

Guide to the George Rollie Adams Papers, 1969-2024

Summary Information

Title: George Rollie Adams papers

Creator: Adams, George Rollie

ID: 125.adams

Date: 1969-2024 inclusive; bulk 1973-1987

Extent: 16.4 linear feet (37 document boxes, 2 record cartons, 3 oversized folders, 1 media box); 3.58 Gigabytes (81 folders, 281 files)

Language: English

Abstract: This collection consists of the papers of George Rollie Adams, public historian, museum leader, and author. The materials date between 1969 and 2024, with the bulk of the materials dated between 1973 and 1987. The materials are comprised of administrative records, correspondence, presentations, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, promotional materials, and more.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, New York 14607

585.263.2700

library@museumofplay.org

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives.

Conditions Governing Use: Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, he has given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The first lot of the George Rollie Adams papers were donated to The Strong in June 2024 as a gift from George Rollie Adams. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under object ID 124.3950 and were received from George Rollie Adams in nine record cartons. The second lot of papers were donated to The Strong in November 2024 as a gift of George Rollie Adams. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under object ID 125.1292 and were also received in nine record cartons.

Preferred citation for publication: George Rollie Adams papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

Processed by: Alexander LaMare, May 2025; digital records processed by Stephanie Ball, August 2025.

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Adams, George Rollie
- Harney, William Selby, General
- Nichols, Roger L.
- Alderson, William T.

- George, Gerald (Gerald W.)
- Christian, Ralph Jerry
- Gardner, James B., 1950-
- Hall, Patricia A.

Corporate Names

- The Strong (Museum)
- Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum—History
- American Association for State and Local History
- Strong (History museum)
- Strong National Museum of Play
- Buffalo History Museum
- Louisiana State Museum
- Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

Subjects

- Museum archives
- Museum directors
- Museum publications
- Historical museums
- Museum techniques
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Museum studies

Historical/Biographical Note

George Rollie Adams is a public historian, museum leader, and author. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social science education from Louisiana Tech University (1963 and 1967) and a doctorate in American history from the University of Arizona (1983).

Adams taught American and world history at El Dorado (Arkansas) High School in the mid-1960s. In 1973, he started work at the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in Nashville, Tennessee, while completing his doctoral dissertation. There he researched potential National Historic Landmarks under contract to the National Park Service and managed national museum training programs. Adams was managing editor/director of the association's National Historic Landmarks Project from 1973 to 1978, director of the Education Division from 1978 to 1982, planning coordinator concurrently in 1981 and 1982, and assistant director for planning and development from 1982 through 1983.

Adams became executive director of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS), now the Buffalo History Museum, in New York in January 1984, serving until the end of 1985. During this time, he increased public visibility and credibility, attendance, and grant revenue, implemented new management policies and procedures, and prepared the society for reaccreditation.

In 1986 and most of 1987, Adams was director of the Louisiana State Museum, headquartered in New Orleans, and concurrently an assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. There he managed a dozen facilities in three Louisiana cities, enhanced exhibition programming, expanded marketing capacity, and led support group efforts to combat funding cuts during state fiscal crises.

Adams became president and CEO of the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, in 1987 and served in that capacity until his retirement at the end of 2016. Relying on market research, benchmarking, strategic planning, and a boundaryless organizational structure, he led the museum through a more than sixfold increase in attendance and collections, two physical expansions, conceptualization and planning for a third, and transformation into The Strong National Museum of Play.

As of 2025, Adams lives in Upstate New York and continues to write fiction. For more information go to [Adams' website](#) or view his most recent [Curriculum Vitae](#).

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection documents George Rollie Adams' graduate education and his career as a public historian and historical-agency executive, including with the National Historic Landmarks Project and the Education Division of the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), executive director of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS), director of the Louisiana State Museum (LSM), and president and CEO of The Strong National Museum of Play, as well as his authorship of several books. The materials date from 1969 to 2024, with the bulk of the materials dated from 1972 to 1987. The papers are comprised of newspaper clippings, correspondence, administrative documents, presentations, photographs, scrapbooks, and more.

Many of the papers relate to Adams' work at AASLH, including correspondence, activity reports, grant summaries, education and training program summaries, National Historic Landmark Project site lists and inventories (nominations), form letters, annual meeting agendas, notes, *History News* publications, and expense sheets. Of note are the site lists in Series II AASLH, subseries F, the National Historic Landmark Project. The subseries contains descriptions and photographs of scores of National Historic Landmarks resulting from project research across the United States, including houses, military installations, and commercial sites. Each site is described in detail.

Another large section of papers covers Adams' directorships at BECHS and LSM. The collection includes correspondence, reports, presentations, photographs, and media coverage. There is also material documenting personnel, board relations, community relations, public programming, collections, strategic planning, financing, and efforts to restore reductions in local government funding. Other material includes information on facilities, budgets, mission statements, bylaws, ethics policies, AAM reaccreditation, and, in the case of LSM, unionization of personnel. Of note are 53 site photographs from 1984-85 showing the entirety of the New York State Building built for the Pan-American Exposition and eventual home of BECHS, now the Buffalo History Museum.

The remainder of the collection includes material related to Adams' graduate education, his time at The Strong as CEO, and his personal writings and publications. Of note are research notes and correspondence for *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*.

The George Rollie Adams papers have been arranged into six series, five of which have been further divided into subseries. The physical materials are housed in 31 boxes, two record cartons, three oversized folders, and one CD box. Additional scope and content information can be found in the Collection Inventory section of the finding aid.

Separated Materials

Transferred to the Brian Sutton Smith Library & Archives of Play:

The American Indian: Past and Present [1st edition]

Nashville: A Pictorial History

General William S. Harney, Prince of Dragoons [hard and soft cover]

South of Little Rock [2nd edition]

Found in Pieces

Look Unto the Land

Related Materials

The Institutional Records of The Strong National Museum of Play provide additional information on George Rollie Adams' professional life, not only in regard to his role as president and CEO of the museum and in its transformation in mission and scope, but also his participation in local, state, and national professional and civic organizations, including his many public and other presentations. The Institutional Records are accessible by written permission only.

The majority of Adams' research notes on General William S. Harney are held by [the Missouri Historical Society Archives](#), St. Louis, Missouri.

System of Arrangement

Series I: Graduate education, 1969-1983

Series II: American Association of State and Local History, 1973-1987, 2022

Subseries A: Administrative, 1973-1983, 2022

Subseries B: Correspondence, 1973-1987

Subseries C: Conferences, 1974-1984

Subseries D: Publications, 1975-1984

Subseries E: Photographs, 1973-1983

Subseries F: National Historic Landmarks project, 1973-1979

Subseries G: Mid-South Humanities project, 1978-1984

Subseries H: Education division, 1978-1985

Series III: Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 1980-1987

Subseries A: AAM accreditation, 1984

Subseries B: Administrative, 1980-1987

Subseries C: Presentations, 1984-1985

Subseries D: Correspondence, 1984-1986

Subseries E: Photographs, 1984-1985

Subseries F: New York State Association of Museums treasurer, 1984-1985

- Subseries G: Consulting, 1985
- Series IV: Louisiana State Museum, 1983-1988
 - Subseries A: Administrative, 1985-1988
 - Subseries B: Government, 1986-1988
 - Subseries C: Correspondence, 1986-1987
 - Subseries D: Presentations, 1985-1987
 - Subseries E: Newspaper clippings, 1985-1987
 - Subseries F: Photographs, 1986-1987
 - Subseries G: Irby Trust, 1986
 - Subseries H: Building renovations, 1983-1987
- Series V: The Strong National Museum of Play, 1985-2023
 - Subseries A: Administrative, 1985-2016
 - Subseries B: Calendars, 1987-2016
 - Subseries C: Presentations, 1985-2023
 - Subseries D: Correspondence, 1981-2015
 - Subseries E: Photographs, 1987-2013
 - Subseries F: Newspaper clippings, 1987-2021
- Series VI: Writings and publications, 1969-2024
 - Subseries A: *William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*, 1969-2023
 - Subseries B: *Nashville: A Pictorial History*, 1971-1982
 - Subseries C: Publicity, 1972-2024
 - Subseries D: Blogs, 2018-2023

Contents List

Series I: Graduate education, 1969-1983, 2025

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents Adams' graduate school level educational journey. Much of the series is comprised of correspondence. Correspondence dated from 1963 to 1969 is related to program transfers, teaching and research assistantships, and employment. The correspondence from 1969 to 1973 pertains to job searches and travel for dissertation research, completion of primary doctoral coursework and exams, and dissertation related correspondence. The series also includes correspondence between Adams and Virginia Rice. Rice was Adams' supervisor in the Social Science Division of the University of Arizona library during his time there.

Of note is the correspondence regarding articles published during graduate school in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *North Carolina Historical Review*, and *Handbook of North American Indians*. The series also includes enrollment documents covering Adams' transfer from the University of Georgia doctoral program to the University of Arizona doctoral program in 1969, petitions to the history department, and a copy of his diploma.

For additional information and anecdotes see [Adams' notes on box 10 content](#).

Box 1

- Folder 1 Curriculum vitae, 2025
- Folder 2 Enrollment materials, 1963-1983
- Folder 3 Correspondence [Louisiana Tech and University of Georgia], 1963-1969
- Folder 4 Correspondence [University of Arizona], 1969-1973
- Folder 5 Correspondence [published articles], 1969-1973
- Folder 6 Virginia Rice letter, 1973

Digital I

- Folder 01 01_correspondence [4 pdfs], 1963-2023
- Folder 02 02_articles [2 pdfs], 1972, undated

Series II: American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), 1973-1987, 2022

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents Adams' career with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) from 1973 to 1983. AASLH is the national professional organization for state and local historical agencies and historical-agency personnel. It provides annual conferences, publications, and other forms of information as well as training and advocacy for historical societies, archives, and museums and the professionals and volunteers who work in them. Adams started as the Managing Editor and Director of the National Historic Landmarks Project, then directed the Education Division, and later served as Assistant Director for Planning and Development.

The items in this series include staffing information, administrative files, correspondence, memoranda, activity reports, conference agendas, training materials, and photographs. In addition to Adams's work with the National Historic Landmarks Project and the Education Division, the series also documents the ways in which Adams represented AASLH to the field, including with collaborative projects such as the Mid-South Humanities project, National History Day, and national projects dealing with Native American archives and local government records.

Of note are Education Division seminar and workshop binders retained by Adams as representative samples of materials provided to participants. The contents of these include participant and faculty lists and biographies, session outlines, bibliographies, learning exercises, and other related materials. The seminars and workshops were funded chiefly by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the National Museum Act as administered by the Smithsonian Institution. The series has been further divided into eight subseries. More information for each subseries can be found in the Subseries Scope and Content Notes.

Subseries A: Administrative, 1973-1983, 2022

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Adams' AASLH administrative documents cover the day-to-day operations of the organization and highlight the specific projects in which Adams had a role. These include personnel materials such as job descriptions, promotions and hiring correspondence and documents, plus reports, planning documents, and meeting minutes.

There are annual and monthly activity reports, progress reports to the Education Division advisory committee, and, from Adams' later AASLH years, a long-range plan and a preliminary marketing plan. Other items of note are call logs that shed light on the number and type of contacts required to manage National Historic Landmarks Project and Education Division activities. Each of the representative samples of tan, three-ring binders received by each participant in AASLH seminars and workshops contain schedules, agendas, participant lists and biographies, faculty lists and biographies, session outlines, bibliographies, selected readings, learning exercises, and related materials.

The papers were removed from the binders and re-housed into acid free folders with their order maintained for preservation. The archivist maintained one binder in its original binder. It can be found in box 39. For more information and anecdotes on the binders see also [GRA notes on box 6 AASLH](#).

Box 1

- Folder 7 Hiring materials, 1973-2022
- Folder 8 Promotions, 1978-1983
- Folder 9 Monthly progress reports, 1973-1978
- Folder 10 Annual report, 1979

- Folder 11 Institute of Museum Services (IMS) budget cuts, 1981 February 21
- Folder 12 Three-year plan, 1982
- Folder 13 Planning and development, Assistant Director, 1983 January-March
- Folder 14 Planning and development, Assistant Director, 1983 April-November

Box 2

- Folder 1 Planning and development, Assistant Director, 1983 April-November
- Folder 2 Preliminary marketing plan, 1983
- Folder 3 Inventory reduction taskforce, 1983
- Folder 4 Book acquisitions, 1983
- Folder 5 Education Division job description, 1980-1982
- Folder 6 Promotion, 1983
- Folder 7 AASLH marketing committee, 1983
- Folder 8-9 Educational Division Advisory Committee reports, 1983-1984
- Folder 10 Call logs, 1974-1979
- Folder 11 Call logs, 1979-1982
- Folder 12 Call logs, 1982-1983

Box 3

- Folder 1-2 Exhibit workshop series form letters, 1981
- Folder 3 Okaloosa and Walton County consultation [conducted for AASLH while at LSM], 1987
- Folder 4 Calendars, 1979-1983

Box 39

- Object 4 AASLH seminar and workshop binder, undated

Digital-IIA

- Folder 01 01_activity summaries [1 pdf], 1971 January-1982 September
- Folder 02 02_personnel [2 pdfs], 1973, 1978-1983
- Folder 03 03_planning [2 pdfs], 1982-1983
- Folder 04 04_report [1pdf], 1983

Subseries B: Correspondence, 1973-1985

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of correspondence and internal memoranda during Adams' AASLH years. The majority of the correspondence covers day-to-day actions and weekly updates. The correspondence also sheds light on how Adams secured his initial AASLH position and what it entailed. There is also information about his *America: History and Life* abstracts and the edited book of essays titled *The American Indian: Past and Present*.

William T. Alderson and Gerald W. (Jerry) George are primary correspondents; both served as directors of AASLH during Adams' years there. Other communications detail projects managed by Adams, such as the National Historic Landmarks Project and AASLH educational seminars, workshops, and other

training programs. Adams also communicated often with Benjamin Levy and other National Park Service officials about the National Historic Landmarks Project, including NPS historic sites series book manuscripts.

Of note is material related to the Council on Abandoned Military Posts (CAMP), its Department of Tennessee, and CAMP's interest in establishing an interpretive center on the site of Fort Negley, a Civil War-era Union post in Nashville. Included are correspondence, meeting agendas, by-laws, brochures, and a press release and newspaper clipping. For more information please see "[Box 10,](#)" and "[Box 13](#)" descriptions written by George Rollie Adams.

Box 3

- Folder 5 Council on Abandoned Military Posts (CAMP), 1977
- Folder 6 Teaching state and local history in schools, 1978-1981
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1973-1985
- Folder 8 Memoranda, 1973-1975
- Folder 9 Memoranda, 1976-1977
- Folder 10 Memoranda, 1979

Digital IIB

- Folder 01 01_1973-1985

Subseries C: Conferences, 1974-1984

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of information on 40 conferences, workshops, seminars, and planning meetings that Adams attended or at which he made presentations during his time at AASLH. Although not necessarily present for each event, the materials are comprised of brochures, agendas, participant lists, handouts, presentations, and correspondence. Included, among other items, are copies of presentations or notes for presentations that Adams made on the National Historic Landmarks Project, AASLH training programs, grant writing, and Nashville's Union Station. Folder titles marked with an * indicate that Adams presented at the event. See the full [Presentation List](#) during Adams' AASLH tenure.

Box 3

- Folder 11 AASLH Annual Meeting, Austin, 1974
- Folder 12 State Historic Preservation Officers Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 1974-1976

Box 4

- Folder 1 Historic Nashville Box Seminar, Nashville, TN, 1977
- Folder 2 Society for Industrial Archeology Annual Conference, Wilmington, 1977
- Folder 3 National Planning Conference for Cultural Resource Management and Preservation, St. Louis, MO, 1978*
- Folder 4 American Association of Museums Annual Meeting, Kansas City, 1978
- Folder 5 AASLH Annual Meeting, Springfield, IL 1978

- Folder 6 Western History Association Annual Meeting, Hot Springs, 1978
Folder 7-8 AASLH Museum School Seminar, St. Paul, MN, 1978

Box 5

- Folder 1 Native American Museums Workshop, Washington D.C., 1978-1979*

Box 4

- Folder 9 Annual Conference on College Teaching of State and Community History, Newberry Library, 1979
Folder 10 CAMP Annual Military History Conference, Boston and Newport, MA, 1979*
Folder 11 AASLH Workshop on Exhibit Design, Detroit Michigan, 1979
Folder 12 AASLH Workshop on Exhibit Design, Lincoln, 1979
Folder 13 AASLH Workshop on Exhibit Design, Spokane, 1979
Folder 14 AASLH Seminar on Trends in Interpreting Social History, Nashville, 1979
Folder 15 Council on the Continuing Education Unit, First Annual Conference, Memphis, 1979
Folder 16 Illinois State Library and Illinois State Historical Society Annual Education Conference for Junior Historian Directors, Museum Educators, and Advisors, Springfield, MA, 1979*
Folder 17 AASLH Annual Meeting, Tucson, 1979
Folder 18 Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) Annual Meeting, Nashville, 1979*

Box 5

- Folder 2 National Urban History Conference, 1979-1983
Folder 3 TAM Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN, 1980*
Folder 4 Belmont Conference on Mid-Career Museum Training, Washington, D.C., 1980
Folder 5 AASLH Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 1980
Folder 6 AASLH Conference on Folklore and Local History, New Orleans, 1980
Folder 7 Tennessee Historical Commission Local History Conference, Nashville, TN, 1980 December*
Folder 8 American Association of Museums Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, 1981
Folder 9 Intermuseum Council of Nashville Grants and Grantsmanship for Tennessee Museums Seminar, Nashville, TN, 1981*
Folder 10 Association of Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums Annual Conference, Cadiz, KY, 1981 April*
Folder 11 Seminar on Interpretation of History, Iowa, 1981
Folder 12 AASLH Conference on Collecting the Twentieth Century, Williamsburg, 1981
Folder 13 The Mid-South Humanities Project Meeting, Memphis TN, 1981 October*
Folder 14 Management of Museums and Art Galleries Seminar, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 1981
Folder 15 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 1982
Folder 16 National Association of State Archives and Record Administration Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, 1982

Box 6

- Folder 1 Grantsmanship Center Seminars on Foundation Funding and Corporate Giving, St. Louis, 1982
- Folder 2 AASLH Annual Meeting, Hartford, 1982
- Folder 3-4 International Council of Museums (ICOM) Committee for Training of Personnel Triennial Meeting, Ottawa, Quebec, Canada 1982*
- Folder 5 AASLH Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, 1984

Digital IIC

- Folder 01 01_ Native American Museum Workshop, D.C. 1978
- Folder 02 02_ National Planning Conf MO, 1978
- Folder 03 03_ National Planning Conf MO 1978
- Folder 04 04_ Annual Education Conf IL, 1979
- Folder 05 05_ TAM Annual Meeting, TN, 1980
- Folder 06 06_ Intermuseum Council of Nashville Grants Seminar, TN, 1981
- Folder 07 07_ Professional Development and Mid-Career Grants Seminar, Ottawa, 1982

Subseries D: Publications, 1975-1984

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries is made up of over 160 AASLH published documents produced during Adams's tenure. This includes 18 volumes of *History News* from 1975 to 1984 and 142 "Technical Leaflets" from 1969 to 1981.

Some volumes of *History News* contain book reviews written by Adams and information about the National Historic Landmarks Project and Education Division activities. The production of most of the Technical Leaflets fell under Adams' overall supervision of the Education Division. The subseries also includes numerous brochures and newspaper clippings that range from seminar and workshop materials to annual meeting printouts.

Also included are two manuscripts by Adams: a section of *A Dictionary of American Military Biography*, and an unpublished manuscript titled "Historic Pocahontas: A National Treasure." For more information, please see "[GRA notes Series II Subseries D.](#)"

Box 6

- Folder 6-7 *History News*, 1975-1979
- Folder 8-9 *History News*, 1978-1984
- Folder 10 Technical leaflets #1-30, 1965-1969

Box 7

- Folder 1 Technical leaflets #31-50, 1969
- Folder 2 Technical leaflets #51-75, 1969-1974
- Folder 3 Technical leaflets #76-100, 1974-1977
- Folder 4 Technical leaflets #101-120, 1977-1979
- Folder 5 Technical leaflets #121-142, 1979-1981

- Folder 6 Brochures, 1973-1984
Folder 7 Manuscript - "Historic Pocahontas," 1979

Box 8

- Folder 1 Manuscript – Military biography, 1979-1984
Folder 2 AASLH and Nashville newspaper clippings, 1978-1983

Digital IID

- Folder 01 01_ *Abstracts Minnesota History and Annals of Wyoming*, 1971-1974
Folder 02 02_ *The American Indian* reviews, 1972-1973
Folder 03 03_ *History News*, 1975-1979

Subseries E: Photographs, 1973-1983

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries is made up of 22 photographs taken during Adams' time at AASLH. Of the photos, numbers five through seven show Adams and Ralph Jerry Christian, a historian, choosing photos for their book *Nashville: A Pictorial History*, in Adams' AASLH office [circa 1980].

Photograph numbers eight through twelve [circa 1980s] are of Adams and multiple associates on the National History Day project in board meetings including David Van Tassel, David Twining, Lois Scharf and David V. Ragone.

Number 15 is AASLH staff [James B. Gardner, Peter LaPaglia, Charles Phillips, Candace Floyd, Gerald W. George, Ruth Kennedy, Patricia A. Hall, and Patricia Hogan] around 1982. Numbers 16 through 20 are of the various workshops attended by Adams, and number 21 shows a rehearsal for a skit Adams participated in at one of the AASLH Christmas parties. See the [Photograph content](#) page for more specific information written by Adams.

Box 8

- Folder 3 1973-1983

Subseries F: National Historic Landmark (NHL) project, 1973-1979

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of documents related to the National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) Project, which Adams managed for AASLH under several contracts with the National Park Service (NPS). The project primarily involved identifying potential NHLs across the country and writing inventories or nominations of selected ones for possible designation. The contracts covered site studies under four historical themes: Political and Military Affairs, 1865 to 1900; Political and Military Affairs, 1865 to 1929; Commerce and Industry; and American Ways of Life. The AASLH also worked on several NPS manuscripts for potential themed books, none of which were published.

The more than 150 inventories in the collection detail every aspect of a site, including location, succinct statement of historical significance, description, historical background narrative, and location on a US Geographical Survey map,

plus photographs. Also in the subseries are files pertaining to the administration of the project, such as form letters and travel documents, and correspondence with property owners, State Historic Preservation Officers, Park Service officials, and others from 1973 to 1978. There are also memoranda and correspondence with individuals involved in various ways with AASLH education projects and National History Day.

For additional context and information, please see the [NHL project and files description](#) and ["GRA notes Series II Subseries F"](#) written by Adams.

Box 8

- Folder 4-6 Correspondence, 1973-1974
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1975
- Folder 8-9 Correspondence, 1976-1977
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1977
- Folder 11-12 Correspondence, 1978

Box 9

- Folder 1 Processes, 1973-1974
- Folder 2 Form letters, 1977-1979
- Folder 3 Travel documents, 1974-1975
- Folder 4 Travel documents, 1976-1978
- Folder 5 Summary of the Historic Landmarks Project history, 1978
- Folder 6 Political and military potential site lists, 1975
- Folder 7 Commerce and industry potential site lists, 1976-1977
- Folder 8 American ways of life potential site lists, 1978-1979
- Folder 9-10 Letters, 1974 November-1976 May

Box 10

- Folder 1-2 Letters, 1976 July-November
- Folder 3 Letters, 1976 September-December
- Folder 4-5 Letters 1976 December-1977 December
- Folder 6 Project site reports and inventories notebook 1, 1975

Box 11

- Folder 1-3 Project site reports and inventories notebook 1, 1975
- Folder 4-6 Project site reports and inventories notebook 2, 1978

Box 12

- Folder 1-4 Project site reports and inventories notebook 3, 1978
- Folder 5-6 Project site reports and inventories notebook 4, 1976-1977

Box 13

- Folder 1 Project site reports and inventories notebook 4, 1976-1977
- Folder 2-4 Project site reports and inventories notebook 5, 1976-1977

Folder 5-6 Project site reports and inventories notebook 6, 1977-1978

Box 14

Folder 1-3 Project site reports and inventories notebook 6, 1977-1978

Digital IIF

Folder 01 01_form letters and memos [3 pdfs], 1973-1979
 Folder 02 02_site lists [4 pdfs], 1974-1979
 Folder 03 03_summary, maps, processes [3 pdfs], 1973-1980
 Folder 04 04_progress reports [1 pdf], 1973-1978
 Folder 05 05_travel itineraries [5 pdfs], 1974-1978
 Folder 06 06_travel logs [4 pdfs], 1974-1975
 Folder 07 07_travel expense statements [5 pdfs], 1973-1979
 Folder 08 08_presentations [3 pdfs], 1977-1980

Subseries G: Mid-South Humanities project, 1978-1984

Subseries Scope and Content Note: These documents are related to a multi-year program titled the Mid-South Humanities Project located at Middle Tennessee State University and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities with the goal of revitalizing the role of the humanities in public schools across the South through the use of community and regional cultural resources in the teaching of history and English.

Included in this subseries are brochures, agendas, meeting minutes, correspondence, notes, and progress reports, plus presentations created by Adams in his capacity as an educator at AASLH and a member of the Mid-South Humanities Project Board of Visitors. For more information please see "[GRA notes Series II Subseries G](#)" written by Adams.

Box 14

Folder 4-5 Mid-South Humanities project, 1978 October 18-1983 March 4
 Folder 6 Tennessee Committee for the Humanities Nashville, 1982-1984
 Folder 7 Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) correspondence, 1979-1980

Digital IIG

Folder 01 01_presentation [1 pdf], 1981

Subseries H: Education division, 1978-1985

Subseries Scope and Content Note: The files in this subseries document Adams' directorship of the AASLH Education Division from 1978 to 1983. Included are annual reports, planning and development materials, correspondence, training materials from the association's national seminars and workshops and its Independent Study Program, and information on an internal staff training seminar on adult learning. Also included is material on National History Day. Adams represented AASLH on the National History Day board and participated in the program's early development.

AASLH seminars and workshops topics included Advanced Management for Museum Professionals, The Interpretation of History by Historical Societies, Re-Examining America's Past: The New Social History and Interpretive Programs, and Interpretating the Humanities Through Museum Exhibits, among others. Two of AASLH's independent study courses are represented in the collection: one on interpretive labels written by Glen Kaye and one on publications written by Gary Gore. The folder for each of these two independent study courses contains 10 lessons, and each of the lessons includes learning objectives, text, bibliography, mail-in assignments, and lesson reply forms.

Box 14

Folder 8 Correspondence, 1978 May-August

Box 15

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1978 May-August
Folder 2-3 Correspondence, 1978 September-December
Folder 4-5 Correspondence, 1979
Folder 6-7 Correspondence, 1980 January-June
Folder 8-9 Correspondence, 1980 July-December

Box 16

Folder 1-2 Correspondence, 1981 January-June
Folder 3-4 Correspondence, 1981 July-December
Folder 5-6 Correspondence, 1982 January-April
Folder 7-8 Correspondence, 1982 May-December
Folder 9 Education division activity reports, 1979-1982
Folder 10 National History Day, 1980-1982

Box 17

Folder 1 Training materials, 1982
Folder 2-3 Grants and budgets, 1980-1985
Folder 4 Letters, 1978 January 1-December 28
Folder 5 Letters, 1979 January-March
Folder 6 Letters, 1979 April-June
Folder 7 Letters, 1979 July-December

Box 18

Folder 1 Letters, 1979 July-December
Folder 2 Memoranda, 1979
Folder 3-4 Letters, 1980 January-September
Folder 5 Letters, 1980 October-December
Folder 6 Letters, 1981 January-March
Folder 7 Letters, 1981 April-June
Folder 8 Letters, 1981 July-September

Box 19

- Folder 1 Letters, 1981 October-December
- Folder 2 Letters, 1982 January-March
- Folder 3 Letters, 1982 April-June
- Folder 4 Letters, 1982 July-August
- Folder 5 Letters, 1982 October-December
- Folder 6-7 Exhibit workshop materials, 1980
- Folder 8 Workshop registrations, 1980-1982
- Folder 9-10 Interpretation of History seminar, 1980 November 9-19

Box 20

- Folder 1 Interpreting the Humanities Through Museum Exhibits seminar, Madison, 1981
- Folder 2-4 New Social History and Interpretive Programs Seminar, Denver, 1981
- Folder 5-6 Advanced Management Seminar, Nashville, 1981
- Folder 7 New Social History and Interpretive Programs Seminar, New Haven, 1981

Box 21

- Folder 1-3 New Social History and Interpretive Programs Seminar, New Haven, 1981
- Folder 4-5 Adult Learning seminar, 1981
- Folder 6-7 Independent study on effective labels, 1981

Box 40

- Cassettes 1-4 Independent study on effective labels audio recordings, 1981

Box 21

- Folder 8 AASLH National Conference, Collecting in the 20th Century, Williamsburg, 1981

Box 22

- Folder 1 Independent study on publication design, 1981
- Folder 2 National History Day and other event materials, 1982

Box 37

- Folder 1 National History Day and other event materials, 1977
- Folder 2 Workshop registrations, 1980-1982

Digital III

- Folder 01 01_letters, memoranda, and reports, 1979
- Folder 02 02_training case studies and problems, 1981-1982

Series III: Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS), 1980, 1984-1987

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents Adams' directorship of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS), now known as the Buffalo History Museum, from 1984 to 1985. It includes information about his selection for the position, historical background information about the society, administrative documents, correspondence, budgetary information, reports, newsletters, scrapbooks, and photographs. Also included are two binders of

information about BECHS collected for the society's AAM reaccreditation review and information about the New York State Association of Museum (now known as the Museum Association of New York), for which Adams was treasurer during his tenure at BECHS.

Of note are the 53 photographs taken of the BECHS facilities for reaccreditation. The photographs document the rooms both inside and out of the New York State building that was originally for the Pan-American Exposition and now houses the Buffalo History Museum (formally BECHS). For more specific information about the content of Series III, please see the following document written by George Rollie Adams: ["GRA notes Series III BECHS"](#)

Subseries A: American Alliance of Museums (AAM) reaccreditation, 1984

Subseries Scope and Content Note: In 1984, BECHS filed for reaccreditation with the American Association of Museums (AAM), now the American Alliance of Museums. Adams facilitated this process.

The application materials cover the history and operation of the institution, including formation documents, facilities, budgets, mission statement, by-laws, code of ethics, and photographs.

Box 22

Folder 3-4 Application, 1984
Folder 5-6 Appendices, 1984

Digital IIA

Folder 01 01_AAM accreditation review form, 1984 March
Folder 02 02_Certificate of Incorporation, 1863
Folder 03 03_by-laws revised approved, 1985 January
Folder 04 04_acquisition and deaccession policy, 1984
Folder 05 05_Board of Managers Code of Ethics, 1985 January
Folder 06 06_Statement of purpose_interim LRP and priorities for Exec Dir and Board

Subseries B: Administrative, 1980-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries documents the day-to-day administration of BECHS during Adams' directorship. Included here are institutional background materials provided to Adams, much of which he requested, during his hiring process. Also present is information about BECHS budgets, city and county funding, and reductions and proposed reductions in county support, plus the society's annual report for 1984 and a National Historic Landmark nomination that Adams initiated and colleagues wrote for the society's Pan American Exposition headquarters building.

Also of note are two scrapbooks that Adams created documenting key events, activities, marketing materials, and media coverage of BECHS during his tenure.

The 3-inch binders include photos, newspaper clippings, event programs, newsletters, and other materials.

Box 22

- Folder 7 Annual report, 1984
- Folder 8-9 Background information, 1980-1983

Box 23

- Folder 1-2 Background and hiring, 1983
- Folder 3 Code of Ethics, 1985
- Folder 4 Institute of Museum Services (IMS) operating support grant application, 1985
- Folder 5 Volunteer handbook, 1985
- Folder 6 Newsletters, 1984-1985
- Folder 7 Pan-American building National Register of Historic Places report, 1984

Box 38

- Object 1 Scrapbook 1, 1983 October 8-1985 March 31
- Object 2 Scrapbook 2, 1985 April 9-1987 April 14

Digital IIB

- Folder 01 01_clippings [1 pdf], 1982-1983
- Folder 02 02_IMS applications [2 pdfs], 1985-1986
- Folder 03 03_newsletters [6 pdfs], 1984-1986
- Folder 04 04_reports [3 pdfs], 1983-1984, 1986
- Folder 05 05_scrapbooks [2 pdfs], 1983-1987

Subseries C: Presentations, 1984-1985

Subseries Scope and Content Note: While at BECHS, as part of efforts to connect the society more closely to the community, Adams made presentations in numerous locations around Erie County. He repeated one entitled "Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society: Past, Present and Future" in various forms at many of these locations. Often, variations of these presentations were keynote addresses at annual meetings and other events of town historical societies. The folders are arranged chronologically. For additional information and context please see ["Presentations made in BECHS, LMS, Strong years"](#) written by Adams.

Box 23

- Folder 8 Archives Administration of Albany workshop, 1984 September
- Folder 9 Western New York Librarians Association Meeting, 1984 May
- Folder 10 Tonawanda-Kenmore Historical Society speech, 1984 November
- Folder 11 "The American-Indian Wars in the Trans-Mississippi West" *Military History* chapter, 1985
- Folder 12 "New Ideas About Old Times" historical society collections Butler library, 1985
- Folder 13 Aurora Historical Society speech, 1985 April
- Folder 14 Kenmore Exchange Club speech, 1985

- Folder 15 Hamburg Historical Society speech, 1985 June
- Folder 16 Congress of Local Historical Societies, 1985 July 13
- Folder 17 Western New York Library Resources Council Annual Meeting speech, 1985 October
- Folder 18 Wisconsin Historical Society, 1985

Digital IIIC

- Folder 01 01_School Librarians Association of Western New York, 1984 May 30
- Folder 02 02_Past, Present, and Future, Tonawanda Kenmore HS, 1984 November 13
- Folder 03 03_Army and Indian Wars in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1985 January 11
- Folder 04 04_New Ideas About Old Times, Buffalo State College, 1985 April 11
- Folder 05 05_Aurora Historical Society, 1985 April 25
- Folder 06 06_Role of local historical societies, 1985 June
- Folder 07 07_Future of the Past in Erie County, 1985 July
- Folder 08 08_Libraries, Archives, and Museums Close Cousins, 1985 October

Subseries D: Correspondence, 1984-1986

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of correspondence related to two significant matters: Erie County budget cuts and Adams' eventual departure from BECHS to the Louisiana State Museum.

Box 23

- Folder 19 Erie Country funding cuts, 1984 July
- Folder 20 Transition from BECHS to Louisiana State Museum, 1984-1986

Digital IIID

- Folder 01 01_Erie County management review, 1982
- Folder 02 02_Response to Erie County legislative resolution re operations, 1983
- Folder 03 03_Erie County audit of BECHS disposition of county funds, 1982
- Folder 04 04_Response to Erie County audit of disposition of county funds, 1983
- Folder 05 05_Erie County comptroller review of BECHS management practices, 1982
- Folder 06 06_Response to Erie County comptroller review of mgt practices, 1983
- Folder 07 07_BECHS and Erie County contract for funding and services, 1983 January
- Folder 08 08_BECHS and Erie County contract for funding and services, 1984 January
- Folder 09 09_Erie County funding cuts to culturals, 1984 July
- Folder 10 10_interview exchanges re society status, 1983 August-September

Subseries E: Photographs, 1984-1986

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of 12 photographs of events Adams attended while at BECHS. Of particular note, photos 23 through 25 document the transfer of ownership of a War of 1812 cemetery from BECHS to the Town of Cheektowaga, New York.

Also of note, photo 26 is of BECHS staff in 1984, photo 27 is of a publicity event for the exhibit *Sports in Buffalo*, and photo 34 is of Adams on the ship,

Providence, in Buffalo Harbor. For more information on the photographs in the collection, please see the [Photograph Content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 23

Folder 21 1984-1986

Subseries F: New York State Association of Museums (NYSAM) Treasurer, 1984-1985

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries documents Adams' time as Treasurer of the New York State Association of Museums, presently known as MANY. The New York State Association of Museums was founded in 1960 and is a statewide professional collection and nonprofit service organization. Adams served as Council Member (1984-1985; 1989-2003), Treasurer (1984-1985), Vice-President (1995-1997; 2000-2003), and President (1997-1998).

The documents consist of the NYSAM constitution, meeting minutes, correspondence, financial reports and forms, and expense reports.

Box 24

Folder 1-2 Treasurer, 1984-1985

Subseries G: Consulting, 1985

Subseries Scope and Content Note: While at BECHS, and later at the Louisiana State Museum and the Strong National Museum of Play, Adams performed consultations for several other institutions. This series contains information about those. For reasons of confidentiality, however, the series does not contain Adams' full reports for all of these.

Box 24

Folder 3 Albany tri-centennial consultation, 1985
 Folder 4 Chattanooga Museum consultation, 1985
 Folder 5 Regional Conference of Historical Agencies board consultation, 1985

Digital III G

Folder 01 01_Regional Conference of Historical Agencies, 1985
 Folder 02 02_Chattanooga Regional History Museum, 1986
 Folder 03 03_Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, 1987

Series IV: Louisiana State Museum, 1983-1988

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents Adams' tenure as director of the Louisiana State Museum (LSM) and assistant secretary for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT) in 1986 and 1987. The museum included multiple buildings in the French Quarter in New Orleans, the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, and an exhibits facility in Shreveport. Included here are administrative files, board minutes, correspondence, budget and facilities information, programs, media coverage, and material about five support group

relationships and activities. The series documents multiple state funding crises and the impact of these on the museum, including budget cuts, staff reductions, and efforts that Adams led to restore institutional funding.

Of note is information about multiple efforts by various members of the state legislature to abolish DCRT. Plus, information about exhibits and other public programs. For additional information and context about the materials in this series, please see ["GRA notes Series IV LSM"](#) written by Adams.

Subseries A: Administrative, 1985-1988

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains information related to operating procedures of the Louisiana State Museum during Adams' directorship. The materials include hiring documents, Adams' work calendars, board minutes, staffing files, union files, budget documents, layoff procedures and implementation, planning documents, and grant applications. Much of the material is reflective of the period of transition that Adams inherited.

Of note are three scrapbooks that Adams created and housed in three-ring binders as additional documentation of his time at LSM. These contain newspaper clippings, newsletters, event programs and invitations, photographs, and more. The clippings are particularly important as background about exhibits and the state funding crises.

Box 24

- Folder 6 LSM hired directorship, 1985-1986
- Folder 7 Calendar, 1986
- Folder 8-9 Board minutes, 1986

Box 25

- Folder 1 Board minutes, 1987 January-August
- Folder 2-3 Union file, 1986
- Folder 4 Layoffs, 1986 July
- Folder 5 Long-Range planning, 1986
- Folder 6 Deputy Assistant Secretary, 1986 February
- Folder 7 Collections Management taskforce, 1986
- Folder 8 Program budgeting, 1987-1988
- Folder 9 Directorship transition, 1987 September
- Folder 10 Directorship transition and job description, 1987

Box 26

- Folder 1 Artifact inventory at BECHS, 1985
- Folder 2 Expense report sample, 1986
- Folder 3 Administration and staffing files, 1982-1987
- Folder 4 Grant application, 1987
- Folder 5 Alexandria History Museum consultation, 1986

Digital IVA

- Folder 01 01_board meeting minutes, agendas, and director's reports [20 pdfs], 1986-1987
- Folder 02 02_budget [1 pdf]. 1986 February-1986 June
- Folder 03 03_personnel [4 pdfs], 1985-1987
- Folder 04 04_union [2 pdfs], 1986, 2024
- Folder 05 05_collections management task force [1 pdf], 1986
- Folder 06 06_grant application [1 pdf], 1986 November 11

Subseries B: Government, 1986-1988

Subseries Scope and Content Note: During Adams time as director of LSM the government of Louisiana made changes to the state budget causing a crisis for the institution, resulting in significantly reduced operating hours and near closure.

The files of this subseries include information about Adams' advocacy for LSM and documentation of the process. There is correspondence with local representatives, notes, plans for a new administrative structure, minutes of a special legislative session of the Louisiana state congress, and a copy of House Bill 859.

Box 26

- Folder 6 Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (DCRT) budget request, 1987-1988
- Folder 7 Budget crisis, 1986 September-October
- Folder 8 Budget crisis and advocacy, 1986 June
- Folder 9 DCRT notes, 1987 February-August
- Folder 10 New administrative structure and agendas, 1986 November-1987 July
- Folder 11 Budget crisis and special legislative session, 1986 November-December

Box 27

- Folder 1 (DCRT) advocacy, 1987
- Folder 2 House Bill 859, 1987

Digital IVB

- Folder 01 01_budget crisis and advocacy [5 pdfs], 1986-1987
- Folder 02 02_planning, 1986-1987

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1986-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of correspondence to and from Adams during his time as Director of the LSM from February 1986 through August 1987.

The original folder titles were all "Director's letters." To reduce redundancy, the archivist removed the repeating folder titles and maintained the dates. The correspondence is arranged chronologically. For more information about the correspondence and letters, please see ["GRA notes Series IV LSM."](#)

Box 27

Folder 3	1986 February
Folder 4	1986 March
Folder 5	1986 April
Folder 6	1986 May
Folder 7	1986 June
Folder 8	1986 July
Folder 9	1986 August
Folder 10	1986 September
Folder 11	1986 October
Folder 12	1986 November
Folder 13	1986 December

Box 28

Folder 1	1987 January
Folder 2	1987 February
Folder 3	1987 March
Folder 4	1987 April
Folder 5	1987 May
Folder 6	1987 June
Folder 7	1987 July

Box 29

Folder 1	1987 August
Folder 2	BECHS and LSM letters, 1985-1987

Digital IVC

Folder 01	01_Transition from BECHS to LSM, 1984-1986
-----------	--

Subseries D: Presentations, 1985-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: As director of LSM and afterward, Adams gave public presentations and interviews about the museum at events and conferences. The presentations and interviews illuminate key aspects of his job. Topics range from the role of the museum and its future to the status and future of the Old State Capitol building, the budget crises, and the impact of those on museum activities. Of note in the subseries are presentations and interviews on cassette tapes. For additional information and context please see "[Presentations made in BECHS, LMS, Strong years](#)" written by Adams.

Box 40

Object 5	KRUS AM/FM (Ruston, LA) "With Dr. Rollie Adams" audio cassette, 1985
Object 6	"Libraries – Archives – Museums" audio cassette, 1985 April 11

Box 29

Folder 4	Memory and Mission, Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cabildo, 1986
----------	--

- Folder 5 Government Funding: State and Local Legislative Lobbying, 29th Annual Seminar for Historical Administration, 1987
- Folder 6 Overcoming Budget Cuts of All Kinds: The Louisiana State Museum Experience, Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, 1987
- Folder 7 Essential Steps in Planning a New Museum, Annual Conference of the Louisiana Association of Museums, 1987
- Folder 8 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting (withdrawn), 1987

Digital IVD

- Folder 01 01_Memory and Mission_Friends of the Cabildo, 1986 May
- Folder 02 02_Essential Steps in Planning a New Museum, 1987
- Folder 03 03_State and Local Legislative Lobbying, 1987

Subseries E: Newspaper Clippings, 1985-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains newspaper clippings and the scrapbooks that Adams kept as further documentation of his time at LSM. Some clippings reside in overside folders. Many more are in the scrapbooks, along with event programs and invitations, and more. The clippings are particularly important as background about exhibits and the state funding crises. Additionally, there are Friends of the Cabildo newsletters that contain more information about exhibits, and well as about education programs and the work of museum volunteers, plus other museum news.

For more specific information about the scrapbooks written by Adams, please see [GRA Louisiana State Museum scrapbooks](#) document.

Box 29

- Folder 9 Newsletters, 1985-1987
- Folder 10 G. Rollie Adams, 1985-1987
- Folder 11 1986-1987

Oversized Folder 1

- Object 1 *La Gniappe*, 1987 January 16
- Object 2 *Living*, 1987 June 22
- Object 3 *Clarion Herald*, 1986 November 6
- Object 4 *The Times-Picayune*, 1986 March 5
- Object 5 *Clarion Herald*, 1987 November 6
- Object 6 *The Times-Picayune*, 1986 September 14

Oversized Folder 2

- Object 1 *People*, 1987 June 14
- Object 2 *The Times-Picayune*, 1987 June 22
- Object 3 *Living*, 1987 June 12
- Object 4 *La Gniappe*, 1987 June 12
- Object 5 *The Times-Picayune*, 1987 June 14
- Object 6 *Sun* magazine, 1987 July 12

Oversized Folder 3

- Object 1 *People*, 1986 May 23
- Object 2 *Viviant*, 1986 September 14
- Object 3 *The Times-Picayune*, 1986 September 18
- Object 4 *Clarion Herald*, 1986 November 6
- Object 5 *The Times-Picayune*, 1986 September 14
- Object 6 *Viviant*, 1986 September 14

Box 39

- Object 1 Clippings binder, 1985 November 7-1986 September 18
- Object 2 Clippings binder, 1986 September 23-December 22
- Object 3 Clippings binder, 1987 January 7-July 17

Digital IVE

- Folder 01 01_scrapbook1, 1985 November 7-1986 September 18
- Folder 02 02_scrapbook2, 1986 September 23-December 22
- Folder 03 03_scrapbook3, 1987 January 7-July 24
- Folder 04 04_Adams, 1985

Subseries F: Photographs, 1986-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of 20 photographs taken during Adams' time at the LSM. Photos 35 through 40 were taken during celebratory events for an exhibit on wine labels and show Baroness Philippine de Rothchild, various museum officials, and others.

Photos 41-45 are related to the temporary closing of the museum during one of the budget crises. Photo 51 shows Martin Luther King III with Adams in September 1986. For more information, please see the [Photograph Content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 29

- Folder 12 Career, 1986-1987

Subseries G: Irby Trust, 1986

Subseries Scope and Content Note: The Irby Trust resulted from William Radcliffe Irby donating the block-long, multi-story Lower Pontalba Building on Jackson Square in New Orleans to the LSM along with funds for the building's ongoing preservation. The museum rented out the first floor for commercial uses and the upper floors for apartments. When the state zeroed the museum out of the state budget during one of the state funding crises, some individuals, including members of the legislature, suggested placing the Irby Trust under control of the state. This would have violated the provisions of the Trust and did not happen.

The subseries consists of a copy of the Irby will, correspondence, and notes related to the Trust's governing board.

Box 29

Folder 13 Notes, correspondence, and legal document, 1986

Subseries H: Building renovations, 1983-1987

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of documents related to the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, including work done on it prior to and during Adams' directorship of the LSM and his successful efforts to have it reserved for a museum of Louisiana government and politics rather than a museum of Louisiana folklife. Included are renovation and usage proposals, correspondence, memoranda and other documentation about architectural details and building materials, newspaper interviews, and photographs. Additional information is contained in the scrapbooks in Subseries F.

Box 29

Folder 14 Correspondence, 1986 October-1987 February

Folder 15 Mission transition, 1983 December-1987 February

Digital IVH

Folder 01 01_Old State Capitol changes, 1983-1987

Series V: The Strong National Museum of Play, 1985-2023

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents aspects of Adams' tenure as president and CEO of the Strong National Museum of Play from 1987 to 2016. Included are administrative files, correspondence, presentations, newspaper clippings, interviews, and photographs. Also included is information about some of the consultations that Adams performed, plus relationships he had with other historical organizations during this period. Some material is related to Adams' personal writing after his retirement from the museum, and to communications with prior colleagues.

Of note are photographs with and congratulatory communications from prominent government officials, including Hillary Clinton and George Pataki. For additional information and context please see ["GRA notes Series V The Strong"](#) written by Adams.

Subseries A: Administrative, 1985-2016

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of some of the many administrative files created by Adams during day-to-day museum operations. Here, too, is the material related to prominent government officials and to some of Adams's consultations with other organizations. Also present are documents about the museum's reaccreditation processes from 1988 to 2002.

Of note are many interviews that Adams gave during his years at the museum. Some contain biographical information, but most are about the Strong. Particularly informative is an interview with the *American Journal of Play*, which

Adams founded. Also of note is material related to Adams' transition from the LSM to The Strong.

Box 30

- Folder 1 Transition LSM to Strong, 1987
- Folder 2 LSM history project materials, 2013
- Folder 3 Birchfield consultation, 1992
- Folder 4 National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, 1985-1988
- Folder 5 Chemung County consultation, 1997
- Folder 6 Williamsburg seminar, 1995 November 6-7
- Folder 7 Seminar for Historical Administration final program, 1990
- Folder 8 New York State Historical Records Advisory Board "Ensuring a Future for Our Past," 1997
- Folder 9-10 AAM accreditation, 1988-2002
- Folder 11 Interviews, 1997-2023
- Folder 13 Communications and notes, 1981-1996

Digital VA

- Folder 01 01_interviews [1 pdf], 1997-2023
- Folder 02 02_organizational charts [2 pdfs], 2003, 2016
- Folder 03 03_planning and rebranding [9 pdfs], 2003-2015
- Folder 04 04_press releases [3 pdfs], 2006-2015
- Folder 05 05_proposals [2 pdfs], 2012

Subseries B: Calendars, 1987-2016

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains daily planning calendars from 1987 to 2016. The calendars document weekly or daily lists of people Adams spoke with, scheduled appointments and meetings, and some personal appointments. For more information, please see ["box 12 contents"](#) document written by Adams.

Box 30

- Folder 12 1987-1988

Box 31

- Folder 1 1989-1990
- Folder 2 1991-1992
- Folder 3 1993-1994
- Folder 4 1995-1996
- Folder 5 1997-1998
- Folder 6 1999-2000

Box 32

- Folder 1 2001-2002
- Folder 2 2003-2004
- Folder 3 2005-2006

Folder 4 2007-2008
 Folder 5 2009-2010
 Folder 6 2011-2012

Box 33

Folder 1 2013-2014
 Folder 2 2015-2016

Subseries C: Presentations, 1985-2023

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of documentation related to presentations and speeches given by Adams at this time, primarily regarding museum management.

Of note is a file titled "Three Presentations" that has three presentations from Adams on social issues, museum governance, and professional development. Additionally, he made a presentation on writing and the writing process, as well as a presentation to the museum staff in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001.

The materials are comprised of notes, printouts, speeches, and more. For more information, please see [GRA box 10 content](#) page and the [Presentations made at BECHS, LSM, Strong years](#), written by Adams.

Box 40

Cassette 7 WBBF News "At Issue" Strong Museum audio cassette, 1987 September 27
 Cassette 8 WBBF News "At Issue" Friends of Manhattan and Washington Square Parks audio cassette, 1990 June 17
 Cassette 9 WXXI Harney interview and changes at Strong Museum audio cassette, 2001 March 6
 Disk 1 Strong Museum overview compact disk, 2003 November 7
 Disk 2 September 9 *Playtalk* compact disk, 2004 May 18
 Disk 3 MCJS [Macon, Chaintreuil, Jensen, and Stark] National Museum Building Conference keynote address compact disk, 2004
 Disk 4 Smithsonian affiliations conference presentation compact disk, 2004 June 8
 Disk 5 Joint committee presentations compact disk, 2005 August, October
 Disk 6 Rebranding presentation compact disk, undated
 Disk 7 compact disk 2008 September
 Disk 8 E3 materials NCHEG (ICHEG) meetings compact disk, 2009 June

Box 33

Folder 4 Industrial management seminar, 1989
 Folder 5 Chatterbox Club "Memory and Mission," 1988
 Folder 6 Wright State University "Museums, Mission, and Leadership in the '90s," 1989
 Folder 7 Ohio Museum Association "Museum Leadership in the '90s," 1992
 Folder 8 American Alliance of Museums Baltimore "From Here to There: Strategies for Repositioning Your Museum," 1993

Folder 9 "Three presentations," 1993, 2003-2004

Digital VC

Folder 01 01_AAM [2 pdfs], 1993, 2000
Folder 02 02_Board [4 pdfs], 2007-2012
Folder 03 03_Chatterbox club [2pdfs], 1988 January
Folder 04 04_Keynotes, 2004, 2007
Folder 05 05_Strategic planning [12 pdfs], 1987-2008

Subseries D: Correspondence, 1981-2015

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of correspondence between Adams and colleagues including Ed Able, William T. Alderson, Gerald W. George, Don Lee Keith, James F. Sefcik, Holman J. Swinney, and others. The correspondence includes information about Adams' community service work, the Toy Industry Hall of Fame, Strong's proposal for a Museum of North American Sports and Culture in Buffalo, and more.

Also included is correspondence related to Adams' transition from the Louisiana State Museum to The Strong.

Box 33

Folder 11 Correspondence and clippings, 1988-2015
Folder 12 Correspondence and notes, 1981-1996

Digital VD

Folder 01 01_transition from LSM to Strong Museum, 1987
Folder 02 02_LSM and Strong correspondence and clippings, 1988-2015

Subseries E: Photographs, 1987-2013

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains over 75 photos of Adams' career at The Strong. Adams is seen in the photos with many local celebrities and officials including the former Chief of Rochester Police, Gordon Urlacher; former owner of the Buffalo Bills, Ralph Wilson; David Eisenhower, grandson of President Dwight D. Eisenhower; former Governor George Pataki; defense attorney, F. Lee Bailey; museum board members; and many more. Some events include staff parties, exhibit openings, meetings, and presentations.

Other photos of note are Adams touring Senator Hillary Clinton around the museum, General Benjamin O. Davis prior to his lecture in 1992, and photographs of the groundbreaking ceremony of the museums first expansion. The photographs have been numbered on the back by Adams. The processing archivist maintained Adams' original order. For more specific information about each photograph, see the [Photograph Content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 33

Folder 13-14 Career [photo numbers 56-100], 1987-2013

Box 34

- Folder 1 Career [photo numbers 101-112 and unnumbered], 1987-2013
- Folder 2 Juneteenth promotional fan, 2000 June 10

Subseries F: Newspaper clippings, 1987-2021

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of newspaper clippings, magazines, and complete newspapers of stories about Adams or The Strong. The subseries also includes brochures, news coverage, and a WXXI *Connections* interview with Adams about The Strong.

Of particular note are articles in the *Rochester Business Journal*, *55 Plus* magazine, and other publications regarding Adams' participation in community activities and his writing.

Box 34

- Folder 3 Brochures, 1992-2006
- Folder 4 Rochester Business, 1991-1992
- Folder 5 Media response to 9/11, 2001 September 27
- Folder 6 Newspaper clippings, 1987-2021
- Folder 7 Retirement reception, 2017

Box 40

- Disk 9 WXXI 1370 *Connections* G. Rollie Adams compact disk, 2003 November 7
- Disk 10 Buffalo stadium news coverage compact disk, 2012 October
- Disk 11 "THoF [Toy Hall of Fame] to Strong GRA pp#1," 2013 February 9
- Disk 12 "THoF [Toy Hall of Fame] to Strong GRA 42(2)," 2013 February 9

Digital VF

- Folder 01 01_Perspective on Rochester_Rochester Business, 1992 March
- Folder 02 02_Thoughts on implications of September 11, 2001, 2001 September 27

Series VI: Writings and publications, 1969-2024

Series Scope and Content Note: This series documents some of the writings and publications of George Rollie Adams. It includes documentation from his biography *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*, his book *Nashville: A Pictorial History*, correspondence and materials for marketing and publicity, and a full run of his blogs.

Subseries A: General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons, 1969-2023

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains documents related to the research, writing, and publication process of *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*. Adams started this as his PhD dissertation and later returned to and published it as a full history book. The "inquiries" folder consists of correspondence seeking records and manuscripts related to Harney between Adams and repositories that yielded useful information. The subseries also includes promotional materials, correspondence with his publisher, and reviews.

There is correspondence with both John M. Harney, the general's great grandson, and Michael Pate of the Harney House Preservation Society. Of note is Adams' correspondence with Roger Nichols. Nichols was Adams' dissertation director and mentor at the University of Georgia and the University of Arizona, and their friendship continued for fifty-plus years. The correspondence is related to Adams' research on Harney and his work in the museum field and documents the challenges historians face to conduct non-job-specific historical research and writing. For more information about the subseries, please see "[GRA notes Series VI](#)" for a description written by Adams.

Box 34

- Folder 8-9 Inquiries, 1969-1972
- Folder 10 Family correspondence, 1978-2002
- Folder 11 General Harney Home requests, 1983-2003

Box 35

- Folder 1 University of Nebraska Press, 1995-2005
- Folder 2 Promotion and media, 2001
- Folder 3 Reviews, 2001-2003
- Folder 4 Other writers, 2003
- Folder 5 Scholars and readers, 2005-2015
- Folder 6 Nichols, Roger L., 1972-2023

Digital VIA

- Folder 01 01_research inquiries [1 pdf], 1969-1972
- Folder 02 02_correspondence [3 pdfs], 1970-2005
- Folder 03 03_marketing [3 pdfs], 2001-2003

Subseries B: *Nashville: A Pictorial History, 1971-1982*

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of materials related to research, writing, and publishing *Nashville: A Pictorial History*. The book, co-authored by Adams and Ralph Jerry Christian, tells the history of Nashville using over 300 photographs. It was published in three editions: a premium edition (1981), paperback edition (1981), and a revised edition (1988).

The subseries includes correspondence between the authors (George Rollie Adams and Ralph Jerry Christian) and representatives of the Donning Company, signed photograph one-time-use-only permission forms, and over 100 photographs, negatives, and contact sheets. Each photograph has a slip of paper attached describing its position in the final book.

The correspondence highlights the challenges of balancing full-time employment, doctoral dissertation work, and an outside publishing project at the same time. For more information about Adams' blog, see [GRA Box 10 content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 35

Folder 7 Correspondence, 1971-1982

Box 36

Folder 1 Permissions, 1979

Folder 2-3 Contact sheets and negatives, circa 1980

Box 37

Folder 3-9 Photographs, circa 1980

Digital VIB

Folder 01 01_correspondence [1 pdf], 1977-1982

Subseries C: Publicity, 1972-2024

Subseries Scope and Content Note: This subseries consists of reviews of *The American Indian: Past and Present* and *Ordinary People and Everyday Life: Perspectives on the New Social History*, plus communications by Adams with scholars and other authors and individuals about various aspects of his writing. After retiring from The Strong, Adams began writing novels, and this subseries includes information about book signings for those and about presentations he made about both the books and his journey from academic history to historical fiction. Some of the presentations are included in this subseries. For more information about Adams's writing, see [GRA Box 10 content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 36

Folder 4 *The American Indian: Past and Present* reviews, 1972-1973

Folder 5 *Ordinary People and Everyday Life* reviews, 1984

Folder 6 Book signings, 2019-2024

Box 33

Folder 10 Writing journey presentations, 2019-2020

Digital VIC

Folder 01 01_Ordinary People and Everyday Life reviews, 1984

Folder 02 02_From Academic History for Independent Fiction, 2019

Folder 03 03_One Writers Route to Publication, Research, and Learning, 2019

Folder 04 04_A Historians Journey from Fact to Fiction, 2020

Subseries D: Blogs, 2018-2023

Subseries Scope and Content Note: In October 2019, Adams began writing a blog titled "It Happened Like This and Other Stuff" for his author's website. Of the blog, he wrote, "Here are some true tales about growing up Southern, some stories about how everyday things are sometimes more meaningful than they seem, and some musings about stuff connected some way or other to my books." Adams paused blogging in November 2023 in order to concentrate on a fourth

novel, then he sat that work aside to gather his pre-Strong professional papers and write recollections of his career as a public historian. The subseries consists of printouts of his 60 blog entries and digital versions of each post. For more information about Adams' blog, see [GRA Box 10 content](#) page written by Adams.

Box 36

Folder 7 2018 October-2019 December
Folder 8 2020 January-2021 June
Folder 9 2021 July-2023 November

Digital VID

Folder 01 01_2018 [4 pdfs]
Folder 02 02_2019 [15 pdfs]
Folder 03 03_2020 [13 pdfs]
Folder 04 04_2021 [13 pdfs]
Folder 05 05_2022 [9 pdfs]
Folder 06 06_2023 [6 pdfs]