known to professional surveyors today and it was also recognized by the

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<sup>23</sup> Spry, *Introduction to Texas Land Surveying*, 50.

<sup>24</sup> Eugene George, “Three Dollars per Mile: Accounts of Early Surveying in Texas,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 87, no. 2 (October 1983): 238.

<sup>25</sup> “Surveying,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed October 8, 2019, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/sxs01>.

<sup>26</sup> William E. Burns, *Science and Technology: Colonial America* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005), 100.

professionals of the von Blucher era.”<sup>27</sup> As defined by the 1978 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) *Manual No. 34: Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms*, surveying is:

the science and art of making all essential measurements in space to determine the relative positions and points and/or physical and cultural details above, on, or beneath the earth’s surface and to depict them in usable forms, or to establish the position of points and/or details.<sup>28</sup>

Existing in several forms – maps, deeds, survey reports, and bills-of-sale – land records display land metadata including but not limited to “location, size, grantor and grantee history, mineral rights, liens, and property restrictions.”<sup>29</sup> Maps not only promote exploration and colonization, they are used in political struggles against foreign powers<sup>30</sup> As more land “was conquered, settled, and known [in South Texas]..., there was a greater need for accurate, or at least mutually agreeable boundary lines to demarcate individual properties.”<sup>31</sup> Surveyors, like the von Bluchers established boundaries, laid out towns, plotted roads, and divided properties between heirs in addition to a host of other tasks.<sup>32</sup>

As a profession, land surveying requires extreme personal dedication, as well as rigorous scientific training and expert knowledge, in order to meet high standards of accuracy.<sup>33</sup> The production of a single document may undergo collaboration, competing narratives, and numerous alterations before reaching its final state. The sheer size of the Blucher Surveying Collection, which includes several hundred job files, maps, drawings, sketches and plats, clearly demonstrates that, for a surveyor to craft a single map several versions were produced to ensure

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<sup>27</sup> *The Texas Surveyor* (March 1996), Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>28</sup> *Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms*, Rev. (New York, NY: New York American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and American Society of Civil Engineers, 1978), 3.

<sup>29</sup> Bryan S. Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System” (Master’s Thesis, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 2019), 14. For definitions of surveying and associated terms reference the 1972 “Definition of Surveying and Associated Terms” published by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

<sup>30</sup> Burns, *Science and Technology*, 98-99.

<sup>31</sup> Burns, *Science and Technology*, 100.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> *The Texas Surveyor* (March 1996), Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

there would be no mistakes in the final product. Early renditions often contained only lines, leaving out coordinates, street names or names of surrounding plots. Whether it was a change of ink and handwriting, blank pages with signatures, or “doodles in the margins,” a critical reflection of these happenings uncovers the “rules and gambits, sleights of hand, and convoluted relationships” that describe a surveyor’s day-to-day business in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.<sup>34</sup> A story often told by those working closely with the Blucher Surveying Collection suggested Felix A. Blucher intentionally inserted errors into some of his surveys, essentially protecting his work filed at the county courthouse.<sup>35</sup> Felix would “introduce these intentional errors in the map itself but have the corrections documented in his field books. If someone were to come and... copy his work... they would be able to easily catch it.”<sup>36</sup> The work of a land surveyor compares to precious artifacts that warrant safe keeping for it marked true boundaries of land. The land titles, surveys, plats, and maps created by the von Bluchers are a “tangible legacy” vital not only to the historical record but to any current transaction involving land in South Texas.<sup>37</sup>

### **The Blucher Men and the Making of Documents**

The von Blucher surveying men aided in the conquest, settlement and mapping of early-South Texas lands. Historian and archivist Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck has characterized Felix A. Blucher “among the most important surveyors in South Texas history.”<sup>38</sup> Felix would become one of South Texas’ leading land surveyors. Hans Helmtuh Anton Felix von Blucher (1819-

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<sup>34</sup> Burns, *Into the Archive*.

<sup>35</sup> Bryan Gillis, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (May 1, 2019).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Bruce S. Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher’s Corpus Christi: Letters from the South Texas Frontier, 1849-1879* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2002), 253.

<sup>38</sup> Thomas H. Kreneck, “Creating an Interactive Database of the Felix A. Blucher Papers: An Abstract,” August 23, 2011, unpublished, Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

1879), born in Poglow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Prussia November 15, 1819 was son of Karl Wilhelm, a captain in the Prussian cavalry. Felix received a Master's Degree from the University of Berlin where he specialized in civil engineering, law and languages before moving to New Orleans where he worked as a draftsman in a shipyard.<sup>39</sup> Before long, Felix von Blucher made his way to Texas – alongside thousands of Germans, mostly peasants – and became interpreter and engineer, assisting Prince Carl, Solms von Braunfels – founder of New Braunfels – in mapping out the town of New Braunfels.<sup>40</sup> In 1845, Felix traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas – at the time known as Kinney's Trading Post – and briefly served with the United States Army during the war with Mexico (1846).<sup>41</sup> Felix then made his way back to Germany where, in April 1849, he married Maria Augusta Imme (1827-1893). Maria Augusta Imme was born into Prussia's burgeoning propertied middle class.<sup>42</sup> For an extended period, Maria Imme corresponded to her parents, who remained in Berlin, Germany. Her writings “provide a glimpse into life in early Texas through the eyes of a female born into an upper-class European environment. The passages outline her joys and challenges.” The letters constitute a portion of the Blucher Archive housed in Special Collections and Archives of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library at TAMU-CC. In spite of Felix's calamities, Felix and Maria “fell madly in love... with an unsettled past and an uncertain future.”<sup>43</sup> Following their wedding, the newlyweds landed back in Corpus Christi and began establishing residency. Corpus Christi was then the “domain of

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<sup>39</sup> Richard Marcum, “Untitled document,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

It is said that Felix von Blucher spoke fluently in seven languages.

<sup>40</sup> Terry G. Jordan, “Germans,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed November 11, 2019. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>.

<sup>41</sup> Eugenia Reynolds Briscoe, “A Narrative History of Corpus Christi, Texas: 1519-1875,” (PhD diss., University of Denver, 1972), 118. Kinney's Trading Post was established in 1838 or 1839 by Pennsylvanian, Henry Lawrence Kinney. The exact date of Kinney establishing his rancho at Corpus Christi appears to be uncertain among Texas historians.

<sup>42</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 18.

<sup>43</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 5.



Henry Lawrence Kinney” with some five hundred and fifty inhabitants scattered among one hundred and one dwellings.<sup>44</sup> Engaged in the practice of civil engineering, surveying, land law, the management of sale of land, and interpretation and translation of legal documents, on August 17, 1850 Felix took the oath of office as District Surveyor of Nueces County, before Chief Justice F. Belden:

I, Felix A. Blucher, do solemnly Swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as District Surveyor, according to the best of my skill and ability, agreeably to the Constitution and Laws of the United States and of this State; and I do further solemnly swear that since the adoption of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States. I being a citizen of this State, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons within this state or out of it, nor have I sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, nor have I acted in carrying a challenge, or aided or advised or assisted any person thus offending – So help me God.<sup>45</sup>

In the years leading up to Felix’s time as District Surveyor of Nueces County, “the small village on Corpus Christi Bay was the only Anglo-Texan settlement in the veritable no-man’s land between the Nueces and the Rio Grande and virtually became a town without a country.”<sup>46</sup> Charged with building his own town and maintaining the security of his investment at Corpus Christi, Kinney looked to Felix to survey much of South Texas during the 1850s.

### **A Family Dedicated to the Profession of Land Surveying**

The story of the von Blucher land surveying family, dedicated to the profession of surveying and land measurement began with Felix von Blucher and ended with his grandson Conrad von Blucher. *Maria von Blucher’s Corpus Christi: Letters to Germany from the South Texas Frontier, 1849-1879*, are crucial in giving life to the Blucher Surveying Collection, as they

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<sup>44</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher’s Corpus Christi*, 19.

<sup>45</sup> “Text of Documents: The State of Texas, County of Nueces,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX. For Corpus Christi, the 1850s was a “turbulent era... though the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo officially settled the boundary between the United States and Mexico, it neither calmed the fears of the residents of the Wild Horse Desert nor ended the efforts of those living below the Great River to restore the area to Mexico.” Briscoe, “A Narrative History of Corpus Christi, Texas,” 255.

<sup>46</sup> Briscoe, “A Narrative History of Corpus Christi,” 189.

narrate for us the von Blucher men's dedication to land surveying, and their professional talent.<sup>47</sup> Letters written home, to her family in Prussia, exemplify the extreme personal dedication Felix had for land surveying. Praising Felix's hard work, Maria wrote to her mom October 30, 1849, writing he "takes great pains to earn our keep, sparing no inconvenience or labor."<sup>48</sup> Felix, "cold and distant emotionally," worked long hours often without sufficient meals only to come home and transfer and translate the collected field notes.<sup>49</sup> Unfortunately, his successful career as surveyor, civil engineer, interpreter, and land agent kept him away from home for months at a time, causing his marriage to Maria to deteriorate "into an emotional abyss."<sup>50</sup>

Overtime, the growing family became "land rich" and "cash poor" until Felix received a portion of a long-disputed inheritance from his grandmother's estate: the amount of money remains unknown.<sup>51</sup> The Blucher family achieved some form of prosperity in the 1870s as a result of Felix's business concern, Felix A. Blucher & Co., Western Texas Land Agency.<sup>52</sup> Notwithstanding Felix's weakness for whiskey the Blucher family continuously reconstructed their lives together and found redemption from "financial embarrassment."<sup>53</sup> Before his death, Felix owned thirty thousand acres and several ranches, yet never achieved "financial independence."<sup>54</sup> Continuing his work, Felix's son, Charles F. H. von Blucher followed closely his fathers' footsteps. Presumably, while Felix was in office as County Surveyor, Charles learned a great deal about land surveying and grew up wanting to continue the family business. In similar fashion, Charles' son, Conrad von Blucher became a professional land surveyor. Following Felix's twenty-two year tenure in office, his son Charles F. H. von Blucher took the oath as

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<sup>47</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*.

<sup>48</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 35.

<sup>49</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 5.

<sup>50</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 40.

<sup>51</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 119.

<sup>52</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 169.

<sup>53</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 169.

<sup>54</sup> Cheeseman, *Maria von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, 251.

County Surveyor and served for fifty-two years (1882-1934). Charles Blucher was in turn succeeded by his son Conrad M., who served for twenty years (1935-1954). Over the years, these three professional surveyors generated over a hundred survey field books and created thousands of maps making, what is known now as the Blucher Surveying Collection, a monumental record of private land ownership.

### **The Blucher Men and Their Legacy**

With over a hundred years of Blucher men serving as district and county surveyors, the family business came to an end when Conrad Blucher retired as Nueces County Surveyor. The names of Felix, Charles and Conrad von Blucher appear on thousands of county records and surveys in South Texas, from present San Patricio, Bee and Karnes Counties to Webb, Zapata, Hidalgo, and Cameron along the Rio Grande. The von Blucher men surveyed lands on the Kennedy and King Ranches, the Laster Ranch, and Seeligson Ranch. They surveyed the boundaries of Brooks, Nueces, Jim Wells and Kleberg Counties, and surveyed for the United States Army, the State of Texas, and several private citizens, meaning the von Blucher surveying men were highly importance in land ownership claims. *The Texas Surveyor* acknowledges another highly important but “lesser known” accomplishment of the dedicated Blucher surveyors of the “land title development era... [which] was their observation and accumulation of geographic measurement data taken during surveys though not necessarily related to land title boundaries.” The article continues, “... such data included river and stream locations and water levels, coastal shorelines and tide levels, and miscellaneous topographic data, elevations, etc.”<sup>55</sup> All told, the accomplishments and services of Felix A. von Blucher and his descendants were vital to South Texas land development.

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<sup>55</sup> *The Texas Surveyor* (March 1996), Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

The Blucher Surveying Collection is therefore rightfully regarded as “one of the most significant primary research resources held by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.” Additionally, the Blucher Archive has already resulted in a significant publication: namely *Maria von Blucher’s Corpus Christi: Letters From the South Texas Frontier, 1849-1879*, a collection edited and annotated by Bruce S. Cheeseman and published in 2002, which won the Liz Carpenter Award given by the Texas State Historical Association for the best book on Texas Women’s history published that year. Furthermore, Dr. Kreneck believes the Blucher Surveying Collection is perhaps “the most important set of historic surveying materials which ranks the in the forefront with information about the development of the profession of surveying in Texas.”<sup>56</sup> The Blucher surveying men were here “before Texas was Texas, working it and surveying the land.”<sup>57</sup> Indeed, the von Blucher surveying men not only mapped out Texas land, but unbeknownst to them, they created one of South Texas’ largest surveying collections.

One of the family’s greatest contributions to South Texas – the donation of materials to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi - is a “very long and complex one.”<sup>58</sup> It was not until Conrad’s time in office as Nueces County Surveyor that a relationship with the von Bluchers and then, Corpus Christi State University developed.<sup>59</sup> Representing the third generation of Blucher surveyors in Nueces County, Conrad’s dedication to the profession seemingly fostered the relation with the von Bluchers and the university. Officially founded in 1947 as the University of Corpus Christi (UCC) by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, UCC became Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi in 1973, with 969 students enrolled.<sup>60</sup> Within that decade Texas

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<sup>56</sup> Thomas Kreneck, “Draft: The Charles F. H. von Bluchers Family Papers, Archival Processing and Select Digitizing Project,” November 15, 2010, Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>57</sup> Bryan Gillis, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (May 1, 2019).

<sup>58</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (July 10, 2019).

<sup>59</sup> There are no records within the Archive Department explaining how this relationship was fostered.

<sup>60</sup> Allison Ehrlich, “Throwback Thursday: From UCC to TAMUCC: Island University has had several name changes,” *Corpus Christi Caller Times*, February 6, 2019, accessed October 22, 2019,

A&I University at Corpus Christi became Corpus Christi State University (CCSU). The final name change occurred in 1993 when CCSU changed to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC).<sup>61</sup>

Valedictorian of the 1902 Corpus Christi High School graduating class, Conrad “received his civil engineering degree from the University of Texas.”<sup>62</sup> During his time as Nueces County Surveyor, Conrad established the firm Blucher and Naismith Inc. Consulting Engineers, and was elected the first President of the Nueces County Chapter of Texas Society of Professional Engineers, where in 1947, he was named ‘Engineer of the Year’ by the state society.<sup>63</sup> Before his death, Conrad and his wife Mary Meuly Blucher donated their home at 2821 Ocean Dr. to CCSU. Former Texas A&I University President, Dr. Whitney Halladay (1973-1977) noted that the Bluchers were known for their many contributions to Corpus Christi, and they had been active and contributing members to the community..<sup>64</sup> The Bluchers recognized the need for and potential of the young university, and it was their intent to broaden engineering education.<sup>65</sup> Following Mary’s death, the home was sold to gather funds for establishing the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI).<sup>66</sup> The mission of CBI is to “create and maintain an environment to encourage scientific research and education, with a special emphasis on land

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<https://www.caller.com/story/news/special-reports/building-our-future/throwback/2019/02/06/short-history-texas-a-m-university-corpus-christi/2788028002/>.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> “The Dedication of the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science, May 6, 1987,” University Publication, Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>63</sup> “The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>64</sup> Acceptance remarks by Dr. D. Whitney Halladay, Blucher Ceremony, undated, Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> There are no records indicating the monetary amount the Blucher home was sold to establish the Conrad Blucher Institute.

surveying.”<sup>67</sup> In the years following the passing of Conrad Blucher, the Blucher Archive came into being as the transfer of materials to TAMU-CC commenced.

The Blucher Archive records the changing world of early South Texas.<sup>68</sup> They are not lifeless materials, rather they resonate with the rapidly changing scene of land development in South Texas. During the era of von Blucher surveying, where anxieties were high and land development was crucial the pulse of the Blucher Archive came into existence. A compilation of thousands of land surveyors, field books and field notes echoes Ann Stoler’s argument that we should consider “archiving-as-process” rather than “archive-as-subject.”<sup>69</sup> As such, documents in the Blucher Archive were not “dead matter once the moment of their making had passed... what was ‘left’ was not ‘left behind’ or obsolete.”<sup>70</sup> In early South Texas, these surveying documents were an arsenal of sorts that were continuously reactivated to suit new land governing strategies. Taking note from Stoler’s *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*, scholars are encouraged to remain critical in our use of archival sources. As such, the Blucher surveying material must be approached with consideration of the social and political conditions surrounding the creation of the archival material.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> “The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>68</sup> Ann Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton, University, 2009), 4.

<sup>69</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 20.

<sup>70</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 3.

<sup>71</sup> Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*. By using an ethnographic approach to interpret colonial archives, Ann Stoler challenges the commonly held belief that state-power was in control of itself and the archival material being produced in its honor. *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense* brings to light doubts, confusions, anxieties and unruly opinions that Stoler contends are often overlooked when students of colonialism read “against the grain.”

## CHAPTER TWO: A PULSE WORTH PRESERVING

During the transfer of materials to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC), the Blucher surveying material transformed from land records into a larger archival collection. Throughout its establishment, the Blucher Archive has had a contested life, imbued with moments of empowerment, and conversely, silencing.<sup>1</sup> At the moment of fact creation, the Blucher Archive was a powerful collection of surveying records that aided in South Texas land development. Once they were transformed into the Blucher Archive after they had been donated to TAMU-CC, in fact silenced several other land surveying records being housed within the same Archive Department. Although the surveying records were the last of the materials to come to TAMU-CC, they have now overtaken the von Blucher Family Papers in importance and accessibility. Moreover, the Blucher Surveying Collection has taken precedence over several other surveying collections presently housed in the Archives Department. Why? Nothing in archives is unintentional: “archives in general and this archival collection in particular are linked to silences, power, and politics.”<sup>2</sup> Therefore, we must interrogate the forces that have shaped the making of the Blucher Archive. In Michel Trouillot’s view, “archives assemble,” meaning the assembly work of the Blucher Archive is “not limited to a more or less passive act of collecting.”<sup>3</sup> Rather, the assembly of the Blucher Archive was an active act of production that prepared facts for historical intelligibility.<sup>4</sup>

From their initial inclusion into TAMU-CC’s Archive Department, to their processing and preservation by the Archive Department, and their digitization by the Conrad Blucher

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<sup>1</sup> Michelle Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014), 96.

<sup>2</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 23.

<sup>3</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 61.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.; Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press 1995), 52.

Institute (CBI), the Blucher Archive, specifically the Blucher Surveying Collection, has been figured and reconfigured as an archival collection by a host of departments across TAMU-CC campus, individuals, and outside foundations. As Dr. Thomas Kreneck explains, “the von Bluchers were very important to the University... [the family] had donated a great deal of money and real estate to the university, [money] that began the Conrad Blucher Surveying Institute.”<sup>5</sup> The suggestion that this played a role in the decision to process and digitize the Blucher Archive cannot be dismissed. One of many forces shaping the decision to process and digitize the Blucher Surveying Collection, the monetary donation that ultimately led to the establishment of CBI demonstrates that resources and funding are important factors in what the life of an archival collection will be in regards to its processing, preservation and digitization.

In the Blucher Surveying Collection, the estimated thousands of land records created by the Blucher surveying men that exist today as an archive represent a silence of thousands of land surveying records of Texas, as other collections within the Archive Department have not received the same attention given to the Blucher Archive. More interestingly, the Blucher Surveying Collection has surpassed and silenced the Blucher Family Papers, namely the letters of Maria von Blucher. Despite Bruce Cheesemans’ impressive biography *Maria von Blucher’s Corpus Christi*, a majority of the Blucher Family Papers remain unprocessed. They have yet to be digitized and require preservation treatment. Following the donation to TAMU-CC, the Blucher Archive was divided into two series: the Blucher Family Papers and the Blucher Surveying Collection. Although the decision to separate the collection was not officially documented, a choice was made by staff and faculty at CBI and the Archive Department to focus exclusively on the surveying portion rather than processing, preserving and digitizing the entire collection. The silences of other Texas surveying collections and the Blucher Family Papers

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).



resulted from decisions from university professionals and third-party stake holders from 1999 to 2019. This represents the moment of “fact assembly” that Michel Trouillot detailed in *Silencing the Past*. According to him, this second moment when silences enter the process of historical production, demonstrate how “precarious the leap from record to archive can be; even when events are recorded, not all records are incorporated into archives.”<sup>6</sup> The inclusion of “some records in the archives at the expense of others effectively silences those voices deemed unworthy of historical attention.”<sup>7</sup> This concept is crucial in order to grasp how a collaborative processing and digitization project emerged and has made thousands of South Texas land surveying records, from the Blucher Archive, readily available for both the public and private access, while other land surveying collections have left aside, unrecorded, and uncatalogued.

The making and incorporation of the Blucher Archive to TAMU-CC can only be told through interviews with those individuals central to its creation, as well as texts written by former and current university personnel, since few materials have officially documented the constitution of this archive. Keeping in mind that oral histories are told by historical actors who have particular memories that were shaped by specific historical context, their interviews should not be regarded as “truth.” The oral histories should then be viewed as “truthful” of each individuals experience. Each historical actor interviewed for this thesis offers their own, valuable, interpretations of events that happened throughout the life of the Blucher Surveying Collection, and the collaborative project involving the Archive Department and CBI.

Understanding the motives and officially stated purposes behind the assembly of the Blucher Archive therefore requires examining the role of archivists. With formal training and experience in the management of historical records, an archivist develops and maintains physical

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<sup>6</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 11.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

and intellectual control over historical records. Responsibilities of an archivists include appraisal, arrangement and description, reference work, outreach, and preservation. Appraisal, the act of selecting records for preservation, depends upon an understanding of historical context in which records were created, the uses for which the records were intended, and their relationship to other historical sources. Following the selection process an archivist organizes and describes the historical records by arranging them in logical order, protecting their condition, and describing them for easier accessibility to users. Assisting researchers locate these records is referred to as reference work. Outreach involves an archivist's promotion of the historical records to increase awareness and the usefulness of the collections they have selected. While encouraging their accessibility for research and educational purposes, an archivist ensures the safety and security of the records through preservation efforts.

Although institutional repositories are designed to *objectively* preserve records of the past, an archive assembling is the result of historical circumstances and choices of categorization that inevitably shape the materials historians have access to and thus the histories they write. The Archive Department--an institutional repository at TAMU-CC--depends heavily on staff and university funding which can make the work of an archivist difficult in times of budgetary crisis, or as a result of the university expanding other programs outside the Archive Department. Furthermore, the making and assembling of the Blucher Archive into an institutional repository created silences within the Archive Department. Institutional archives, such as the one at TAMU-CC, tend to favor larger collections. Often, large collections are more likely to attract external funding, public attention, and research projects, all of which benefit the institution itself. Moreover, large collection, such as the Blucher Surveying Collection, have the ability to foster relationships with local foundations, professional investors, and researchers from across the

nation, essentially drawing beneficial attention to the university housing the collection. Meanwhile, the land surveying collections that have not become a priority for the university, have not had their facts assembled yet, as the documents remain uncatalogued and unused. Rolled in boxes, lined up against the walls of the department, kept off the ground only by drink crates, the Kilgore, King, French, Fenner/Penny, Hayes Dix, Stayton, Nueces Topographic, Green, and Brashear surveying collections remain silenced, unprocessed and not yet digitized, ultimately restraining a researchers' access to the materials.

Despite the current conditions of many land surveying collections housed at TAMU-CC that await processing, preservation treatment and digitization, and notwithstanding the underfunded and understaffed Archive Department and the dedication and hard work of the departments archivists and their assistants, TAMU-CC's Mary and Jeff Bell Library's Special Collections and Archives Department has a "primary focus to locate, acquire, preserve, and make visible to researchers materials that document the development of Corpus Christi and its South Texas / Texas environs."<sup>8</sup> As the department's mission states:

Special Collections also plays an active role in the network of individuals and institutions which preserve the local past and helps maintain this region's historical consciousness. As such and in other ways, the department serves as an arm of public outreach between the University and the larger Corpus Christi/South Texas community.<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Kreneck wrote this mission statement after his December 1990 arrival. Over the years the statement has been altered (but only ever so slightly), though Dr. Kreneck argues it has essentially remained the same.<sup>10</sup> This statement was a first of its kind although the idea for an

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<sup>8</sup> "Special Collections and Archives Department: Annual Report, FY 2010-2010," Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

Archives Department had already emerged in the 1950s when the University of Corpus Christi (UCC) Library Director Carl R. Wrotenbery was gifted rare Texana books by several prominent Corpus Christi women<sup>11</sup> No specifics were documented on the Texana donation, or the prominent women who made the contribution. Without a designated area for archival materials, the books were housed in a large grey metal shelving inside UCC's circular library known then as the "round building." Following this donation, the Archives Department remained proactive in its solicitation of materials relating to South Texas and the surrounding area. The Archive Department received its own separate space in 1978 when the Mary and Jeff Bell opened. The library's earliest known mission statement, dated 1999, notes that the mission of the Bell Library was to "collaborate actively in the teaching, research, and service endeavors of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, through the delivery of information resources."<sup>12</sup> Although the Bell Library's mission statement has changed, the concept has remained the same.<sup>13</sup> Dean of Libraries, Dr. Cate Rudowsky explained that the Bell Library is committed to supporting every departments project within the library, such as the collaborative digitization effort between the Archive Department and CBI, whether that includes committing staff time, or allocating funding for a project.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Constitution of the Blucher Archive**

The transfer of Blucher material to then Corpus Christi State University (CCSU) began under the direction of University Library Director Richard L. O'Keeffe. No document exists recording the reasons for this initial donation. In a July 30, 1985 memo to O'Keeffe, then

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<sup>11</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Special Collections and Archives Department Annual Assessment Report, FY 99, Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>13</sup> For an updated vision and mission statement visit <https://library.tamucc.edu/about/vision-mission/>.

<sup>14</sup> Catherine Rudowsky, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (September 12, 2019).

archivist Paul Medley explains that, in the previous year, CCSU had acquired a small collection of archival material from the Blucher family. It included “twenty-five small field notebooks, approximately forty manuscript documents, six large maps, five rolls of documents that appeared to be photographs, and approximately fifteen miscellaneous monograph items all dating from the early 1880s to the turn of the century.”<sup>15</sup> A whole host of various materials, unspecified in documentation, from the Blucher family soon joined this initial donation. Throughout the following decade the relationship with the Bluchers and the university continued developing as donations of Blucher materials regularly took place until the third and final major installment in the 1990s when the bulk of the Blucher Surveying collection was handed over to TAMU-CC. A December 11, 1990 meeting regarding the materials with Dr. Robert Wooster – then Assistant Professor of History – and Dr. Thomas Kreneck was “emblematic of the collaborative effort it became.”<sup>16</sup> What caused this transfer of materials? How did this partnership with TAMU-CC and the Blucher family begin?

As soon as Dr. Kreneck became head of the Archive Department, he met the Blucher family representative, Mrs. Medora (Dodie) Blucher--the second week after taking his post.<sup>17</sup> Dr. Wooster and Dr. Kreneck met with Mrs. Blucher at the Blucher home in current Blucher Park Tuesday on December 11, 1990 to discuss the family papers. The surveying portions of the Blucher Archive was not yet part of the discussion.<sup>18</sup> Although there are no university records that explain Dr. Wooster’s presence during the meeting, Dr. Wooster has said that it made logical sense that a Texas historian be present since the Blucher family had been closely associated with Corpus Christi and the South Texas region since the mid-1880s. Dr. Wooster remembers little of

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<sup>15</sup> Memo from Paul Medley to Richard L O’Keeffe, July 30, 1985, Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>16</sup> Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid; Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).

this December meeting and no documentation of the communications leading up to the meeting between Dr. Kreneck, Dr. Wooster and the Blucher family have survived. Dr. Kreneck, on the other hand “vividly recalls” Dr. Wooster asking Mrs. Blucher during the meeting: “What do we need to do to get these materials for the university?”<sup>19</sup> This bold question leads one to assume that both Drs. Wooster and Kreneck immediately understood the historical value of collecting and preserving the Blucher records. Regarded as an eminent pioneer family of Nueces County surveyors, the von Bluchers’ collection of family papers and surveying records hold enormous historical significance for the history of Texas.

For instance, letters written by Maria von Blucher offer a glimpse into the life of a young German couple who established their home in the new frontier settlement of Corpus Christi, Texas. Describing the hardships of droughts and Native American raids, the mayhem of the American Civil War, and the discomforts of “pioneer living” and helping develop a town that the von Blucher descendants would become a thriving city, these letters paint a vivid picture of everyday life that otherwise might not be accounted for. Meanwhile, the surveying portion that was to be added to the Blucher Archive reveals a pattern of ongoing development of South Texas. Indeed, then Library Director Richard O’Keeffe has argued the surveying maps are “historically and physically interesting because they are among the first survey maps of the [South Texas] area.”<sup>20</sup> The official Blucher Archive which came to house valuable hand-drawn maps as well as other business and personal records spanning several generations caught the attention of university professionals seeking to ensure the collections proper preservation and continued use for future generations.

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<sup>19</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (July 10, 2019); Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).

<sup>20</sup> “Two 100-Year Old Maps of Area donated by Blucher Family,” January 1981, Texas Surveyors Association, Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

## **The Transfer of Blucher Material to a University Commences**

After the initial December 1990 meeting that involved Dodie Blucher, Drs. Kreneck and Wooster, no other records that may have documented subsequent meetings with university personnel and the Blucher family have been found. An interview with Kreneck nonetheless suggests that the Blucher family members were extraordinarily cooperative family members who were willing to hand over their personal family records. Still, discussion and transfer of the surveying portion of what would become the Blucher Archive remained undocumented until their installment at TAMU-CC in the mid-1980s. While the process of decision-making remains opaque, one can imagine that discussions regarding the transfer of the Blucher family papers led to discussions of the Blucher family business: The Blucher Surveying Collection. The transferring of the Blucher Archive to TAMU-CC was a gradual process comprised of several installments. After this initial meeting, former history professor Dr. Joe B. Frantz and TAMU-CC development office and administrator Tom Goad became involved in the ongoing and steady acquisition of the Blucher Archive, “which proved to be massive.”<sup>21</sup> In the coming years, it is the very size of the Blucher Archive that subsequently played a factor in the university’s processing, preservation, and digitization efforts. In 1994, Dr. Kreneck drafted a donor agreement that handed over ownership of the Blucher Archive to TAMU-CC, which included the right and privileges of both the university and the Blucher family. It was signed on December 2, 1996 by the Blucher descendants: Claudia Blucher Harrel, George A. Blucher, Jr., Gloria Blucher Alexander, Mary Julia Blucher Jordan, Willie J. Kosarek, Executor of the Estate of Conrad and Zula Blucher, and Robert R. Furgason, President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

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<sup>21</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (July 10, 2019).

With this agreement, the Blucher Archive's title, and plenary rights of ownership, including copyright and literary rights were transferred to TAMU-CC. As stated:

The purpose of this donor agreement is to formalize and clarify prior understandings/agreements made between the Charles F. H. von Blucher family descendants and representatives of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (formerly Corpus Christi State University) relative to the disposition of the Charles F. H. von Blucher family papers, which have been transferred over the years and are on deposit in the Special Collections and Archives Department of TAMU-CC Library.<sup>22</sup>

The Blucher Archive, which comprised maps, manuscripts, drawings, photographs, surveying records, business records, correspondence, publications, and other documents was now under the direct administration of TAMU-CC. Charged with preserving these records in accordance with accepted archival practices, the Archive Department now housed an extensive collection that they agreed would never be transferred, sold, or traded. Following standard archival practices, the Archive Department would preserve and document the history of the Blucher family by allowing researchers access to and use of these papers under professionally accepted archival supervision. An archive had been made.

If an archive had come into being, its birth was not typical. Customarily, no other documentation is attached to a Donor Agreement provided all necessary information is written within the agreement itself. Most archival collections donated to the Archive Department come all at once. This, however, was not the case for the Blucher Archive. Because of this unusual development, Dr. Kreneck decided to record the installment history of the collection, that is now attached to the 1996 Donor Agreement, under the title: "Acquisition History of the Conrad

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<sup>22</sup> Donor Agreement, December 2, 1996, Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.



Blucher Family Papers including the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection.” This two-page document found within the Blucher Donor Files records the donation and transfer of the Blucher Archive to TAMU-CC as it took place in three significant installments. The first occurred, prior to Kreneck’s employment at the university, during the early and mid-1980s and was “transferred by Mrs. Conrad (Zula) Blucher through President B. Alan Sugg, Vice President Tom Goad, and Library Director Richard L. O’Keeffe.”<sup>23</sup> These approximately twelve document boxes, which contained personal and professional correspondence from the 1910s to the 1950s, field books dating from the mid-1800s, various books and publications, and several maps drawn by Felix A. von Blucher, had come from “Mrs. Blucher’s home and from the Nueces County Surveyor’s Office, where Blucher surveying materials were being housed and maintained” under the direction of Mr. Bill Green.<sup>24</sup> These materials had been “passed down in personal ownership from Felix von Blucher, to Charles F. H. von Blucher, and to Conrad M. Blucher,” given that each family member had occupied the Office of County Surveyor until they reached the hands of Mr. Green.<sup>25</sup> There are no records explaining why these particular documents were the first to be transferred to, then, CCSU.

The second installment of Blucher material arrived at the University following the December 11, 1990 meeting with Dodie Blucher, Dr. Kreneck and Dr. Wooster, and was followed by a letter of intent to donate from Mr. George A. Blucher Jr. on December 21, 1990.<sup>26</sup> In the two years that followed, library personnel transferred the Blucher materials from the Blucher home in Corpus Christi. A portion was even delivered to the university by Mr. and Mrs.

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<sup>23</sup> “Attachment to the Donor Agreement Between the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Descendants and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: Acquisition History of the Charles Blucher Family Papers Including the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> The letter of intent to donate was not found within the Blucher Donor Files. The acquisition history attached to the Donor Agreement mentioned there was a signed letter of intent from the first installment.

Blucher themselves.<sup>27</sup> These materials included approximately “twenty-six cubic feet of materials, including two over-sized documents cases” of a broad range of items “including correspondence, business records, publications, notes, drawings, photographs, and other documents.”<sup>28</sup> From the description of transferred materials authored by Dr. Kreneck, it can be assumed that the bulk of this installment consisted of the family papers, specifically Maria von Blucher’s personal letters.

The final installment consisted of the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection mentioned throughout this thesis as the Blucher Surveying Collection.<sup>29</sup> Before this last donation, the Blucher Surveying Collection had been maintained since 1954 by County Surveyor William. W. Green, when Mr. Green had assumed the office following the retirement of Conrad Blucher, for whom he had worked.<sup>30</sup> The surveying collection contains thousands of maps, several hundred field books, index ledgers, files, and other documents pertaining to land surveying. William J. Kosarek (executor of [the Blucher] estate), Mr. George A. Blucher Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. William. W. Green were credited for the third installment of the Blucher Archive surveying material to the University.<sup>31</sup> Given the sheer size of the newly donated material, the surveying portion of the Blucher Archive was housed in a temporary storage facility at the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science, located on the TAMU-CC campus. That decision was presumably made because, at the time of donation, according to Dr. Kreneck, the Archive

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<sup>27</sup> The Acquisition History does not specify who was the library personal that would help transfer the Blucher materials.

<sup>28</sup> “Attachment to the Donor Agreement Between the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Descendants and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: Acquisition History of the Charles Blucher Family Papers Including the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. The Wm. W. Green Surveying Collection is housed in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library’s Special Collections and Archives Department alongside eight other land surveying collections. For more information on the Green Surveying Collection contact the Special Collections and Archives Department staff and faculty.

<sup>31</sup> “Attachment to the Donor Agreement Between the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Descendants and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: Acquisition History of the Charles Blucher Family Papers Including the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

Department was struggling to acquire storage space within the Bell Library. The haphazard process of collecting the Blucher family material by the university seems to have been motivated by the desire to ensure that the collection was not destroyed. Moving to the current location in the Archive Department, inside the Bell Library, only took place much later, at an undocumented date.

The last installment of the Blucher Surveying Collection was motivated in part because of external circumstances: there was a drive in Texas, at the time, to abolish the Official County Surveyor in Nueces County, and “it was put on the ballot that you would either ‘thumbs up’ or ‘thumbs down’ whether the County Surveyor was going to remain as an elected position which was a watershed.”<sup>32</sup> Although someone who ran for the elected position received more votes for County Surveyor than the resolution to remove the County Surveyors Office, Nueces County voters eliminated the position. With the position gone, county officials were interested in seizing control of the newly available space – space, Kreneck noted wryly “is always a very important priority issue” – and it was unspoken that the Blucher material that Green had cared for since he had taken office needed to be removed. Conversation between Green and TAMU-CC – the Blucher Institute, Kreneck believes paid for the transfer of material – moved the Blucher Surveying Collection out to TAMU-CC where space was found in a “little metal building which stood by the side of CBI.”<sup>33</sup> It was believed to offer adequate space for the time being, but about two years later when that same space was needed by Nick Kraiss, then Director of CBI, Nick Kraiss, for another purpose – which was, again, never officially recorded.

Even though Dr. Kreneck had oversight of the Blucher surveying material, he did not have permission to bring the surveying records to the Mary and Jeff Bell Library: that was a

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<sup>32</sup> Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).

<sup>33</sup> Thomas Kreneck, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (July 11, 2019).

decision the Library Director would have to make. Nevertheless, space was made available on the first floor of the Bell Library for temporary housing until the Archive Department expanded their space in the second floor. Kreneck was unable to recall exact dates of this transaction and the Archives Department seems to have discarded, lost, or misplaced such information. Having moved under closer care of the Archive Department, in terms of distance, Kreneck was ecstatic to have the Blucher Surveying Collection under the same roof as the Blucher Family Papers. In an email however, Kreneck mentioned he felt badly for the library director as the decision for transferring the Blucher had been forced upon him.<sup>34</sup> The choices made in the final installment of Blucher material to TAMU-CC solidify the argument that an archive, as an institutional repository, has external powers constantly shaping decisions and actions of archivists and their assistants.

Although an archivist may have control over the collections they manage, outside actors have the power to decisively affect when and how those collections are managed. Reflecting back, Dr. Wooster has explained that “the irregular process of housing the Blucher Surveying Collection seems to have resulted from the university’s intermittent budget crisis. Undergoing an ambitious transformation from upper-level to comprehensive status amidst a series of economic downturns, the university faced competing demands for scarce dollars.” Regardless of the Blucher Surveying Collection’s historical significance and long-term value, desired funding for an expansion of physical storage was not given priority over other programs.<sup>35</sup>

## **Planning the future of the Blucher Archive**

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<sup>34</sup> Thomas Kreneck, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

<sup>35</sup> Robert Wooster, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

After all the Blucher materials had been donated and transferred to TAMU-CC, Dr. Kreneck began stressing his desire to have the surveying portion digitized to CBI Director Dr. Gary Jeffress. Kreneck was convinced that, both the private and public sphere could benefit greatly if the material was more easily accessible. From the beginning, Kreneck had always been convinced the Blucher Surveying Collection was crucial to South Texas history. Dr. Jeffress concurred, stating that the Blucher materials were actively used by land surveyors and that these historic records have been fundamental in resolving certain land disputes, not specified.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, the migration of these land surveying records into a digital format “is not a value-neutral activity rather one with significant political and ethical consequences.”<sup>37</sup> Echoing Michell Caswell, Mitchell Bowker and Susan Leigh Star, digitization of the Blucher Surveying Collection reminds us that the land surveying records live on while the medium changes. Around 1996, Dr. Kreneck inquired about the possibility of digitizing the collection but was informed that the hardware and software required was too expensive so “[the Archive Department] had to sit on [its] hands and wait.”<sup>38</sup> It was not until fiscal year 2010-2011 that a collaborative digitization project of the Blucher Surveying Collection under the aegis of the Bell Library, CBI, and the Harte Research Institute (HRI) began.<sup>39</sup> Created from a \$46 million endowment, the HRI for Gulf of Mexico Studies at TAMU-CC seeks “science driven solutions for Gulf of Mexico problems in order to advance its long-term sustainable use and conservation.”<sup>40</sup> Dr. Jim Gibeaut, Endowed Chair of HRI requested coastal maps for unspecified research projects, and Dr. Jeffress

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<sup>36</sup> Bryan Gillies, email message to author (November 19, 2019).

<sup>37</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 17.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> “Special Collections and Archives Department: Annual Report, FY 2010-2011,” Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>40</sup> “Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies: Mission and Vision,” accessed October 22, 2019, <https://www.harteresearchinstitute.org/about>.

saw this as an opportunity to begin the digital processing of land records.<sup>41</sup> Several surveys within the Blucher Surveying Collection were of the Gulf of Mexico and surrounding waters, explaining the HRI's interest in digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection.

After years of conversation between Dr. Jeffress and Dr. Kreneck, as well as several meetings discussing procedures and budgeting, the collaborative project between CBI and the Bell Library was officially undertaken in October 2010. The goal was to scan and make available, online materials from the Blucher Surveying Collection.<sup>42</sup> The original partners in the project consisted of, CBI Director Dr. Gary Jeffress, Library Director Christine Shupala, Associate Director of Special Collections and Archives Thomas Kreneck, Endowed Chair for Coastal and Marine Geospatial Sciences at HRI Jim Gibeaut, Research Associate Seneca Holland, and programmer William Nichols.<sup>43</sup> In 2014, registered professional land surveyor Ronal E. Brister introduced the need for processing the Blucher Surveying Collection to the Ed Rachal Foundation. Brister's connection with the Rachal Foundation, and their conversations concerning the funding remained undocumented. With help from Brister, Dr. Jeffress and Assistant Professor in Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Surveying Engineering Dr. Richard Smith, fostered a relationship with the Ed Rachal Foundation.

### **Current Status of the Blucher Archive**

After acquiring the Blucher Archive, namely the Blucher Family Papers, the Archive Department gained minimal amount of physical and intellectual control over them. Then staff and faculty knew something about what the records were and where they were located. However,

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<sup>41</sup> Bryan Gillis, email message to author (November 19, 2019).

<sup>42</sup> "Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC) Digital Archiving Project, Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

the Blucher Family Papers requires more work to make them understandable and usable for researchers. Simply telling a user that there are “approximately twenty-six cubic feet of materials, including two over-sized document cases” or “twelve document boxes of personal and professional correspondence and other documents from the 1910s to the 1950s” is not enough information.<sup>44</sup> Archival standards suggest users should know how the records are organized, where they came from, and how to locate the exact information they need to look at. This work is called *processing*. Processing the Blucher Family Papers gets the material ready for people to use them and helps protect and preserve them.

There are three tasks involved in processing an archival collection of records: arrangement, organizing the records; preservation, taking actions to prevent and slow down deterioration of the records; and description, creating tools to help users locate what they need from the collection. Arrangement is the process of organizing records to reveal their content and significance. It involves figuring out how the Blucher family filed the records when they used them and then restoring that order if it has been disturbed. When arranging the Blucher Family Papers, the Archive Department must remain aware of two fundamental principles: provenance and original order. Provenance, simply defined means that “the archives of a given records creator must not be intermingled with those of other records creators.”<sup>45</sup> In keeping with the idea of provenance, archivists try to keep the original filing structure of the records. This is called the “original order” of the collection. The Blucher Family Papers, containing personal papers and photographs, ought to be filed chronologically, which, as of now they are not.

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<sup>44</sup> “Attachment to the Donor Agreement Between the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Descendants and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: Acquisition History of the Charles Blucher Family Papers Including the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>45</sup> Ann E. Hodges and Brenda S. McClurkin, *Archives and Manuscripts Processing Manual*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Arlington, TX: University of Texas Arlington, 2011), 1.

While provenance and original order are the principles upon which arrangement and description occur, when it is time to think about the actual work of arranging the Blucher Archive, *collections* and *series* are vital concepts to understand. In archival work, a “collection” is a group of records that have the same creator and are related to each other.<sup>46</sup> Larger collections, such as the Blucher Archive, consists of two “series:” the Family Papers and the Blucher Surveying Collection. A record series is “group of series that logically belong together, are filed and maintained together, and are created to serve the same function.”<sup>47</sup> Physical work of implementing arrangement of the Blucher family papers began under the guidance of past Archives Department Director Thomas Kreneck, and past staff member Audrey Flores. The Blucher Family Papers, while relatively organized, require more processing and preservation. Processing the Blucher Family Papers is a daunting, time-consuming, expensive task that the Archive Department has been charged with undertaking.

The work of an archivist, in addition to resources and outside entities weigh heavily on what the life of an archive will look like. From its initial transfer to the university’s repository, to its processing and preservation, to its digitization by the Conrad Blucher Institute funded temporarily by the Rachal Foundation, the Blucher Surveying Collection has been figured and reconfigured by a host of university faculty and staff, private individuals, and organizations.<sup>48</sup> Each of these “archivization” moments of the Blucher Surveying Collection is “pregnant with power – power to determine [what] constitutes legitimate historical evidence, the power to claim physical and intellectual custody of the records, and the power to claim physical will to deem them objects of [institutional and state] attention.”<sup>49</sup> The life of the Blucher Archive is

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<sup>46</sup> Hodges and McClurkin, *Archives and Manuscripts Processing Manual*, 1.

<sup>47</sup> Hodges and McClurkin, *Archives and Manuscripts Processing Manual*, 2.

<sup>48</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 62.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.



nevertheless far from over. The assembly of the Blucher Archive constitutes TAMU-CC's effort to establish facts about the Blucher family and South Texas land development, evidence that can be used in a variety of ways, as addressed going forward.

Although CBI continues to process hundreds of field books and job files from the Blucher Surveying Collection despite the Rachal Foundation's decision to cease funding, certain aspects of the Blucher Archive nonetheless still remain silenced. If we recall Kreneck's comment regarding the role of money and resources to allow an archive to emerge and thrive, the family papers have not benefited from the same financial resources as the surveying portion. They, too, are silenced. During her tenure from 2014 to 2017, former Director of Special Collections and Archives, Ms. Hodges had explained that the Archives Department did not have the staff time to process the Blucher Family Papers.<sup>50</sup> They were not at the top of the department's priority list of collections to process. The reasons for that have not been disclosed. One possible explanation may be Dr. Jim Gibeaut's need for coastal maps for research rather than the Blucher family records. There was direct need for the processing and digitization of the Blucher Surveying Collection, not the Blucher Family Papers. In Ms. Hodges' mind, the papers were nonetheless next on the list of archival materials for which processing resources needed to be found.

A larger processing project, of which the Blucher Family Papers would have surely become part, requires time and energy to focus on it, or else "it will progress glacially."<sup>51</sup> According to Hodges, this was the exact challenge, like Kreneck before her with an even smaller staff, she was facing.<sup>52</sup> Even if, under the direction of Kreneck, the Archive Department had attempted to process the Blucher Family Papers, their efforts inevitably fell short: the Blucher Archive is simply too massive to process without proper staffing and funding. Within any

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<sup>50</sup> Ann Hodges, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

archive department, choices and circumstances weigh heavily on which records survive and are made available. Although the collaborative project continues to make thousands of land records digitally available, the Blucher Family Papers remain silenced as the material remains unprocessed and undigitized. Despite a researcher's ability to request access to the family papers, the material as it stands, fails to meet proper archival practices, of processing, preserving and digitizing.

### CHAPTER THREE: THE POLITICS OF ARCHIVING

Members of the Archive Department at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, like the majority of workers in professional archives, understand “the power of the printed and written word... they recognize the need to police the documents that enter and leave the archive, and control them once they have been admitted.”<sup>1</sup> After legally transferring the Blucher Archive, the next step in the accessioning process was to establish physical and intellectual control over the records. Dr. Kreneck was responsible for reviewing the collection and creating proper documentation that the Archive Department could rely on to know what was acquired and where it was stored. Throughout this process and period, politics at the university played a vital role in the accessioning process, influencing issues such as finding proper storage for an archival collection of this size. Historical actors outside the Archive Department had a certain amount of input concerning the daily life of the Archive Department and the decisions the department could, or could not make. In addition to debates concerning an adequate home for the Blucher Archive, conflicts of resources quickly arose as processing and preservation efforts were discussed amongst the Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) and the Bell Library’s Archive Department.

Following its’ donation to the university an accession file containing a detailed inventory of the Blucher Archive would normally have been created and kept in the Archive Department donor files. Arranged alphabetically by last name, donor files include contact information and correspondence. Donor files also contain transfer documentation for such collections, including the Blucher Archive. Documenting a collection – where they came from, what they are, where they are, what it contains – is vital to managing and processing historical records collections.

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<sup>1</sup> Craig Robertson, “Mechanisms of Exclusion: Historicizing the Archive and the Passport,” in *Archive Stories: Facts, Fiction, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 68.

However, while conducting my research within the donor files I was unable to locate an accession file for the Blucher Archive, illustrating the chaotic nature of the transfer of Blucher material to TAMU-CC and the limited resources initially assigned to it, despite Kreneck's realization that the Blucher Archive mattered. This may, in part, be explained by the fact that managing the Blucher Archive was always a daunting task because of its size that required staff, resources, and time. However, as years went by, while staff changed, separate collections were added to the Archive Department thereby stretching ever-thinner the Archive Department's capacity to focus on it.

This chapter therefore offers both a reflection on my archive story while focusing on those who manage the Blucher Archive, specifically the Blucher Surveying Collection. As Durba Gosh insists, "a historian's archive [story reflects] the process by which historical knowledge is gathered, narrated, and represented."<sup>2</sup> My involvement with the collaborative digitization project currently underway as a joint effort between CBI and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library to digitize the Blucher Surveying Collection has shaped this thesis, as have, archival conditions relating to funding and resources. My archive story poses a challenge to claims of objectivity associated with the traditional archive.<sup>3</sup> Through "ethnography of the archive" and conducting interviews with archivists, librarians and other scholars, this chapter explores the political investments that the TAMU-CC Archive Department and its "archive dwellers" maintain.<sup>4</sup> Throughout the past decade, the Archive Department at TAMU-CC has increasingly become politically invested in the Blucher Archive, specifically the collaborative digitization project to which both the Bell

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<sup>2</sup> Durba Gosh, "National Narratives and the Politics of Miscegenation: Britain and India," in *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 27.

<sup>3</sup> Antoinette Burton, eds. *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 6.

<sup>4</sup> Gosh, "National Narratives and the Politics of Miscegenation: Britain and India," 28; Burton, eds. *Archive Stories*.

Library and CBI are similarly devoted. This project is a joint effort between the Archive Department and CBI to digitize the Blucher Surveying Collection, in addition to several other surveying collections currently housed in the Archive Department first initiated in 1978. CBI has been tasked with the responsibility for the digitization aspect while the Archive Department has overseen the processing and preservation that must take place before CBI can digitize any of the surveying collection materials. The greatest challenge in writing this section will be in telling the reality about the politics of archiving the Blucher Surveying Collection, as official records and documentation regarding the collaborative project no longer exist within the files of the Archive Department and my personal experience has rendered a completely objective analysis.

### **The Collaborative Project's Evolution**

The idea of digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection first came about from discussions between CBI Director Dr. Gary Jeffress and Archives Department Director Dr. Kreneck around 1996 as they began anticipating when “such an effort would become economically feasible.”<sup>5</sup> From the beginning, digitization was envisaged as a way of shaping and taking care of the Blucher Surveying Collection. Both Jeffress and Kreneck understood that, since it contained thousands of land surveying materials, the Blucher Surveying Collection would require a great deal of funding in addition to proper staffing. Several years passed before Dr. Jeffress met with Seneca Holland, then Instructor of Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Surveying Engineering, and William Nichols, Software Applications Developer II for the Harte Research Institute (HRI), in March 2010 to discuss the possibility of starting the joint project. At this

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<sup>5</sup> “The Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Papers: Archival Processing and Select Digitizing Project,” Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

meeting, it was decided that Dr. Kreneck's presence was needed.<sup>6</sup> After a series of meetings with Dr. Jeffress, Kreneck, Seneca Holland and William Nichols, the HRI and CBI purchased two scanners that would aid in the digitization aspect, and the hiring of proper staffing began.<sup>7</sup>

After purchasing proper equipment for digitization, initial work began under the direction of Dr. Kreneck, with help from former staff member Audrey Flores who was hired with joint CBI and Bell Library funds on October 1, 2010 to focus only on this project.<sup>8</sup> Detailed information regarding this funding no longer exists. Annual and monthly reports found within the Donor Files offer only a brief overview of the work Ms. Flores started. To test the effectiveness of digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection, she started with the Blucher indexes. Once completed properly and professionally, online access to the Blucher Surveying Collection would be made possible, to "specifically by scholarly and lay historians, archeologists, cultural resource managers, and the professional surveying community."<sup>9</sup> It would also make georeferenced maps searchable through the Texas Digital Library and decrease the wear and tear that normally afflicts the physical collections. Methods and scanning protocols were also created by Dr. Kreneck, these were heavily altered by Kreneck's predecessor Ann Hodges and myself in 2018.

Changes in scanning protocols, as well as processing procedures stem from Dr. Kreneck and Hodges coming from different academic backgrounds. While Hodges hold a Masters in Archival Studies, Dr. Kreneck holds a Ph.D. in History. The different academic degrees, presumably played a role in the change in processes and procedures for the collaborative project. Although Kreneck was a Charter Member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, and "has been

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<sup>6</sup> "Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC) Digital Archiving Project," Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> There are no records indicating the exact amount of funds that were allotted to Audrey Flores for this project.

<sup>9</sup> "Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC) Digital Archiving Project," Kreneck Personal Files.

a professional archivist historian for over forty years and currently does consulting work on archival and curatorial matters,” he had a different vision for processing the Blucher Surveying Collection than trained archivist Hodges did.<sup>10</sup> Kreneck was more concerned with preservation and digitization of the surveying documents, than he was with the arrangement and processing aspect<sup>11</sup> After Hodges joined the Archive Department as Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, August 2, 2014, she accelerated the pace of work with the assistance from Spatial Query Lab Coordinator at CBI Bryan Gillis and his team of student works and in collaboration with the Archive Department staff and students, myself included. Together, we devised a more streamlined plan to process the Blucher Surveying Collection. Improvements in the storage of and access to the maps and accompanying documents were also undertaken. All these initiatives were made possible thanks to funding from the Ed Rachal Foundation.<sup>12</sup>

### **The Game Changer**

As Dr. Kreneck had assessed, “what stood in the way of moving faster [with processing, preserving, and digitizing the Blucher Archive was budget. Money, money, money.”<sup>13</sup> Finding funding for a project can be rather extensive. Former Director of Special Collections and Archives, Ann Hodges, commented that it all begins with a “compelling appeal to an appropriate funder and the good fortune to engage a funder’s interest.”<sup>14</sup> The Blucher Surveying Collection was fortunate enough to capture the attention of the Rachal Foundation, even if it was not a permanent solution. Unfortunately, an interview with Cate Rudowsky, Dean of Libraries at

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<sup>10</sup> Thomas Kreneck, “Autobiography,” Thomas Kreneck Personal Files.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Kreneck, interview by author (July 11, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> Information regarding the procedures are located in the appendices.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ann Hodges, email message to author (October 21, 2019).

TAMU-CC, revealed that the current funding model has changed meaning the collaborative project is no longer funded by the Ed Rachal Foundation.<sup>15</sup>

Native Texan, rancher and cattleman, Ed Rachal, Jr. believed deeply in education, and it was his “combination of commitments to education and youth” that led to the establishment of the Ed Rachal Foundation on July 29, 1965.<sup>16</sup> The mission of the nonprofit Ed Rachal Foundation was established by his last will and testament:

I devise and bequeath the rest and residue of my estate of every kind and wheresoever situated real, personal and mixed, to such corporation to be used exclusively for the benefit of charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the State of Texas.<sup>17</sup>

Presumptively, the processing and digitization of the Blucher Surveying Collection fell logically within the Rachal Foundation purview. The collaborative project to digitize thousands of South Texas surveying records is both scientific and educational in nature. Like all nonprofits, the Rachal Foundation must disclose their revenue and expenses at the end of the year in 990 tax forms. Most of the foundations revenues from oil and gas royalties. Its revenues in 2018, the most updated record found, totaled \$10.7 million, and its total market value was \$530.7 million.<sup>18</sup> That year the Rachal Foundation gave \$15 million in gifts, contributions and grants to a variety of organizations and charities, including local schools, scholarship programs and health organizations. Texas Children’s Hospital, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, the Port Aransas Education Foundation and the Louise Allen Foundation are among the Rachal Foundations largest recipients.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Catherine Rudowsky, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (September 12, 2019).

<sup>16</sup> “About Ed Rachal,” Ed Rachal Foundation, accessed October 22, 2019, <https://www.edrachal.org/about-us/>.

<sup>17</sup> “Our Mission,” Ed Rachal Foundation, accessed October 22, 2019, <https://www.edrachal.org>.

<sup>18</sup> “Ed Rachal Foundation 990, 2018,” ProPublica, accessed November 24, 2019, [https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display\\_990/741116595/05\\_2019\\_prefixes\\_72-74%2F741116595\\_201808\\_990PF\\_2019051416299798](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display_990/741116595/05_2019_prefixes_72-74%2F741116595_201808_990PF_2019051416299798).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.



The Rachal Foundation accepts applications for grants, for funding that be “used exclusively for the benefit of charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the State of Texas.”<sup>20</sup> Thus, the Archive Department, at an undocumented date, applied to the Ed Rachal Foundation for a grant and was selected. Approval process followed after an Ed Rachal Foundation Board meeting, and the Archive Department was notified with a Grant Agreement, to be signed by an “authorized official and returned to the Foundation’s office.”<sup>21</sup> No records were found within the Archive Department indicating who the “authorized official” was to sign the grant agreement. The unsigned and undated version of the grant application, attached to an email from current Director of Special Collections and Archive Lori Atkins, displays the Archive Departments’ request for \$112,00 as support for the ongoing map digitization project between CBI and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. In addition to digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection, it is necessary to protect the maps in their original state “as a means of preserving their historical significance in a format that is not dependent upon proprietary technology.”<sup>22</sup> Improvements in the storage of the maps and accompanying documents, and in the access available to them, were also made. Divided into three portions, \$60,000 was designated for proper map storage compartments, \$20,000 estimated for supplies, including acid-free rolled map tubes, mylar, etc., and the remaining \$32,000 to provide salary and benefits to a Graduate Assistant for two years

Overtime, the collaborative digitization project evolved from its improvisational beginnings into a precedent-setting effort armed with several staff over different university departments and institutes, state-of-the-art technology, and financial support from the Ed Rachal Foundation. In 2019, the public now has online access to thousands of historical and legally

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<sup>20</sup> “Grant Guidelines,” Ed Rachal Foundation, accessed October 22, 2019, <https://www.edrachal.org>

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Lori Atkins, email message to author (October 29, 2019).

significant land surveying records. In fact, according to CBI Director of the Spatial Query Lab Gillis, the project involved both CBI and the Archives Department and became much more than a partnership, “[it is a blending of professions... [and] I am most proud of how we have torn down so many walls, literally and figuratively, to accomplish some great interdisciplinary work.”<sup>23</sup> Indeed, professional surveyors from across the state of Texas, as well as local community members, joined CBI and library staff and faculty to celebrate the cataloging of the 100,000<sup>th</sup> document, a map, on July 13, 2018. After a brief introduction from project managers, “Ronald E. Brister, registered professional land surveyor and original champion of the project, had the honor of ceremoniously cataloging the map.”<sup>24</sup> Dean of Libraries Catherine Rudowsky concurred with Gillis’ assessment and explained that “we have important history in our archives, and it should not only be accessible to a few elite people who know about it. It needs to be discoverable and available to everyone... ensuring equal and unbarred access to information and our history is an ultimate responsibility of libraries, and this project provides that.”<sup>25</sup> Providing such access, however, does not come without cost. How did the project reach such importance? How long could this momentum last? What were some of the cost factors involved in ensuring the project’s success?

Prior to the Rachal Foundation’s involvement, Gillis explained that the transfer and digitization of records had not envisioned scanning the entire Blucher Surveying Collection. At the time, the Harte Institute was only interested in identifying and scanning maps within the Blucher Surveying Collection that had coasts.<sup>26</sup> Upon its involvement, the Rachal Foundation officials discussed with CBI staff the question of what exactly would be digitized: the foundation

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<sup>23</sup> “Conrad Blucher Institute and Bell Library Celebrate 100K Historical Documents Cataloged,” accessed October 24, 2019, [https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318\\_CBI\\_100K\\_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgDU](https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318_CBI_100K_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgDU).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

wanted to ensure that CBI could “complete everything:” meaning the Rachal Foundation encouraged the digitization of all surveying collections found within the Archive Department. Since the Blucher Surveying Collection was “going to be by far the largest, nothing else would compare in size,” CBI figured they ought to finish digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection, and anything that followed could get finished quickly.<sup>27</sup> Gillis admits, however, that while it was always CBI’s intention to scan, digitize, and properly archive all surveying collections within the Archive Department they had not realized how much there actually was going to be. At the time of my interview with Gillis, on April 30, 2019, the Rachal Foundation was still supporting and funding that effort. Meanwhile, Gillis commented that:

If we ever did lose [the Ed Rachal Foundation] monetary support, we would immediately be trying to find other resources to continue this effort. CBI would definitely come in the interim to cover us because this is Texas surveying history and it matters deeply to archivists, and the Blucher Institute as well, as an institution founded on the principles of surveying and providing information to the public.<sup>28</sup>

Unfortunately, during an interview with Catherine Rudowsky, Dean of Libraries at TAMU-CC on September 12, 2019, I was informed that the funding model had changed. The Rachal Foundation no longer funded the collaborative digitization project as of June 2019, although the foundation encouraged CBI and the Bell Library to reapply in September 2019. From an email November 19, 2019, Bryan Gillis admitted neither CBI or the Bell Library has chosen to follow suit, for undisclosed reasons.<sup>29</sup> The project would continue, Dean Rudowsky assured me, only now the Bell Library, the Archive Department and CBI might have to “scale a little differently” the output of maps being processed and digitized because funding has changed.<sup>30</sup> CBI continues

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<sup>27</sup> “Conrad Blucher Institute and Bell Library Celebrate 100K Historical Documents Cataloged,” accessed October 24, 2019, [https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318\\_CBI\\_100K\\_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgdU](https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318_CBI_100K_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgdU).

<sup>28</sup> Bryan Gillis, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (April 30, 2019).

<sup>29</sup> Bryan Gillis, email message to author (November 19, 2019).

<sup>30</sup> Catherine Rudowsky, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (September 12, 2019); Catherine Rudowsky, email message to author (March 13, 2019).

to process the Blucher field books and job files, while the scanning and digitization of the Blucher maps stopped as a result of the Rachal Foundation's decision to no longer fund the collaborative project. Although the foundations decision to cease funding was not disclosed, speculations can be made. In recent years, beginning in 2018, the Rachal Foundation has become heavily invested in purchasing property throughout Corpus Christi, Texas for various reasons. In April 2018, the foundation bought a "6,900-square-foot, five-bedroom home... for \$2.5 million."<sup>31</sup> A news report claims the foundation intends to replace the home with high-end townhomes. The following year, the Rachal Foundation purchased the former Mount-Carmel assisted-living home and the land it sits on.<sup>32</sup> Other property purchases include that of the downtown Frost Bank Building. The foundations heightened interest in property may offer an explanation why the collaborative project, digitizing thousands of land records, was not granted continued funding. The Rachal Foundation's purview has shifted.

### **My Archive Story**

An Archive Department like that at TAMU-CC is in the business of ensuring that historical records are collected, identified, organized, preserved, and made available for use. Although the archive departments may vary widely in size of collection, scope of activities, and funding, a shared mission would be to preserve and make available historical records. Following Dr. Kreneck's retirement from the university, Ann Hodges, newly appointed Director of the Archive Department, having formal training and experience in the management of historical

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Unfortunately, Jaime Nodarse, Acting Vice President of Institutional Advancement at TAMU-CC, and point of contact for the Ed Rachal Foundation, explained that she was not comfortable in weighing in on academic projects

<sup>31</sup> Chris Ramirez, "A closer look at the Ed Rachal Foundation, the new owner of Corpus Christi's 'Castle House.'" *Corpus Christi Caller Times*, April 15, 2018.

<sup>32</sup> Chris Ramirez, "Nonprofit Ed Rachal Foundation buys Mount Carmel property," *Corpus Christi Caller Times*, April 24, 2019.

records, was charged with developing and maintain physical and intellectual control over TAMU-CC's Archive Departments historical records, following Dr. Kreneck's retirement from the university. Unfortunately, processing the Blucher Surveying Collection was too lofty of a task for a single person. To process a collection, means getting records ready for people to use them. The first step involved in processing an archival collection of records is to arrange and organize the records. Then, action is taken to prevent (or at least slow down) deterioration of the records. Preservation ensures the safety and security of the records at all times as arrangements are made to make them accessible for research and educational purposes. Creating tools to help users locate what they need, by creating descriptions is the final step in processing. When I joined the Archive Department, as Library Specialist II, the collaborative project was well underway, but it was not running as smoothly as Ms. Hodges and Mr. Gillis had hoped. I served as liaison with CBI. During several meetings with Ms. Hodges, we developed two separate, lengthy, and detail-orientated processing plans: one for the Blucher maps and one for the Blucher job files. I aided researchers on-site and remotely; examined collection materials and recorded information about them in ArchiveSpace, a web based archives information management system; digitized materials requested by researchers on a weekly basis; supported departmental outreach by participating in the Archive Department's History Harvest; and conducted appropriate preservation treatments for collections. Nearly all my time, however, was spent planning and monitoring the work activity and output of the Blucher Surveying Collection from the Archive Department to CBI for digitization. Fearing that continued funding was not guaranteed, the Archive Department, myself included, moved quickly to process and digitize as many surveying records as possible. I developed and implemented procedures for processing and preparing for digitization several of the Blucher Surveying Collection materials: most important were the

rolled maps. Materials also included, the collection's accompanying job files, survey notes, and field books. Job files contain various materials that are particular to a specific job that a land surveyor was tasked with. Materials found within a job file can range from correspondence between a surveyor and client to field notes that the surveyor made while surveying the requested land. When necessary I conducted appropriate preservation treatments for the Blucher Surveying Collection materials, such as humidification, flattening of oversized documents, and encapsulation.

CBI did not have input on how the Archive Department created these procedures. According to CBI's Spatial Query Lab Coordinator, Gillis, only when I joined the project and acted as liaison did both CBI and the Archive Department realized that there were problems with proper processing, digitizing, and handling of the Blucher Surveying Collection. It was clear that only better communication between the two departments would help alleviate these minor problems. Gillis admits that CBI did not realize how much library science and archival standards were crucial and shaped what they were doing in their lab.<sup>33</sup> One particular challenge for the Archive Department was keeping CBI supplied with content to digitize. It typically takes an Archive Department longer to organize surveying materials and create metadata than it does to scan the historical records themselves. In order to facilitate the process and remedy to this discrepancy, keeping CBI's fast turn-over of documents being scanned, it became clear that more staff was needed. At one point during my employment, I emailed Gillis asking to borrow one of his students a few times a week to keep up with their demand. With funding from the Rachal Foundation, I was able to hire a part-time TAMU-CC student worker. Although an additional pair of hands helping in the archive was greatly appreciated, the size of the project nonetheless required more than what was readily available in terms of resources. All told, streamlining the

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<sup>33</sup> Bryan Gillis, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (September 19, 2019).

processing aspect of the collaborative project came second to finding proper funding to ensure the project's continuity.

While the Archive Department was focused on developing proper processing procedures for handling their surveying collections, including the Blucher Surveying Collection, Gillis had been constructing a modern digital land record system, known as BandoCat.<sup>34</sup> Gillis imagined BandoCat to “replace the necessity of paper indexes tracking physical records at various locations... paving the way for the digital accessibility of land records, [essentially] improving access to land information.”<sup>35</sup> The digitization of the Blucher Surveying Collection proved instrumental in the development of BandoCat. The collaborative project, explained Gillis, showed “that including library [science] at the inception of a digital land record system [improved] the overall functionality and sustainability” BandoCat.<sup>36</sup> During several meetings with myself, Gillis and Hodges, CBI and the Archive Department established best-practices and set archival standards, allowing for a single system to service historic and current land records.<sup>37</sup> Initially, BandoCat was intended as a cataloging tool allowing “the generation of metadata for maps within the Blucher Surveying Collection.”<sup>38</sup> Today, BandoCat can catalog, compile, transcribe, query, and publish scanned land records into what Gillis regards as a “digital land record system of historical survey data concerning South Texas.”<sup>39</sup>

Meanwhile, Dr. Sanos' Historiography class led me to consider “what it means to be cognizant of [the archive] horizon, wary of its distortions, skeptical of its truth claims and critical

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<sup>34</sup> Bryan Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System” (Masters Thesis, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2019), 4.

<sup>35</sup> Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System,” 17.

<sup>36</sup> Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System,” 27.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System,” 28.

of its collaboration with state apparatuses.”<sup>40</sup> Perhaps it was then when I created my own *archive fever*. Not Derrida’s *archive fever* to find and possess all sorts of beginnings in an archive, but rather the frustration of wanting to do more than resources allowed.<sup>41</sup> In short, the “problems and frustrations archival [work] always promises and tends to deliver more efficiently than any requested documents.”<sup>42</sup> Increasingly, I sought not only to critically analyze the Blucher Archive and its history, but to study the institutional repository charged with the collections safekeeping and processing. A closer look at the collaborative project offers a compelling insight into the role politics play in the development both of an archive and that archive’s accessibility.<sup>43</sup>

### **The Fate of The Blucher Archive**

CBI and the Archive Department have only scratched the surface of processing, preserving and digitizing the Blucher Surveying Collection. A February 18, 2019, status report reveals that 24,408 Blucher job files have already been scanned and cataloged. Approximately 9,000 more files have been scanned and are awaiting cataloging, and another approximately 8,000 files are still to be scanned. Most notable in the latter category were job folders containing data collected by the von Bluchers and their surveying team to produce reports and maps. To a land surveyor, “these job files are the key to understanding the intent of the original surveyor.”<sup>44</sup> In addition to eight other surveying collections – Dan E. Kilgore, French, Fenner/Penny, Hayes Dix, King, Stayton, Nueces Topographies, William Green, and Brashear – there are thousands of

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<sup>40</sup> Craig Robertson, “Mechanisms of Exclusion: Historicizing the Archive and the Passport,” 70.

<sup>41</sup> Carolyn Steedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002), 5.

<sup>42</sup> Robertson, “Mechanisms of Exclusion: Historicizing the Archive and the Passport,” 77; Jacques Derrida, “Archive Fever” in *The Archive*, edited by Charles Merewether (Cambridge, MA: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2006), 76-79.

<sup>43</sup> Tony Ballantyne, “Mr. Peal’s Archive: Mobility and Exchange in Histories of Empire,” in *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 98.

<sup>44</sup> Map Collection Scanning Project: February 18, 2019 Status Report,” Bryan Gillis Personal Files.



land records within the Blucher Surveying Collection to make accessible, and CBI even planned on expanding the collaborative project to include preserving other public historical documents.

When the Rachal Foundation was still funding the collaborative project, CBI also reported they completed the scanning, cataloging, and georectification processes of 3,708 maps from the Fenner/Penny surveying collection.<sup>45</sup> Gillis explained that, “the people of South Texas have been, and still are, susceptible to loss of their land based on whether or not original documents can be produced,” he continued, “helping the public gain easy access to land information that is rightfully theirs is how I, as a member of the surveying community, hope to protect them.”<sup>46</sup> The momentum of this project has slowed dramatically after funding from the Rachal Foundation ceased as of June 2019, yet the determination to continue this project on the part both CBI and the Archive Department remained steady. According to Dr. Rudowsky, the Bell Library, the Archive Department and CBI are still committed to making this project a priority: “it is a large collection, so it is going to take either time or money, or both so it is a matter now of figuring out where does it fall in the priorities and when will the Archive Department have the resources.”<sup>47</sup>

Private funding played a crucial role in the life of the Blucher Surveying Collection. Processing the Blucher Archive is a political act that involves several historical actors with different agendas and resources. Limited in its own, the Archive Department at TAMU-CC renders some of its control over to outside entities willing to fund specific projects. Mr. Gillis admitted that we are “restricted to who are financial supports are.”<sup>48</sup> Even though Mr. Gillis has

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<sup>45</sup> For more information on the Fenner/Penny Surveying Collection, visit the TAMU-CC Bell Library’s Archive Department.

<sup>46</sup> “Conrad Blucher Institute and Bell Library Celebrate 100K Historical Documents Cataloged,” accessed October 24, 2019, [https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318\\_CBI\\_100K\\_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgdU](https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/07/071318_CBI_100K_Milestone.html#.XbHwuehKgdU).

<sup>47</sup> Catherine Rudowsky, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (September 12, 2019).

<sup>48</sup> Bryan Gillis, interview by author, Corpus Christi, TX (May 1, 2019).

several plans for projects he would like to work on, he is “limited to exactly what [his] sponsors want him to do: [his] hands are tied there.”<sup>49</sup> The Rachal Foundation not only funded the staffing of several student workers but also enabled the Bell Library to expand its Archive Department, allowing them to open an Archives Workroom where much of the processing and preserving of the Blucher Surveying Collection took place. So long as CBI and the Archive Department do not lose sight of their original goals of processing, preserving, and digitizing the entire Blucher Surveying Collection, the Blucher Archive may only be silenced temporarily. At the moment of fact retrieval, given the current processed status of the Blucher Surveying Collection the ease and access is much more user-friendly thanks in-part to the dedicated hands of staff and faculty at CBI and the Archive Department, the university’s eventual decision to expand the Archive Department, and the Rachal Foundation whose monetary donations dramatically improved the capabilities of the university departments involved.

Bound by the importance of their political, social, and professional roles to provide full and accurate representation “of the general nature and content of their collections,” the Archive Department faculty and staff at TAMU-CC have found themselves at the mercy of those with power over the archives, such as the Rachal Foundation.<sup>50</sup> The Blucher Archives appraisal, acquisition, preservation and access has as had important political as well as historical implications. Politically speaking, the Blucher Archive undoubtedly altered the Archive Department and CBI’s agenda. Without the Blucher Surveying Collection, and the HRI’s original request to digitize surveys depicting the Gulf of Mexico, one might speculate a collaborative digitization project bringing together two distinctive departments at TAMU-CC

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Francis Blouin and William G. Rosenberg, *Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2011), 162.

would not have commenced. What is more, the Archive Department's interest in applying to the Rachal Foundation for a grant would not stand.

The historical ramifications for acquiring the Blucher Archive has allotted TAMU-CC to house one of South Texas' largest surveying collection. Historian Patrick Joyce, argues "that the archive is not politically neutral and that historians' engagement with it is also therefore political."<sup>51</sup> TAMU-CC, for many reasons still unknown due too poor record retention requested the donation of the Blucher Archive, and has since worked diligently to ensure that this collection – above others – is processed, preserved and digitized. The decisions made thus far involving the Blucher Archive is far from neutral. The collaborative digitization project stemmed from the Harte Research Institute's interest in specific surveys. The Conrad Blucher Institute was focused on offering the public digital access to the Blucher Surveying Collection, while the Archive Department concerned itself with preservation and processing of the archival material. The Archive Department's decision to allot necessary staffing and time to the Blucher Surveying Collection rendered other collections within the department, for the time being, less of a priority. The Ed Rachal Foundation temporarily funded the collaborative project being that it fell logically within the foundation's purview. We can certainly agree with Joyce in terms of the archive's political neutrality.

The collaborative project, itself, has created silences at the moment of fact retrieval: the third instance Trouillot claims silences enter the historical production. Meaning, preservation efforts have continuously participated in the life and silences of the Blucher Archive. Archivists, students and surveyors, in conjunction with the Rachal Foundation have contributed to the ever-evolving Blucher Archive meaning and its' silences Decisions made by each historical actor has made lasting connotations for the Blucher Surveying Collection. The Archive Department's

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<sup>51</sup> Blouin and Rosenberg, *Processing the Past*, 163.

choice to process the surveying material affected the processing status of the Blucher family papers. Further, CBI's desire to digitize the Blucher Surveying Collection has resulted in the construction of a digital land record system known as BandoCat.<sup>52</sup> The Blucher Archive, as Antoinette Burton would put, is "figured."<sup>53</sup> That is, the Blucher Archive has numerous dynamic relationships, "not just to the past and the present," but to the fate of the institutional repository housing it, the "serendipity of bureaucrats," and the care and neglect of archivists.<sup>54</sup> All things considered, the Blucher Archive, and the accomplishments of the collaborative digitization project of the Blucher Surveying Collection is the outcome of political process.<sup>55</sup>

Institutionally, TAMU-CC decided not to fully fund digitization of the Blucher Archive. University documents, such as the Momentum 2020 Plan, offer some insights into the university's perceived mission which helps explain its decision to hold off on funding the processing of the Blucher Archive. Former President and Chief Executive Officer of TAMU-CC, Flavius C. Killebrew (2005-2016), defined "Momentum 2020" as a "new strategic plan... [to] become an emerging research university with unparalleled commitment to every student's success, closing gaps in achievement, and delivering a robust campus experience."<sup>56</sup> Classification as an emerging research university depends largely on the amount of research funding in the sciences, the number of doctoral graduates, and the size of endowment. In a more general sense, Dr. Killebrew explained how TAMU-CC was transforming "from being primarily a teaching institution to one for which research is equally important."<sup>57</sup> Significantly, however, Killebrew sought to emphasize research for sciences, rather than the humanities. Understandably,

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<sup>52</sup> Bryan Gillis, "Constructing a Digital Land Record System" (Masters Thesis, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2019).

<sup>53</sup> Antoinette Burton, ed. *Archive Stories, Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, 6.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ballantyne, "Mr. Peal's Archive: Mobility and Exchange in Histories of Empire," 103.

<sup>56</sup> "Momentum 20/20 Strategic Plan," accessed November 11, 2019, [https://issuu.com/tamucc/docs/momentum\\_20\\_20\\_strategic\\_plan](https://issuu.com/tamucc/docs/momentum_20_20_strategic_plan).

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

official mission statements from the university do not necessarily, immediately, or transparently translate into support for the archive. “Momentum 2020” listed seven major goals for TAMU-CC: “enrollment and student success; learning; research, scholarship and creative activity; community engagement; campus climate; learning and information resources; and university resources and accountability.”<sup>58</sup> Funding for archival projects or the Bell Library did not seem to fit within those lofty goals. Perhaps not surprisingly, there was no mention of continued expansion of the Archive Department, or of developing a beneficial relationship with the Ed Rachal Foundation. Ironically, other community stakeholders, such as Del Mar College, local area school districts, and the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center were mentioned.<sup>59</sup>

Current President, and Chief Executive Officer Kelly Miller Quintanilla, in her “President Welcome” echoes the goals from Dr. Killebrew’s “Momentum 2020.”<sup>60</sup> Driven by unwavering commitment to student success, the faculty and staff at TAMU-CC maintain academic programs promoting the importance of “developing knowledge and building leadership skills.”<sup>61</sup> Dr. Quintanilla ends with stating the “future success of Texas is dependent on access to higher education for our minority populations. As a Hispanic-serving institution, we take this responsibility very seriously.”<sup>62</sup> In sum, current university interests, and that of the University President Dr. Quintanilla, allude to reasons why the university, for now, is not fully funding the continued processing and digitization of the Blucher Archive. Other goals and aspirations overtrumped the ambitions of the staff and faculty of the Archive Department, and CBI.

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> “President Welcome,” Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, accessed November 11, 2019, <https://www.tamucc.edu/about/president/>.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

Interestingly, in 2016 TAMU-CC funded the processing and digitization of Dr. Hector P. Garcia's Papers housed in the Archive Department, in partnership with History Associates Inc. The university led the project to organize and selectively digitize Garcia's papers. This collection contains the personal and professional records of Dr. Garcia (1914-1996), a 20<sup>th</sup> century physician, soldier, political advisor, and civil rights activist.<sup>63</sup> His collection "offers invaluable insight into the Mexican American experience of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and shows the ways in which Dr. Garcia shaped and changed that experience."<sup>64</sup> Former President and CEO Dr. Killebrew expressed how proud the university was to have the official papers, stating Garcia's "commitment to education and connecting veterans with services they deserve is still a strong focus at A&M-Corpus Christi."<sup>65</sup> Former Librarian and University Archivist Ann Hodges expected the project to result in more research like that of Dr. Anthony Quiroz, Professor of History at TAMU-CC, and Dr. Pat Carroll, who retired from the university in 2014. Both have written books and papers that detail Garcia's history.

The sheer size of the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, like the Blucher Archive, "if its boxes were set out side by side... would occupy the length of a football field and then some," said Hodges.<sup>66</sup> Both collections posed a challenge that would be best addressed by a large team of specialists focused on it and little else. Unfortunately, the university selected the Garcia Papers rather than the Blucher Archive, presumably because of the university's strong connection to the

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<sup>63</sup> Hector P. Garcia Papers, Special Collections and Archives, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

<sup>64</sup> "Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers Come Home to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi," Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, February 23, 2018, accessed November 17, 2019, [https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/02/022318\\_HPG\\_Papers\\_Come\\_Home\\_Celebration.html#.XdHWTvDKgdU](https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/02/022318_HPG_Papers_Come_Home_Celebration.html#.XdHWTvDKgdU).

<sup>65</sup> "Official Papers of Dr. Hector P. Garcia Going Digital for Ease of Access," Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, April 1, 2019, accessed November 17, 2019, <https://tamucc.edu/news/2016/04/033116%20HPG%20Digitization%20NR.html#.XdHRnFdKgdU>.

<sup>66</sup> "Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers Come Home to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi," Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, February 23, 2018, accessed November 17, 2019, [https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/02/022318\\_HPG\\_Papers\\_Come\\_Home\\_Celebration.html#.XdHWTvDKgdU](https://tamucc.edu/news/2018/02/022318_HPG_Papers_Come_Home_Celebration.html#.XdHWTvDKgdU).

Hispanic community. Moreover, university professors, students, and the general populace expressed interest in the Garcia collection more so, than those interested in the processing and digitization of the Blucher Archive. All things considered, the Blucher Archive, while having temporarily received grant funding from the Rachal Foundation, has yet to receive university funding for continued processing, preservation or digitization.

All told, this collaborative project has involved the uneven contribution of competing groups and individuals with varying access to the means for such high level production required for a large-scale digitization effort.<sup>67</sup> Acknowledging the presence of political power in the creation of this digitization project is the first step in uncovering the silences being produced at “the moment of fact retrieval.”<sup>68</sup> In the same way archival documents can silence the past, those acting as gatekeepers and in control of allocating scarce dollars, have the power to silence the very archive their institution maintains. Power in the third instance – the moment of fact retrieval – comes in the form of available resources and funding from third party entities. It is crucial we recognize the “rules and gambits” that contoured the collaborative project and its success or demise.

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<sup>67</sup> Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press 1995), xxiii.

<sup>68</sup> Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*.

## CONCLUSION: BLUCHER EVERLASTING

The Blucher Archive came into being “in and as history as a result of political, cultural, and socioeconomic pressures,” pressures which left traces, and which render the archive an artifact of history.<sup>1</sup> The history of the Blucher Archive, specifically the Blucher Surveying Collection is far from self-evident and is open to interpretation. The Blucher Archive has multiple histories, which raise many questions and provide the basis for a large array of arguments. One of these histories provided a useful approach to the historicization of the Blucher Archive in an institutional repository. The Blucher Archive is an active creation, and the archivists are more than mere gatekeepers. The Blucher Surveying Collection has become an effective agent in the performance of land disputes, higher level education and job security as the collection continues to be processed and preserved at TAMU-CC by CBI and the Bell Library’s Archive Department. Each time the Blucher Surveying Collection is used, reused, and reconstructed a layer – or a new narrative – is created, which continues to add life to the archival collection.<sup>2</sup>

Having utilized Trouillot’s four vital moments – “the making of sources, the making of archives, the making of narratives, and the making of history in the final instance” – and focused on when silences enter the process of historical production this thesis, has built and challenged these four conceptions by arguing that the re-introduction of archival records specifically the Blucher Surveying Collection, into the political, legal and scholarly sphere has the ability to replace silences created throughout the four vital moments Trouillot refers to.<sup>3</sup> Rather than silencing the history of the von Blucher surveying men, and their integral role in early South

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<sup>1</sup> Antoinette Burton, eds. *Archive Stories: Fact, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, ed. Antoinette Burton (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 6.

<sup>2</sup> Michelle Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory and the Photographic Record in Cambodia* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014), 125.

<sup>3</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 12; Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*.



Texas land development, their story was pushed to the forefront. An in-depth examination of the Blucher material assembled into the Blucher Archive proved crucial for understanding how a collaborative processing and digitization project emerged, and consequentially silenced the Blucher family papers. To conclude, analyzing the collaboration between the Conrad Blucher Institute and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library's Archive Department, offered insight as to how silences are being created at the moment of fact retrieval. Although the collaborative project has processed, preserved and digitized thousands of land records, lack of funding has stunted the projects ability to continue the digitization portion of the project. Constraints on staffing, resources and funding from the Archive Department, has too, silenced the Blucher Family Papers, for the family records remain unprocessed. Far from fixed content, and more than still land surveys whose life cycle began and ended during the von Blucher surveying era when land development in South Texas reached its peak, the Blucher Archive is part of an open-ended process. The Blucher Archive is boundless and limitless.

In light of Carolyn Steedman's assertion that "you find nothing in the archive but stories caught halfway through the middle of things; discontinuities," it is logical to view the history of the Blucher Archive as a lasting process than a thing with an end.<sup>4</sup> The collaborative project is helping, in the language of Trouillot, retrieve facts in ways unimaginable to those who created the original sources.<sup>5</sup> In the same way Steedman has explained how the dust accumulating within an archive has no end, only newly constructed endings, the Blucher Archive has continually generated new organizing principles and reasons for being. The collection has become an active agent in the training and teaching of university students at TAMU-CC, as they continue to be processed by CBI under the supervision of the Archive Department, despite changes in the

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<sup>4</sup> Carolyn Steedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002), 45.

<sup>5</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 12; Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*.

funding sources. The Archive Department student workers, helping process and preserve the Blucher Surveying Collection are learning valuable archival practices, while those working at the Conrad Blucher Institute are offered a hands-on experience, digitizing and georeferencing the surveying materials. Moreover, land records represent the “legal binding of a person to their property and assist in the execution of property ownership.”<sup>6</sup> CBI and the Archive Department stands determined to protect these documents found within the Blucher Archive, and has adopted a clear system to manage them. Although the Blucher Surveying Collection is dated, and given its current processed status, modern digital land record systems are being developed to combat these standing issues.<sup>7</sup> As of May 29, 2018, the Conrad Blucher Institute scanned, cataloged, georectified, and published 9,101 Blucher large-format maps; scanned and cataloged 437 Blucher field books, 61,416 pages; scanned 23,149 pages from Blucher job files; and scanned and cataloged 1,481 pages from Blucher map indices. CBI is currently scanning the remaining job files and is awaiting conditioning of Blucher rolled maps.

The Blucher family carries a long surveying legacy, as does the Blucher Archive material at TAMU-CC. From the generous donation of Conrad Blucher, the Conrad Blucher Institute was built, and dedicated in his honor May 17, 1987. The institution paved the way for the university’s Geographical Information Science/geomatics Bachelor of Science degree, with the first graduating class in 1998.<sup>8</sup> The program has since evolved, and TAMU-CC now offers a master’s degree in Geospatial Engineering. Although the program is small, its reputation is large and growing. Several faculty, staff and student workers have been introduced to “this amazing

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<sup>6</sup> Bryan S. Gillis, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System” (Master’s Thesis, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 2019), 4.

Bryan Gillis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Science in Geospatial Systems Engineering, “Constructing a Digital Land Record System,” evaluating the need of a successful digital land record system, and outlining the development and capabilities of Bandocat: a modern digital land record system.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> “Feature: Next Wave of Surveyors,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

profession,” stated Dr. Jeffress, director of CBI. The undergraduate and graduate degree provides students boundless opportunities for learning the fundamentals of surveying with experts.<sup>9</sup> With science education a vital base for surveyors and scientists, CBI supports activities to improve these areas and to help create professional and student interest in surveying and science. The collaborative project between CBI and the Archive Department stands as one example.

Notwithstanding the silences that were created in the four vital moments when silences enter the historical production, rather than seeing these silences as “an insurmountable obstacle,” Ghosh asks us to consider them as “highly instructive for historians today.”<sup>10</sup> Silences in history, are histories that are waiting to be told. Therefore, it is the historian’s job to, acknowledge the limitations of the archives, look beneath surface meanings for subtexts and silences, and more importantly contextualize documents to recover missing evidence from the historical record.<sup>11</sup> Having explored the Blucher Archive as both a whole, as well as in its different parts, this thesis has considered the facts and sources individually kept and organized within it. This thesis examined how the Blucher Archive was created, during the era of von Blucher surveying. It uncovered the acquisition history of the Blucher Archive and unpacked the story of how a collaborative digitization project between CBI and the Bell Library’s Archive Department started. Lastly, the thesis highlighted how much TAMU-CC’s Archive Department is dependent upon the university’s agenda, projects and goals. Shaped by silences that entered the historical production at various times throughout its’ life, the history of the Blucher Archive is a long, and contested one.

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<sup>9</sup> “Feature: Next Wave of Surveyors,” Blucher Donor Files, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>10</sup> Durba Ghosh, “Decoding the Nameless: Gender, Subjectivity, and Historical Methodologies in Reading the Archives of Colonial India,” in *New Imperial History: Culture, Identity, Modernity in Britain and the Empire, 1660-1840*, edited by Kathleen Wilson, 297-316 (Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 15.

<sup>11</sup> Mary Elizabeth Perry, “Finding Fatima, a Slave Woman of Early Modern Spain,” in *Contesting Archives: Finding Women in Sources*, ed. Napur Chadhuri, Sherry J. Katz and Mary Elizabeth Perry, 3-19 (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2010), 5.

While the creation, preservation and digitization of the Blucher Archive can be seen as positive developments in preserving the development history of South Texas, each of these moments in the historical production of the Blucher Archive, is rife with silences. Despite the prominence and importance of land surveyors to the development of early South Texas, the voices of the von Blucher surveying men has provided background noise to the certified land records housed at TAMU-CC Next, in the moment when the Blucher family papers and the Blucher Surveying Collection were donated to CCSU, creating the Blucher Archive, thousands of other land surveying records in addition to the Blucher family papers were temporarily silenced as the Blucher Surveying Collection gained the attention of outside influencers, and other university departments separate from the Bell Library's Archive Department. Bruce Cheeseman's *Mara von Blucher's Corpus Christi*, along with processing efforts performed by former Archive Department Director Dr. Kreneck, and former staff Audrey Flores, have collectively unsilenced thousands of Blucher family papers. Lastly, at the moment of fact retrieval, we see how resources, or lack thereof, has the ability to silence the very archive they once gave voice to, making evident the role politics plays in an archival institution. These silences are compounded in the making of narratives about the Blucher Archive, the Blucher family and the Blucher surveying men, in addition to the university repository housing the collection. The stories overwhelmingly remain untold.

Tracing the life of the Blucher Archive uncovers silences and acts of silencing as the land surveying records were created, transformed into archives, and activated by archivists, historians and surveyors as they crafted new meanings into the life of the Blucher Archive. To quote Caswell, any investigation of the social life of records must be given with the context of their

creation.<sup>12</sup> The origin of the Blucher Archive, namely the Blucher Surveying Collection rest in the development of South Texas that employed land surveyors to define boundaries of old Spanish and Mexican land grants. In the next stage of their life, the land records transformed into an archival collection. The Blucher material became a focal point for a growing university's Archive Department whose mission was to preserve local history. More recently, the Blucher Archive is being used as part of a collaborative digitization projects, whose goal is to make these land records more easily accessible to the public and private sphere, digitally speaking. As we have seen the land surveying records are agents that actively influence the life of the repository housing it despite its silences. All of these activations – past, present, and future – add to the Blucher Archive's never-ending provenance. With each activation, a new layer of meaning is added to the constantly evolving Blucher Archive.

Historians are always both participants and observers, actors, and narrator in the experience of history. This thesis presented the history of the Blucher Archive as accurately as possible from the few records left behind. However, even the past, which is preserved in records gets silenced, gets passed over, or pushed to the background. This thesis is only the beginning of the Blucher Archive's story. As any archivist or librarian knows, losses are an unfortunate part of “business-as-usual” in such institutions.”<sup>13</sup> However, this thesis demonstrates how historians can study disparate archives. Nevertheless, I want to recognize incomplete records are problematic. The problem of using such records, as Antoinette Burton suggests in *Dwelling in the Archive*, “to acknowledge that all archives are provisional, interested, and calcified in both deliberate and unintentional ways; that all archives are, in the end fundamentally unreliable.”<sup>14</sup> Accepting the

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<sup>12</sup> Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable*, 157.

<sup>13</sup> Leff, *The Archive Thief*, 7.

<sup>14</sup> Antoinette Burton, *Dwelling in the Archive: Women Writing House, Home and History in Late Colonial India* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2003), 26.

limitations of my evidence in the case of the Blucher Archive and the Blucher donor files, it is nonetheless possible to develop a methodology for continuing to reconstruct the history of the Blucher Archive.

Ranging from the nature of the Blucher Archive, to the experiences of archive workers, we have placed the Blucher Archive and its ontological status within the nature of historical practice. Following the archival turn, the Blucher Archive can no longer be regarded as an unproblematic storehouse of records awaiting historians, rather it is an active site of agency and power whose future remains to be written. The life of the Blucher Archive continues indefinitely. That is what *dust* and the Blucher Archive is about.<sup>15</sup> Like dust, the Blucher Archive is about “circularity, the impossibility of things disappearing, or going away, or being gone.”<sup>16</sup> Having written a history of the Blucher Archive, that has no end, certainly opens the possibility for an influx of endings. Undertaking this archival history has unearthed many questions not yet answered, regarding the institution’s role in obtaining the Blucher Archive, the role of each different historical actor involved in the collaborative digitization project between CBI and the Bell Library’s Archive Department, and the often precarious mechanisms of funding, that will require further investigation.

What remains are questions concerning the future of the collaborative digitization project between CBI and the Bell Library’s Archive Department. Will the Rachal Foundation enter the picture once more? Will the collaborative project ever receive funding from the university of which it is housed by? Once the entire Blucher Surveying Collection is processed, preserved and digitized, will the Archive Department begin processing work on the Blucher Family Papers? Will the Conrad Blucher Institute remain interested in digitizing other surveying collection from

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<sup>15</sup> Carolyn Steedman, *Dust*, 164.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

the Archive Department? Following my leave from the university, and after funding from the Rachal Foundation ceased, the projects continuance remains uncertain. Resources and funding continue to be the greatest obstacle in the collaborative projects' success or demise. What the future holds for this project, CBI and the Archive Department remains a mystery. Nevertheless, the history of the Blucher Archive will proceed.

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## Appendix 1: Chronology of Events

1947: Ward Island become home to the University of Corpus Christi (UCC).

1950: The Archive Department emerges under direction of UCC Library Director Carl R. Wrotenberry, following donation of rare Texana books. The books were housed inside UCC's circular library, known now as the "round building."

1971: Legislature authorizes the Texas A&I University System to establish a state-supported upper-level institution of higher education.

1973: Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi opens its doors to 969 students as an upper level institution offering courses at the junior, senior and graduate levels.

1977: The legislature changes the schools name to Corpus Christi State University (CCSU).

1978: The Archive Department receives its own separate space when the Mary and Jeff Bell Library opened.

1985: From a memo to then University Library Director Richard L. O'Keefe, then archivist Paul Medley mentioned that within the past year CCSU had acquired a small collection of archival material from the Blucher family.

1990: Dr. Kreneck and Dr. Wooster meet with Mrs. Blucher to discuss the family papers, the surveying portion of the Blucher Archive was not yet part of the discussion.

1993: The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents renames the institution Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC).

1994: TAMU-CC becomes a four-year comprehensive university and enrollment increases to 5,000 students.

1994: Thomas Kreneck joins TAMU-CC as Director of Special Collections and Archives.

1996: The Donor Agreement between the Charles F. H. von Blucher family descendants and TAMU-CC is signed.

2010: The collaborative digitization project of the Blucher Surveying Collection under the aegis of the Bell Library, the Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI), and the Harte Research Institute (HRI) commences.

2012: Director of Special Collections and Archives, Thomas Kreneck retires from TAMU-CC.

2014: Ann Hodges joins TAMU-CC as Director of Special Collections and Archives. Dr. Catherine Rudowsky joins TAMU-CC as Dean of Libraries.

2017: The Ed Rachal Foundation begins funding the collaborative project.

2019: The Ed Rachal Foundation funding stops.

2016: Dr. Flavius Killebrew retires as President and CEO of TAMU-CC

2017: Dr. Kelly Quintanilla named the 11<sup>th</sup> President of TAMU-CC.

2018: Director of Special Collections and Archives, Ann Hodges leaves TAMU-CC.

2019: The Archive Department's Library Specialist II Shelby Gonzalez leaves TAMU-CC.

## Appendix 2: Job File Processing Procedures

### Prepare Job Files for scanning by CBI

- I. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. New envelopes
    - ii. Pencil
    - iii. Spatula for staple removal
    - iv. Plastic sleeves
      1. If there are no sleeves, make some:
        - a. Find the cutting mat, scalpel, straight edge, and clean microfiber cloth
        - b. Using the light-weight plastic from third roller, cut with scissors a piece 30" long
        - c. Perpendicular to the 42" edge, cut the piece into 3 strips approximately 14" in width by 30" in length
        - d. Taking one strip at a time
          - i. Place on clean surface
          - ii. Wipe both sides with clean microfiber cloth
          - iii. Fold in half with two short ends together, aligning a long edge on one side
          - iv. Use bone folder to crease the plastic
          - v. Flip over folded plastic and run bone over fold from the other side
          - vi. Place the folded piece of plastic on clean cutting mat
          - vii. Align folded edge of plastic along a grid line on the cutting mat
          - viii. Use straight edge and scalpel to trim a long edge of the plastic at 90-degree angle to the fold
          - ix. Repeat the two steps previous to this one to trim the other long edge of the folded plastic, aiming for a sleeve 10" in width
          - x. Use straight edge and scalpel to trim the short (unfolded) edge of the plastic sleeve parallel to the folded edge, aiming for a sleeve 14.75" in length
        - e. Place finished sleeve in designated box for future use
    - b. Consult Shelby to
      - i. Determine which is the next box of job files to be processed
      - ii. Determine the drawer number where any documents that may be separated from the folders will be stored
    - c. Obtain the chosen box
  - II. Process job files

- a. Photocopy information-bearing side of old envelopes
  - i. Put acid-free letter sized paper into the top copier tray
    - 1. Place a paper of colored paper under the acid-free paper to make it easier to remove the acid-free paper when you are finished
    - 2. Insert an out-card in the box to mark your place
    - 3. Remove one envelope at a time
    - 4. Place the old envelope face down on the copier platen and close the copier lid
    - 5. Set the copier to reduce
      - a. Select “reduce/enlarge”
      - b. Chose 73%
    - 6. Make the photocopy
    - 7. Inspect the photocopy to be sure that all of the information on the old envelope is present on the photocopy
      - a. If it is not, return to above steps, chose a smaller percentage, make another photocopy
      - b. Repeat until you have an acceptable photocopy
    - 8. Set the photocopy aside
    - 9. Return the copied envelope to the box (place it in front of the out-card)
    - 10. Remove the next envelope from the box
    - 11. Return to steps above and repeat until each envelop in the box has been photocopied
    - 12. Clip photocopies together and save for later use
  - ii. Remove first envelope from box
  - iii. Open envelope and carefully remove all of its contents
  - iv. Examine each document one at a time
    - 1. Carefully remove fasteners
      - a. To remove staples, turn document so that back of staple is uppermost
        - i. For sturdy documents, staple puller to open staple
        - ii. For more delicate documents
          - 1. Carefully insert the rounded end of a microspatula under each end of the staple and open the staple
          - 2. Take care not to gauge the document
          - 3. Carefully work the staple free of the document
      - b. Apply judgment as to whether it is safe to put it through the CBI pass-through scanner (consult Shelby when in doubt)
        - i. These conditions make a document ineligible for the pass through scanner

1. Fragile (is torn, is brittle, is flimsy, or has ragged edges)
  2. Does not easily lie flat
- ii. In such cases, place the document in a plastic sleeve
- c. If you find a smaller envelope within the job envelope
  - i. Remove the smaller envelopes contents
  - ii. Place the small envelope and its contents within a piece of legal-sized ac-free paper that has been folded in half with the short edges together
  - iii. Proceed to next document
- d. If you find a computation list or calculator tape
  - i. That fits in the envelope unfolded
    1. Create a plastic sleeve
    2. Leave the sleeved list/tape with the materials
  - ii. That is too long to fit in the envelope
    1. Create sheet and follow separation procedures
    2. Plastic will be applied to protect the list/tape at the time of scanning
  - iii. As a reminder for later clean-up, Audrey was proceeding so:
    1. "At times, there will be within the folders longer computation lists that resemble receipts. For now, leave them as they are. How ere they dealt with re-transfer to CBI? 3/27/17 Rick was not familiar with the issue
- e. If you find a field book within a job envelop
  - i. Create separation sheet for the field books
  - ii. Consult Shelby about where to put the field book
- f. If you find a newspaper clipping
  - i. Copy it on acid-free paper
  - ii. Place the copy where you found the original
  - iii. Discard the original clipping
- g. When you have identified a document that cannot be scanned with the pass-through scanner OR a document that will no longer fit in the envelope once unfolded, prepare a separation sheet
- iv. Prepare separation sheet when needed
  1. Use a template located one I:drive
  2. Save template as a new file
    - a. Save to I:drive
    - b. Use envelope number as file name, precede the number with an underscore



3. In field description of item removed, possible formats are
  - a. Drawing /sketch
  - b. Field book
  - c. Map, manuscript (defined here as drawn by hand and not reproduced via a printing process)
  - d. Map, printed
  - e. Map, blueprint
  - f. Textual document (notes, other written items)
4. In field “from” enter envelope number
5. In field “to” enter drawer number obtained from Shelby (note to self: decided not to include envelope numbering because expect to have too few documents separated to warrant it. the copy of the separation sheet that travels with the document will provide the envelop information (it is in the “from” field) there should be one map folder for each bo
6. Enter date in format mm/dd/y
7. In field “by” enter your last name
8. Save file again
9. Print two copies of the separation sheet on acid-free paper
10. Remove any unused acid-free paper from the photocopier
  - a. Make one copy of the separation sheet on colored paper
    - i. Record treatment recommendations on the colored copy; multiple choices may be made (consult Shelby when in doubt)
11. Place one acid-free copy of the separation sheet in the place from which the original document was removed
12. Using a pencil, lightly and legibly write on the back of the removed document, in the lower right corner near the edges, the envelope number from which the document came
13. Put the acid-free copy of the separation sheet with the original document that was removed, and use a sheet of acid-free paper that has been folded in half crosswise (short ends together) to keep them together
14. Put the colored copy of the separation sheet in a folder for later database entry
15. Return to working your way through the documents in the job folder
- v. Place all approved documents (including separation sheets marking the place of removed documents) back into the original envelope
- vi. Return the original envelope to the original box
- vii. Store the separated original documents
  1. Obtain a map folder [we have decided to put blank folders in the designated drawers after we do the map shift]

2. Pencil on it on the lower right corner of back slide Coll. 4 / Job Env. # - #
  - a. Note: we need to account for field books that are not part of the main set, in case numbering varies
3. Put inside the map folder the separated documents with their separation sheets, taking care not to lose their connection to each other
4. Place the folder in the assigned drawer in room 204
5. If a field book is being separated place an acid-free copy of the separation sheet inside it and place the book [in a location to be determined]
- viii. Proceed to next envelope in the box and repeat from steps above
- c. When finished with a box
  - i. Notify Shelby
  - ii. Give Shelby folder of colored copies of separation sheets so that she can perform data entry relating to the box and any items separated or recommended for treatment
- d. With Shelby's authorization proceed to next box and repeat from step above
  1. Proceed to next envelope in the box and repeat above steps

#### Record Data About (Shelby will do this)

- I. Document preparation
  - a. Find the previously-prepared photocopy of the old envelopes
  - b. Find the separation sheet copy on colored paper
  - c. Record in the database (located on I:drive)
    - i. From photocopy of old envelope
      1. Envelope number
      2. Descriptive information from envelope
    - ii. Data prep began
    - iii. Data prep completed
    - iv. For separated items for which treatment is recommended
      1. Enter item
      2. Enter treatment recommendations
- II. Document transfer to CBI
  - a. Find relevant envelope record in database
  - b. Enter data picked up by CBI
- III. Document returns from CBI
  - a. Find relevant envelope record in database
  - b. Enter data returned by CBI

#### Transfer job folder contents to archival housing

- I. Obtain the designated archival envelopes

- II. Obtain a fresh archival carton and pencil lightly on one short end of it the number of the first job envelope it will contain
- III. Find the previously prepared photocopies of the old envelopes
- IV. Prepare a new envelope to replace each old envelope
  - a. If there is more material than is wise to put into one envelope, divide contents into as many new envelopes as necessary
  - b. Using pencil, record the job envelope number on the upper right corner on the front side of the new folder
    - i. Pay attention to which side is the top by checking the reverse side to see where the flap is
    - ii. When numbering subsequent envelopes for a group that is being divided, add after the envelope number (pt. 2 etc.)
  - c. Insert into the new envelope the relevant acid-free photocopy of the old job envelope
- V. Arrange these empty new envelopes in order by the envelope
- VI. Place the empty new envelopes in the fresh archival carton
- VII. Shelve the carton to await the return of envelope contents from CBI
- VIII. When job folder contents are returned by CBI
  - a. Shelby will record the date of their receipt in the database
  - b. Shelby will route the returned materials to the person performing the rehousing
- IX. Get the appropriate box of prepare new envelopes from the shelf
- X. Insert job folder documents into the appropriate new envelope behind the photocopy (which will already be in the new envelope) of the old envelope
- XI. File the new envelope in order in the new box
- XII. Shelve the box
- XIII. Notify Shelby that work on that box is complete so that she can update the database

## Appendix 3: Rolled Maps Processing Procedures

### Prepare Rolled Maps Binder:

- I. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Rolled maps binder (labeled as such)
    - ii. “maps rolled: small location sheets” folder
    - iii. “maps rolled: medium location sheets” folder
    - iv. “maps rolled: large location sheets” folder
    - v. “encapsulation sheets/ conservator sheets” folder
    - vi. Six forms that you will be using interchangeably while working with Rolled Maps. (These six are located on the I:drive in the Map Digitization Project folder. You can mass print them when needed
      1. Conservator form
      2. Encapsulation form
      3. Core max count form
      4. Map listing form
      5. Core locations form
      6. Rolled maps transfer form
    - vii. Pencil
    - viii. Red pencil
    - ix. Standard size yellow sticky notes
      1. The purpose of these are for you to make notes inside the Rolled Maps binder for the person who will be measuring , entering data, and rolling the maps. Communication is key in this project.
  - b. Once you have gathered all materials, familiarize yourself with the Rolled Maps Binder starting the project. There are several things you should notice before adding new forms.
    - i. Look first at the MAP LISTING FORM already inside the Rolled Maps Binder:
      1. Notice: each form is marked on the bottom right hand corner with a number. This number is sequential, beginning with “1” and shall continue until the Map Digitization Project is complete.
      2. Notice: at the top of each form there is information you are required to fill out: container, collection, core size.
        - a. Container: identify the carton containing the rolled maps. This value may be sequential numbering that Ann Hodges assigned when counting all the Rolled Maps boxes (before this project began)
        - b. Collection: identify the map collection to which this map or item belongs
          - i. Conrad Blucher
          - ii. French

- iii. Blucher Family
  - iv. Fenner/Penny
  - v. Green
  - vi. Dix
  - vii. King
  - viii. Stayton
  - ix. Topographic
  - x. Brashear
  - xi. Kilgore
  - xii. Not sure
  - xiii. Anderson Gift
  - xiv. Garcia, Hector
  - xv. Garcia, Cleo
  - xvi. Architectural drawings
- c. Core size: identify what size core these maps are going on:
  - i. When identifying this, **notice** that the Map Listing Form has three tables, and each table has room for TEN maps. When you write down the CORE SIZE at the top of this form, that means that all three tables (cores) will be the same size. DO NOT PUT a medium core, on the same Map Listing Form as a small core.
  - ii. While you are familiarizing yourself with the Map Listing Form, you should notice that there are laminated sheets amongst the forms:
    - 1. Binder contains seven, colored laminated dividers
      - a. Light pink: need to roll cores beyond this point
      - b. Yellow: core sheet is being entered
        - i. Divider located inside binder, back pocket
      - c. Blue: need to enter cores beyond this point
      - d. Red: adding maps to core sheet
        - i. Divider located inside binder, back pocket
      - e. Green: small core fill
      - f. Bright pink: medium core
      - g. Orange: large core

These laminated sheets (consider them dividers) will help you locate which core sheet, of either size needs to be filled out (meaning all three tables on the Map Listing Form are not completely filled). They will also let you know which Map Listing Forms need to be entered into the database, and which Map Listing Forms are ready to be rolled.

- iii. Familiarize yourself with the tables on the Map Listing Form and all of the required information that will eventually be filled out:
  - 1. Entered
  - 2. Map number

3. H (height)
4. W (width)
5. Core number
  - a. Notice: the core numbers are in sequential order beginning with “1” and will continue until the Map Digitization Project is complete. When you fill out the next Map Listing Form simply follow the sequence of numbers, in the same manner you will be following the bottom right hand corner number that is located on every Map Listing Form.
6. Range
7. Section
8. Pigeonhole
9. Treatment

You will notice that the Range, Section, Pigeonhole numbering is not sequential. When preparing your next Map Listing Form you will need to determine what is the range, section, and pigeonhole the three tables (cores) will go in. Notice: just because the three tables (cores) are on the same Map Listing Form, this does not mean that the cores will be going in the same range, section, and pigeonhole.

- c. When preparing a new Map Listing Form
  - i. To determine what range, section, pigeonhole the cores will be going in, this is when the following forms come into use
    1. Core Locations Form
    2. Core Max Count Form
  - ii. Each of these forms will already have information from cores, which are now living in their permanent pigeonhole.

Notice: small cores are going to be housed on ranges 11, 12, and 13. Medium cores are going to be house on Range 14. Large cores are going to be housed on Range 15.

- iii. Once you determine what core size you are going to be dealing with, for this new Map Listing Form grab the related “Maps Rolled” folder that contains the Core Locations Form and the Cor Max Count Form.
  1. Look at the Core Locations Form and locate in the next available table, (one that does not have Max Capacity written alongside it. This will tell you what Range, Section, and Pigeonhole is needing to be filled.

Notice: Each range has four sections: A, B, C, D. Each section has 15 pigeonholes in rows of three: 1-15. The middle columns in each section, pigeonholes 2, 5, 8, 11, and 14 hold the most cores. The average core these middle pigeonholes hold are around, and above 10. The remaining pigeonholes can hold up to 10, it all depends on the circumference of the cores once the maps are rolled onto the core. What works best, is when filling in the pigeonhole on the Map Listing Form, never assume that the max will automatically fit into the pigeonhole you are about to fill.

For example, although I am sure that 12+ cores can fit into range 13, section b, pigeonhole 2, I will only fill out 8 tables (coreS) within this pigeonhole. YOU CAN AND WILL GO BACK AND FILL IN THE PIGEONHOLES THAT NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO MAX CAPACITY. It is easier to add more cores, rather than remove some later.

#### Prepare Rolled Maps for data entry (Graduate Assistant)

#### II. Gather materials

- a. Locate supplies and equipment
  - i. Locate workstation with plenty of room to unroll maps of various sizes
  - ii. Tape measure
  - iii. Sticky notes
  - iv. Paper weights
  - v. Pencil
  - vi. Rolled maps binder
  - vii. Strips of acid free paper
    1. If there are no slips already made, make some:
      - a. Find legal size acid free paper
      - b. Find the cutting board
      - c. Cut acid free paper into 3 strips approximately 2.8” in width by 14” in length
      - d. Place strips in designated folders
- b. Consult Shelby to
  - i. Determine which is the next box of maps to be processed
- c. Obtain the chosen box

#### III. Measure maps

- a. Locate the next Rolled Map Measurement Sheet you will be entering information on, which is located in Rolled Maps Binder
  - i. The next sheet you will be filling in will be located behind one of the following:
    1. Hot pink: medium core fill laminated divider
    2. Green: small core fill laminated divider
    3. Orange: large core fill laminated divider
- b. Pull out, one at a time, map/rolled maps from chosen box
- c. Carefully unroll map/rolled maps
  - i. Use paper weights to help layout maps on workstation
    1. If single map rolled
      - a. Determine the map number
        - i. If not map number, consult Shelby to determine the next available “unnumbered” number for the collection you are working in
        - ii. Then, in square brackets write out the determined number on verso, bottom right hand corner of map. Example: [Unnumbered-5] Important: when writing

- on verso, using a pencil, lightly and legibly write in the lower right corner, following the orientation of the map, near the edges
- b. Measure height and width of map/first map from roll
  - c. If map measures:
    - i. Less than 36" but not exceeding 34" on either the width or length, locate next available small core sheet which will be behind green laminated divider
    - ii. More than 34" but not exceeding 46" on either the width or length, locate next available medium core sheet
    - iii. More than 46" but not exceeding 70" on either the width or length, locate next available large core sheet
  - d. Once you determine which core sheet the map will be going on, remove core sheet from binder and place the red, adding maps to core sheet, divider in its place which should be located at the back, inside of binder pocket
  - e. Then, determine whether you will be filling in newly gathered information into a table that already contains some maps or if you will be entering in newly gathered information into an empty table on core sheet
    - i. If entering newly gathering information into table that already contains some maps, consult Shelby to figure out where these maps are currently being housed, then continue to enter required information. The reason a table on a sheet was not 100% filled is because the previous box of maps did not contain enough maps to fill out the table at the time
  - f. Once you have determined which table you are entering information on, begin entering required information from the table
    - i. Container: most, not all rolled maps are coming from a previously marked table. The number/letter should be written on the outside. Determine what container these rolled maps are coming from
    - ii. Collection: determine what collection these rolled maps belong to
      - 1. Conrad blucher
      - 2. Blucher family
      - 3. French
      - 4. Fenner/penny
      - 5. Green



6. Dix
  7. King
  8. Stayton
  9. Topographic
  10. Brashear
  11. Kilgore
  12. Not sure
  13. Anderson gift
  14. Garcia, Hector
  15. Garcia, Cleo
  16. Architectural drawings
- iii. Entered
    1. You can ignore this field. This is a check box for the person entering information into the Maps Rolled Database
  - iv. Map number
    1. Provide map number on verso of map
  - v. Leaf count
    1. If map has no leaf/leaves keep this box empty
    2. If map has leaf/leaves
      - a. Enter total number of leaf/leaves in box
      - b. On the back of each leaf make sure the map number the leaf came from is written in pencil on the bottom right, verso
      - c. Additionally, on the left hand side, write in pencil, in brackets the designated leaf number. Example: if you find 6 leaves from map 456, each leaf on the bottom right hand side should have in brackets [456], on the bottom left hand side, for the first leaf write in brackets [1-6], then the second [2-6], continue.
  - vi. Height
  - vii. Width
  - viii. Core number
    1. Consult with Shelby to determine what the next core number is, if number is not already provided
  - ix. Range

1. Consult with Shelby to determine what range the core is going in, if the number is not already provided
- x. Section
  1. Consult with Shelby to determine what section the core is going in, if section is not already provided
- xi. Pigeonhole
  1. Consult with Shelby to determine what pigeonhole the core is going in, if not already provided
- xii. Treatment
  1. If the map you are currently measuring needs to be encapsulated/sent to conservator put “E” or “C” in this box. If you are not sure whether it needs to be encapsulated or sent to conservator consult with shelby
    - a. If map needs to be encapsulated/sent to conservator: measure the map to the best of your ability. Using an acid free piece of paper not the container number, map number, core number, height and width of map. This acid free paper follows the map
    - b. Place the map needing encapsulation/conservator on designated shelf in 218. Note: marking “E” will indicate to the person entering data in Maps Rolled Database that this map is located in 218
2. if multiple maps rolled together
  - a. determine the shared map number amongst all maps which is typically written on verso, bottom right hand corner
    - i. if no map number, consult Shelby to determine the next available, ‘un-numbered’ number for the collection you are working in. Example: [unnumbered-5]
    - ii. then, in square brackets write out the determined number on verso, bottom right corner of each map. Being there are multiple maps, each map will be given a unique number. The first map for example will be [Unnumbered-5-1], the following map will

- be [unnumbered-5-2]. Important: when writing on verso, using a pencil, lightly and legibly write in the lower right corner, following the orientation of the map, near the edge
- b. with pencil, in square brackets, write on verso, on bottom right side of the map the shared map number followed by dash (-) and a unique number. Example: if 8 maps are rolled together and they share Map Number 4567, in square brackets you would provide the first map with [4567-1], the second with [4567-2], so on
    - i. once all maps are given a unique number return to previous steps
  - c. if smaller documents, not maps are rolled within map/maps (textual documents that would fit inside a legal sized folder)
    - i. locate an acid free legal size folder
    - ii. Removed the smaller documents, now to be called “separated items” and on the Core Sheet, write down the number of separated items that will be going into acid free folder.
      1. The folder should be given the number of the core, of which these separated items, and their parent maps are coming from.
    - iii. Before placing the separated items in the acid free folder, on the back side of each item, make sure the map number these separated items belong to is written on there, if not write it down and put the number is [square brackets]
    - iv. In the bottom left hand corner of the separated items, write down the number of each item. For example, if there were 5 separated items, write on the first separated item 1-5, and so on, 2-5, 3-5, 4-5, 5-5.
  - ii. After entering all required information from the table, on Core Sheet, set map aside and enter the next map. Repeat steps: C. 1 (6) (i)-(x) until entire table is filled (limit of ten maps per table):
  - iii. When table is filled:
    1. If you are entering maps into a table that contained previous maps, gather those previous maps and newly entered maps
      - a. Roll all ten maps together
      - b. Wrap bound maps with acid free strip and tape. Make sure the tape does not touch the map. The strip should be long enough to go around rolled core, and overlap so that the tape does not touch the maps
        - i. Write on acid free strip, in pencil the core number

- ii. Place rolled maps in designated box for later data entry. Consult shelby about where this designated box is.
2. if you started in a new table, and have reached the end of the table, before entering more information into next table on sheet
  - a. roll all ten maps together
  - b. wrap bound maps with acid free strip. Make sure the tape does not touch the map. The strip should be long enough to go around rolled core, and overlap so that the tap does not touch the maps
  - c. write on acid free strip, in pencil the core number
  - d. place rolled maps in designated box for later data entry. Consult Shelby about where the designated box is.
3. If you finished the box you are currently working on and the table you are entering information in, has not been filled, consult with Shelby about which is the next box you will be pulling maps from
4. If you have reached the end of your day or Shelby has instructed you to stop measuring and the table has room to fill, put already measure maps in designated spot (consult Shelby to determine where this spot is) then return the Core Sheet to Rolled Maps binder, and find laminated divider that indicates the size of the Core Sheet that you need to continue filling at a later time and place in front of the returned Core Sheet. Remember: all core sheets have red number written on bottom right hand side, keep the Core Sheets in numerical order.
- iv. When you fill out **ALL** three tables on one core sheet return the sheet to the Rolled Maps Binder, and return to step II. C. 1. a) (3) until each map in the box has been measured, and its' information gathered on Core Sheet. **IMPORTANT:** only take out one Core Sheet from binder at a time. When returning Core Sheet to binder make sure you are placing the Core Sheet behind the BLUE "Need to enter cores beyond this point" divider, behind the last Core Sheet. **NOTICE:** Each core sheet has a RED number in the bottom right hand corner. When putting the Core Sheet you just finished back in the binder, make sure you are putting it in numerical order with the other Core Sheets.
- v. If you finish a box, and the sheet you are working on is not completely filled out, make sure and put the appropriate divider (see II. A. 1. a) – c)) in front of the unfinished Core Sheet.
- d. When all maps from box have been measured
  - i. Make sure you remove the RED divider from the rings of the binder, being that you are not "Adding maps to core sheet." Put the RED divider in the inside, back pocket of the Rolled Maps Binder.
  - ii. Consult with Shelby to determine the next box of maps to be measured

Prepare temporary pigeonholes/preparing cores (Library Specialist II):  
 You will need to be in Rm. 218 to conduct this part of the Rolled Maps Project.

- IV. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Rolled maps binder
    - ii. Cores
    - iii. Pencil
    - iv. Small yellow sticky notes
  - b. Determine what core number, for either small, medium or large pigeon hole is the next core that maps will be going on. (You can determine this by looking at the Rolled Maps Binder).

Entering data in Maps Rolled Database (Graduate Assistant):

- V. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Locate workstation with plenty of room to unroll maps of various sized
    - ii. Computer/laptop that has access to i-Drive
      1. Datebase, Maps\_Rolled
    - iii. Sticky notes
      1. Small pink
      2. Small blue
      3. Small yellow
    - iv. Pieces of acid free paper
      1. If not pieces are cut, locate acid free paper and cut out “sticky note size” squares
    - v. Paper weights
    - vi. Pencil
    - vii. Rolled maps binder
      1. Binder contains **seven** colored laminated dividers
        - a. LIGHT PINK: “Need to roll cores beyond this point”
        - b. YELLOW: “Core sheet being entered”
          - i. Divider located inside binder, back pocket
        - c. BLUE: “Need to enter cores beyond this point”
        - d. RED: “Adding maps to core sheet”
          - i. Divider located inside binder, back pocket
        - e. GREEN “Small Core Fill” laminated divider
        - f. BRIGHT PINK “Medium Core Fill”
        - g. ORANGE: “Large Core Fill”
  - b. Locate the box of maps that have been measured and rolled together in groups of ten.
- VI. Figure out which is the next core that needs to be entered into the database. You can figure this out by locating the BLUE laminated divider in the Rolled Maps Binder.

- a. Once you identify which cores are next to be entered, remove the core sheet from the binder and replace it with the YELLOW laminated divider.
- VII. With the Rolled\_Maps database open, begin entering all required information found on the ten maps, from the core you are currently working on.
  - a. Use paper weights to help weigh down the map so you can see all the information you will need to enter into the database.

#### Database information

- A. Identify which collection these maps came from, chose on of the following:
  - a. Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection
  - b. Blucher Family
  - c. French
  - d. Fenner/Penny
  - e. Map Collection 38
  - f. Green
  - g. Dix
  - h. King
  - i. Stayton
  - j. Topographic
  - k. Brashear
  - l. Kilgore
  - m. Not Sure
  - n. Anderson Gift
  - o. Garcia, Hector
  - p. Garcia, Cleo
  - q. Architectural drawings
- B. Identify which role/core number these maps are belonging to. (This information should already be written on the Core Sheet itself, it not consult Shelby)
- C. Identify the range this core will be going in (this information should already be written on the Core Sheet itself, if not consult shelby)
- D. Identify the section this core will be going in (this information should already be written on the Core Sheet itself, if not consult shelby)
- E. Identify the pigeonhole this core will be going in (this information should already be written on the Core Sheet itself, if not consult shelby)
- F. Identify the author
  - a. Person or agency responsible for the creation of the map. If person, enter last name first. Example: Gonzalez, Shelby or Gonzalez, Shelby Lynn
- G. Identify the title of the map
  - a. When there is no obvious map title, but wording on map
  - b. In [brackets], do best to provide enough information from the wording on the map so that in the future someone will be able to identify what map this map title belongs to
  - c. When there is no wording, but there are coordinates
  - d. In [brackets], type [Drawing showing coordinates...]

- e. When there is no wording, and no coordinates
  - f. In [brackets], type [Drawing showing no coordinates]
- H. Identify when the map was published,
  - a. If there is a revised date, use that one
- I. Enter the height provided to you on the Core Sheet
- J. Enter the width provided to you on the Core Sheet
- K. Description Note:
  - a. Use for any notation or question that needs to be recorded, such as if something is attached
- L. Container description:
- M. This information is provided to you on the Core Sheet
- N. Format
  - a. Choose the format of the map,
    - i. Drawing/sketch
    - ii. Map
    - iii. Plat
    - iv. Textual document
    - v. Tracing
- O. Map Number
  - a. Identify the map number which may be located on either the front of back.
  - b. Make sure you are providing the right number. Remember, the numbers in brackets were given to this map, so make sure and use that one.
- P. Treatment Note:
  - a. Identify if the map needs any treatment (humidify, flatten, encapsulate, store flat, send to conservator, repair priority):
    - i. NOTE: If there is an “E” or “C” for the map you are currently entering, locate the map from the designated shelf in 218. Carefully enter all required information. NOTE: In some instances, due to the maps poor condition, you will NOT be able to enter all required information. If this is the case, on the “Repair Priority” mark this map as “high”
      - i. Anything that needed to be encapsulated or sent to conservator
        - a. Create a separation sheet
          - i. Separation sheet forms are located in: Special Collections Folder on the (I)Drive, Forms Folder, and the form is entitled “Form\_SeparationSheet\_RolledMaps\_USE”
  - b. Filling out the separation sheet
    - i. In the “Description of item removed” text box, enter the title of map, author, date published. (Simply put, all information you would be entering in the Maps\_Rolled database.
    - ii. From:
    - iii. Collection (enter number of collection)/Core Number/Map Number
    - iv. [FIX!]
    - v. Date Moved: enter date

- vi. By: type your name as such: Last, First
- c. Check the box with the appropriate treatment needed,
  - i. Humidify
  - ii. Flatten
  - iii. Encapsulate
  - iv. Store rolled
  - v. Repair
    - 1. If repair is needed, briefly describe problem:  
EXAMPLE: "Map is torn in two parts" or, if it is being sent to a conservator, the text might read "Map contains mold. Marked for conservator"
- b. When finished entering all necessary information on separation sheet, save the file to the (I)Drive, the Special Collections Folder, MapsDigitizationProject Folder, SeparationSheets\_RolledMaps,
  - i. Properly name the separation sheet
    - i. Form\_SeparationSheet\_RolledMaps\_USE
      - a. Removed USE, and save the form with the number of the map being separated.
  - ii. Once separation sheet is saved, put two sheets of acid free paper into the printer, and print two copies of the separation sheet you just created.
    - i. One of the separation sheets will be going in the temporary pigeonhole, along with the other maps from the same core
    - ii. The second separation sheet will stay with the map that needs to be encapsulated/sent to conservator.
      - a. The maps that need to be encapsulated are temporarily housed in Rm. 218, in a designated blue bin.
      - b. The maps that need to be sent to a conservator are being temporarily house in Rm. 206. In a designated large black trashcan, marked conservator.
- c. If the map needs to be humidified or flattened, after entering required information obtain a piece of acid free paper and write on the piece of paper, the map number and core number this map is coming from. Roll the map up, with the piece of acid free paper, sticking out halfway.
  - i. Once this is done, place the map aside, in designated humidification bins, so that the person performing humidification, and or flattening can treat the map before it gets rolled on the core. (See instructions below for this process)
- Q. Recommended by
  - a. This should be where you enter your name
- R. Performed by
  - a. This may or may not be you, do not fill in until treatment on map has been performed
- S. Date treatment done
  - a. Do not fill in until treatment on map is being performed.
- T. Treatment note



- a. This section is to explain anything complicated.
    - i. You could type here the reason you think the map needs to go to the conservator.
  - U. Separation:
    - a. If the Core Sheet indicates that there were items separated, check the box “Items” and then in the SeparationNote, text box, record the number of items separated.
  - V. REPEAT THE ABOVE STEPS FOR THE REST OF THE MAPS. When all ten maps from the core you are working on has been entered into the Maps\_Rolled database, locate the pigeon hole these maps will be temporarily stored until ready to be rolled
- When placing the recently entered ten maps into their temporary pigeonhole, if there was
- VI. Anything that needs to be humidified on this core, use a small blue sticky note to indicate that this core cannot be rolled yet because a map needs humidification.
  - VII. Anything that needed to be encapsulated/conservator, use a small pink sticky note

#### Humidification Procedures (Library Specialist II/Graduate Assistant):

This section was excerpted and adapted from UTA Processing Manual, 2011 version.

- A. Gather Materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Locate workstation with plenty of floor room/room to humidify, spot treat maps
    - ii. Locate plastic bins that have maps waiting to be humidified
    - iii. Smaller plastic bins (where you will be placing maps needing humidification)
    - iv. Large plastic bins (where you will be placing smaller trash bins, with maps needing humidification)
    - v. Large bins
    - vi. Access to Warm water (from the employee lunch room)
    - vii. Q-tips
    - viii. Hand steamer
    - ix. Distilled water
  - b. Testing for ink solubility
    - i. Gently test a small area of each color or type of ink for solubility with a Q-tip dipped in water. If any color lifts off the item, it should not be steamed or humidified. Known watercolors should not be humidified.
  - c. *Spot treatment with hand steamer*
    - i. To flatten creased or wrinkled materials, in certain areas, steam the verso with hand steamer (containing distilled water) and use \_\_\_\_\_ to help flatten out the map.
    - ii. Dry between sheets of blotter paper
  - d. Humidification
    - i. Warm up water, in the staff lounge
    - ii. Add fresh, warm water to the bottom of large bin

- iii. Place documents needing treatment in the smaller plastic bin. (For documents too long for a single plastic bin, use the other large plastic bin as the lid)
- iv. Place the lid on the large plastic bin
- v. Allow the documents to remain in the humidifier for the shortest possible time necessary to achieve results. Check frequently to see if the paper has relaxed. NOTE: To leave it in the humidifier longer than necessary is to risk the growth of mold, tearing the document (while weakened from over-saturation), or causing the ink to run.

#### Flattening Procedures (Library Specialist II/Graduate Assistant)

This section was excerpted and adapted from UTA Processing Manual, 2011 version.

- A. Gather Materials
  - i) Locate supplies and equipment
    - a) Locate workstation with plenty of room to layout the maps you are going to be flattening.
    - b) Blotter paper
    - c) Glass (used to weigh down blotting paper after humidification process is complete)
- B. Removed documents from the humidifier, one at a time, and place between sheets of blotting paper on the flattening table.
  - i) Do not put more than one layer of damp maps between layers of blotting paper; both sides of each map must be in contact with a layer of blotting paper.
- C. Once all maps that have been humidified are between sheets of blotting paper, cover the stack with a sheet of glass and leave overnight to dry.
  - i) Replace the blotting paper as needed.

#### Encapsulation Procedures (using double-sided tape) (LSII/GA)

This section was excerpted and adapted from Lavender, Kenneth and Scott Stockton. *Book Repair: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians* (Neal-Schuman: New York, 1992).

IMPORTANT: If the map needs to be humidified and flattened, do so before attempting to encapsulate.

- A. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Locate workstation with plenty of room to layout the map you are going to be flattening
    - ii. Double-sided tape
    - iii. Polyester film
    - iv. Paper weights
    - v. Scissors
    - vi. Brush
    - vii. Cleaning cloth
    - viii. Measuring tape
    - ix. Corner-rounder

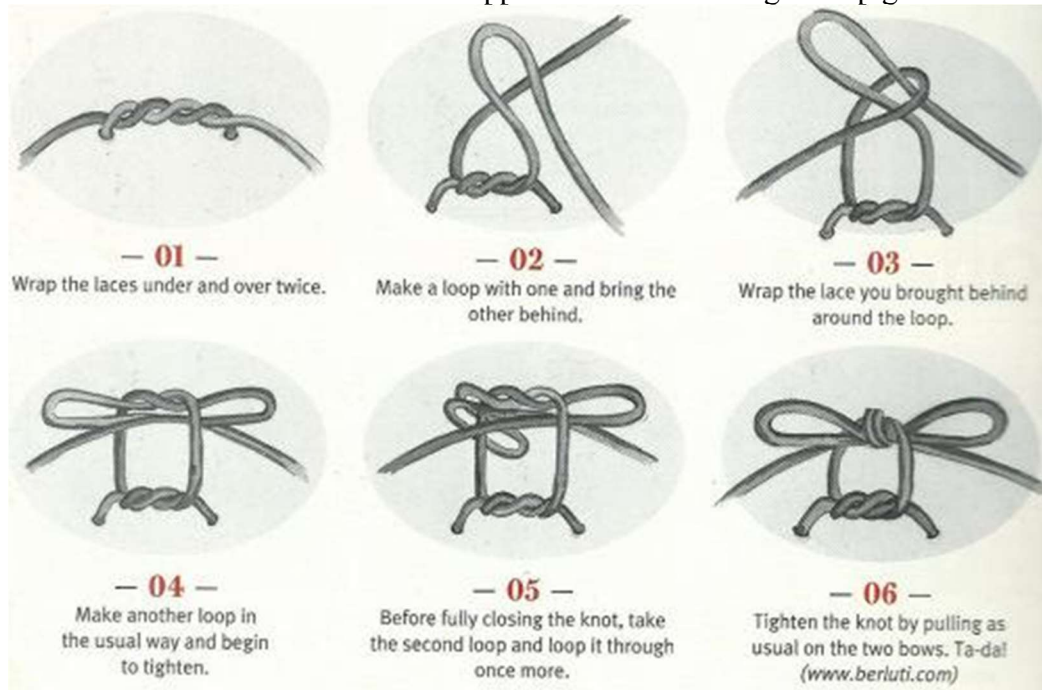
- x. Squeegee
- B. once the map that needs encapsulation is flat, lay the map out on a smooth, clean and dry surface and lightly dust the item with a soft bristled brush. Carefully turn the item over and dust the back in the same manner
- C. measure the map
- D. cut two pieces of 3 mil. Polyester film approximately two inches larger than the map measured
- E. lay one piece of polyester on a clean, dry surface
  - a. clean the polyester with a soft cloth to remove dust and create a static charge
    - i. it may be helpful to use a measuring grid as a work surface. Grids are available in many sized with carious unites of measurement and can assist in measuring the item and the polyester as well as in centering the item on the polyester as well as in centering the item on the polyester
  - b. lay the map face down and center it on the polyester film with approximately one once of film extending beyond the item's edges on all side
  - c. place a small weight on a piece of paper of scrap polyester in the center of the item to keep the map from shifting
  - d. place a piece of double-sided tape on the polyester film about ¼ inch away from and parallel to each side of the item
    - i. leave small spaces between the end of the strip of tape
  - e. place the second sheet of polyester on top of the map as you slowly remove the weight
  - f. replace the weight, making sure the map is still square on the film between the strips of tape
  - g. while gently holding one corner of the top of polyester film, remove the backing from the tape on two adjacent sides of the map
  - h. let the film drop into place
  - i. clean the top sheet of polyester with a soft cloth
  - j. use the squeegee to force extra air out of the encapsulation
  - k. repeat steps on the remaining strips of tape; use the squeegee to force out any air left in the encapsulation
  - l. trim the edges of the polyester film within approximately ¼ of the tape
  - m. use the corner-rounder to remove the sharp points of the corners
- F. when encapsulation is complete, place the map along with the separation sheet in the designated flat map drawer in room 206 (maps that are encapsulated will not be rolled onto the original cores, rolling polyester creates air bubbles)

#### Rolling Maps on Core (Library Specialist II/Graduate Assistant)

- A. Gather materials
  - a. Locate supplies and equipment
    - i. Familiarize yourself with Rm 218, and the temporary pigeonhole process. If you have questions, consult with Shelby
    - ii. Paper weights
    - iii. Archival string
    - iv. Scissors
    - v. Archival paper (that you will use to roll over the rolled maps on the cores)

1. If there are no previous cuts of archival paper to roll the cores:
  - a. Roll out archival paper, and cut the length of paper according to the core you are about to wrap: NOTE: You do not want to cut the paper too wide so that paper edges are hanging off the core.
    - i. Small core = 36"
    - ii. Medium core = 48"
    - iii. Large core = 72"
  - vi. Cores
  - vii. Pencil
  - viii. Rolled maps binder
  - ix. Locate enough space to rollout, and re-roll maps onto core.
- B. After each core, of ten maps, have been entered into the database, they are placed in temporary pigeonholes in Rm. 218. The pigeonholes should be temporarily flagged, with a small yellow sticky note, with the core number written on it, along with an actual core that is numbered on the inside, on both sides, with a pencil.
- C. Once all material is gathered, determine what maps are needing to be rolled (This should be indicated by the LIGHT PINK laminated paper, in Rolled Maps binder).
- D. Once you have determined the next 10 maps you will be rolling on their permanent core, locate those maps from their temporary pigeonhole. NOTE: Only remove one core (ten maps) at a time.
  - a. Using paper weights, roll out, and lay each map on top of the next neatly.
    - i. Neatly means, the centered bottom edge of all maps should come together. The corners might not all touch, but the bottom of each map can when stacked neatly on top of one another.
    - ii. While stacking, make sure and count that there are exactly ten maps, or several maps with a few separation sheets. Example: There may be nine maps and one separation sheet. REMEMBER: If there is a separation sheet, this means that the map is either in the designated encapsulation bin, or marked for conservator and WILL BE ROLLED AT A LATER DATE.
      1. Make sure that all maps are facing upwards.
  - b. Once all ten maps/ along with separation sheets (if any) are neatly stacked on top of one another, grab the core that was located in the same temporary pigeon hole as the maps.
    - i. Double check that the core is numbered properly, according to the Rolled Maps binder.
    - ii. Place the core on top of the flattened out maps, and line up the core with the bottom of the stack of maps.
    - iii. Roll up the maps/separation sheets onto the core
    - iv. Grab the previously cut archival paper, that fits according to the size of the core you are dealing with
    - v. Line up the bottom of the archival paper with the core and the now wrapped ten maps/separation sheets and roll the archival paper around the maps
      1. When wrapping the ten maps with archival paper around the core, go around the maps twice. Doubling the protection.

- c. Once the archival paper is wrapped around the ten maps/separation sheets tie down the archival paper with archival tape
  - i. Using a “shoe lace knot”, each core will have two ties of archival tape. One on either side of the core to ensure that the archival paper does not become unwrapped while in the designated pigeonhole.



- E. Now that you have completed rolling the maps onto the core, and wrapped the core TWICE with archival paper, and secured it with archival tape on both ends of the core, now place the core in its proper pigeonhole:
  - a. To determine the proper pigeonhole of the core you just completed, refer to the Rolled Maps Binder.

REPREAT THE ABOVE STEPS for all maps (and separations sheets) that have been measured, entered in database, placed in temporary pigeon holes and are 100% ready to be rolled on to their permanent cores.