Project Focus:
“Tim’n Susie” by George Whitneck

The Disbanding Process
&
The Scanning Process

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Professor Weigle, UMA
1. “Tim’n Susie” – A little background on George Whitneck and the book

2. The condition of the book

2. Steps in the disbanding process

3. Steps in the scanning process

4. Thanks and sources
A little bit about George Whitneck

• Born in 1899 and died in 1966

• Considered a local historian and great reference resource for anything to do with the Caribou area, local genealogy, and potato farming

• Was very interested in the Civil War soldiers of The County and wrote a book about them

• George’s grandfather, Jonas Whiteknact, was one of the first settlers of what would later become Caribou, in 1824

• Went to Caribou High School and taught at the Holmes School

• Donated the filing cabinet in the Caribou Public Library Archives containing Civil War records, 19 bound volumes of the Aroostook Republican Newspaper, and over 30 fictional novels and written manuscripts (some self published and bound to include the one for this project)

• Raised 11 children all while maintaining a farm and writing.
“Tim’n Susie” by George Whitneck

- Self-published in 1948
- Fiction, but photos (35mm black and white) are from the Caribou area during the time the book was written
- Circulated at the Caribou Public Library in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.
- Before disbanding begins, any items of intrinsic value are removed carefully and preserved. The page holding library circulation dates is one of these items. It helps establish provenance of the item and is important to researchers.
This story is jest about as scrambled as Tim'n Susie's brains, what with Tim'n Susie trying to make a living on Tango Ridge, and Tim wanting to eat a roast duck, but Tim's sorta afraid it might be his Susie's drake maybe, and then Tim gets a jolt that makes Tim grab a axe and Tim kills a duck without thinking maybe it's Susie's drake Tim's killing.
Need For Digital Preservation

The Whitneck manuscripts and books all suffer from deterioration. Of utmost importance is preserving those items with original photographs from the author and items with torn pages and severely damaged binding. On the left is an example of an original photograph that the author attached directly into the binding of the book. To ensure it is preserved, the book will be disbanded and scanned digitally in its entirety. While Whitneck took great care to place a parchment paper sheet between the photographs and the book pages, this was not always done. “Tim’n Susie” features 35 mm black and white photographs which directly face paper pages. Some of Whitneck’s other books feature silver gelatin and can degrade over time. Chemicals leaching out during this process have begun to damage neighboring pages. The photographs below show what this looks like. Additionally, some of these photographs were stapled or taped onto pages by Whitneck and this also needs to be addressed.
First, the textblock (pages) must be separated from the textcase (entire book). Whitneck punched holes in the pages of his book prior to binding it and held them all together with tightly tied string. After the textblock is removed from the textcase, this string is exposed and can be cut and pulled out to free the pages. This allows the pages to lay flat and makes the next step easier.
The Disbanding Process: Remove the photos

At this point in disbanding, the photos are removed and their location documented. This list will be important during the scanning process. Additionally, any glue or paper that held the photographs in place is carefully removed. “Tim’n Susie” has 25 pictures. Only 23 were in the book. One was located in another Whitneck book. The whereabouts of the other missing photo are unknown.
The Disbanding Process: Separate case binding, free pages

In order to scan the pages without hindrance, they must be able to lay flat. To accomplish this, the text block will be cut on a guillotine cutter. First, the pages must be carefully separated from the case binding and pulled apart. As the pages are separated, adhesive from the binding is removed until the entire textblock lays flat.
The Disbanding Process: Use Guillotine cutter on binding

Now that the pages have been freed from the binding, the textblock can be taken to a guillotine cutter and trimmed. This will ensure that the pages will lay flat and in a uniform manner on the bed of the scanner. Only a tiny amount of the textblock needs to be cut off during this step.
The Disbanding Process : Before and After

We started with a complete book (textblock and textcase). After a successful disbanding process we are ready to scan!
“Tim’n Susie” was scanned on a Mac computer (iOS version 10.12.6) using an Epson Perfection V19 flatbed scanner (Epson Scan). It was saved to the Caribou Public Library’s internal server. Prior to scanning the pages, it was important to first figure out where the digital files would be housed. Additionally, coming up with a naming and numbering system for each set of pages was important as multiple books are being scanned as part of this collection preservation project.
The Scanning Process: Scanning, checking, and saving

After determining the proper alignment of the pages on the scanner, scanning begins. Double checking images after scanning ensures image quality is maintained and the pages are legible. Pages containing photographs are also inspected after digitization to ensure sharpness and focus is adequate. If a problem is found, it can be immediately addressed.
Thanks to:

Caribou Public Library staff for making it possible to come in to the archive and work during odd hours.

Professor Anastasia Weigle for all of her technical support in completing this project.

References:

All photographs of the book disbanding process were taken by the author, Angela Wilkinson.

Books, photographs, and newspaper clippings are courtesy of the George Whitneck Collection and were photographed by the author, Angela Wilkinson.

Cite: George Whitneck Collection. *Tim’n Susie. Caribou Public Library Archives and Special Collections, Caribou, Maine*