



THE  
MURRAY  
BOWEN  
ARCHIVES  
PROJECT

# PROJECT UPDATE

## 2015: A Nodal Year for The Murray Bowen Archives Project

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Greetings from the President, Joanne Bowen, Ph.D.

*The Murray Bowen Archives Project* has a new logo! Though a physician-scientist-explorer who loved a good puzzle, Murray Bowen was first and foremost a physician. During his early years as a physician and psychiatrist, Dr. Bowen used this bookplate, with its familiar and ancient symbol of medicine. What better logo to choose for his Archives Project?

From his youth, Bowen found a good puzzle irresistible. That fascination deepened into a drive to seek the largest possible unsolved problems to tackle. He found these in psychiatry.



Murray Bowen's Archives offer insights into Dr. Bowen's journeys into problem-solving. This *Project Update* reviews progress made by *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* during 2015, including completion of Phase I of processing and preparation for Phase II, the opening of our Williamsburg Office, progress on the website, new board members, a special luncheon during the Bowen Center Symposium, and other highlights of the year. It also outlines projects and goals for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continuing support

to open *The Murray Bowen Archives* to the world.

Sincerely,

Joanne Bowen, Ph.D.

# THE WILLIAMSBURG COLLECTION

## Phase I Initial Processing Completed

As volunteers gathered again last April to continue the initial processing of the Williamsburg Collection, project director Catherine Rakow suggested that “we just might finish up” this week. And so the group did. The 51 boxes comprising The Williamsburg Collection have been gone through multiple times. Letters have been removed from envelopes, staples and old paper clips have been removed and replaced, documents have been placed in acid-free folders, personal documents have been removed, and initial information on significant materials has been recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.

The Williamsburg Collection is now ready to move into the next phase of processing.

## Moving Ahead: Phase II

Just as volunteers had completed the initial processing of the Williamsburg Collection, *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* was offered a tremendous opportunity! We have been given permission by the National Library of Medicine to process the Collection, in Williamsburg, prior to moving it to NLM in Bethesda.

This is good news on many levels.

- First, we will do the majority of the processing with volunteers, lowering the overall cost of processing.
- Second, we anticipate completing the processing in less time than it would take at NLM, allowing the collection to be opened to the public earlier than anticipated.

- Third, volunteers will be able to continue to work with the materials, allowing access to Dr. Bowen’s words and thoughts.
- Fourth, the Williamsburg Collection will be accessible for fundraising efforts during this time.



*The Williamsburg Collection*

## Thank you, Volunteers!

Initial processing of the Williamsburg Collection was done by a total of 21 volunteers who worked a total of 47 days over a period of four years. In all, they recorded 820 working hours and 360 travel hours.

Add in Catherine Rakow’s 325 project hours in Williamsburg, and many hundreds of hours spent by Joanne Bowen and her family, and the magnitude of this project and the depth of commitment of all our volunteers becomes clear.

This work would not have been completed without these dedicated volunteers - all of whom are committed to opening Murray Bowen’s archives to the world. Thank you!

## Processing, Organization, Scanning and MetaMurray Data Entry

Processing the Williamsburg Collection will involve a number of steps. Box by box, materials will be sorted into different series, with similar materials being grouped together. Basic information on each document or document group will be entered into the database, MetaMurray, making the collection searchable. Selected documents - primarily personal and professional correspondence and papers - will be scanned and saved in MetaMurray. Documents that require redaction will be set aside and made available to members of the Bowen family for that task.



Much of this work will be done in the Williamsburg Office of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. It is labor-intensive, and we are in need of volunteers who are able to work several days at a time - hopefully, several times during a year.

In addition to physical sorting, by mid-2016 we will have the capability for online review and data-entry, allowing volunteers to help from the comfort of their own homes and computers.

At this point, our capacity to scan documents will limit the number of documents that can be preserved and made available digitally. We are seeking \$20,000 for an archival quality scanner to facilitate this work.

## New Office and Open House



Processing the Williamsburg Collection requires space. On October 31, *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* celebrated the opening of an office with an Open House. The office, located in Williamsburg, provides a place to do the work of sorting and organizing the collection, of scanning documents, and entering data into MetaMurray.

With this office, we also will have a place to host read-ins and other gatherings.

There is a unique feature in the office, visible in the photograph above: the desk from Dr. Bowen's home office. The Bowen family has had the desk restored. Dr. Bowen purchased the desk in 1954. One of Dr. Bowen's early typewriters sits on the desk.

Among the  
Open House  
Attendees:  
Carol Jeunnette,  
Kathleen Noer,  
Joanne Bowen,  
Holly Camp and  
Libby Malone



### What Is In The Murray Bowen Archives?

Volunteers who have worked with the Archives have made the observation that “Dr. Bowen kept *everything!*” They are right.

Although the papers Dr. Bowen considered to be his most important were compiled into the 1978 publication: *Family Therapy in Clinical Practice*, his writings were far more extensive.

The collection at the National Library of Medicine includes professional records that date from the 1940’s to 1990. There are clinical notes and correspondence, clinical records, materials and reports from the NIMH research project, professional correspondence (including letters to and from Dr. Karl Menninger and many pioneers in family therapy), drafts of papers, and extensive audiovisual records. Researchers in this collection follow guidelines established by the Health Protection Information Act.

In the Williamsburg Collection - currently being processed in Williamsburg - are “Dear Family” letters dating back to 1946, extensive family history notes, early professional records dating from medical school through his residency at Menninger’s, copies of title pages from the books in his personal library, many photographs, an extensive matchbook collection, receipts, cards and lots of memorabilia. Dr. Bowen did keep everything!

### New Board Members

This fall three new members were added to the Board of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*: Judy Ball, Ed Henley, and Kent Webb. Each brings experience and expertise with large, non-profit organizations and fundraising, as well as deep background with Bowen Theory. Welcome!

### Symposium Luncheon

On November 14, over 50 people attended *The Murray Bowen Archives* luncheon held during the Bowen Symposium in Rockville, MD. In her absence to attend the funeral of Murray Bowen’s sole surviving sibling, Joanne Bowen’s presentation was delivered by Vice President Pat Comella. Thanks to a surprise matching-pledge challenge offered by John Cammack, over \$12,000 was raised to help with the expenses of the work of the archives.



### 2015 YTD Financial Overview

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 87,540.14</b>
<b>Donations/Income:</b>	<b>36,700.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b><u>46,917.52</u></b>
<b>Balance as of 12/11/2015:</b>	<b>\$77,322.62</b>

### 2016 Anticipated Expenses

<b>Williamsburg Collection:</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<b>Oral History:</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Operations:</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>
<b>Website:</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Support of Scholarship:</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
<b>Travel/Fundraising:</b>	<b><u>6,000.00</u></b>
<b>Total Anticipated Expenses:</b>	<b>\$131,000.00</b>

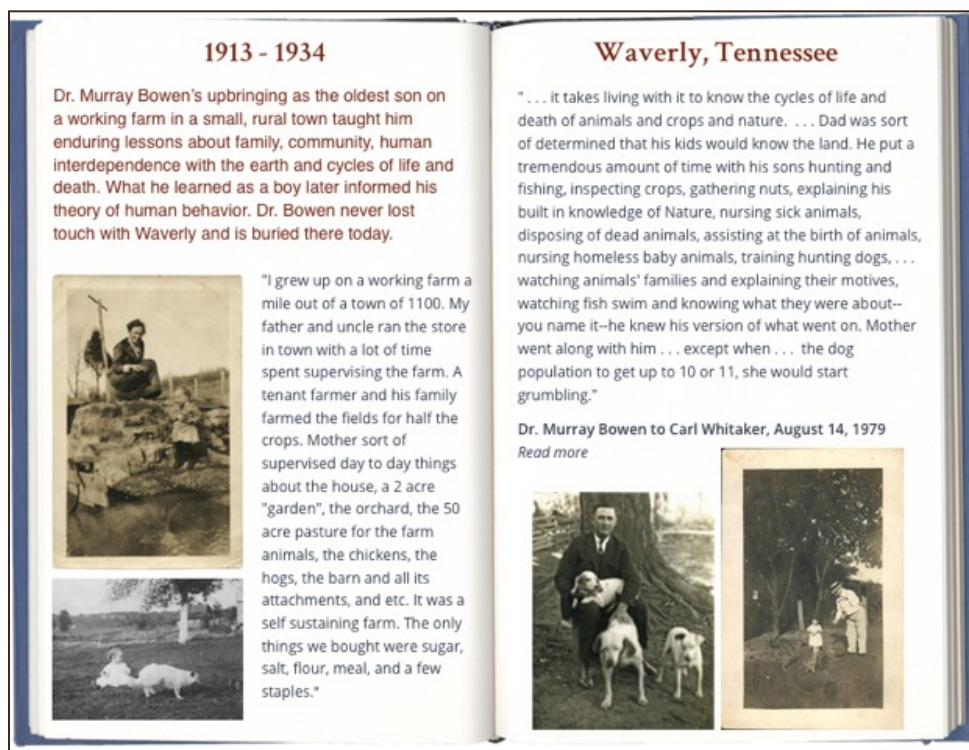
## Update on the Website Redesign

Website Team members (Barbara LeBlanc, Jean Harrison, Greg Brown and Pat Comella) made significant progress on website redesign during 2015, beginning the weekend of February 27-March 1 in Williamsburg. They joined Joanne Bowen and Carol Jeunette for wide-ranging explorations of how to create an attractive, easy to navigate and informative website that would allow visitors to learn firsthand through manuscripts and photographs from the Murray Bowen Archives about his lifelong quest to understand the human as part of all life on Earth. Out of this meeting came agreement in principle on an approach to redesign that would be in total harmony with the Project's mission of giving the Murray Bowen Archives to the world and would shape other communications of the Project about the Archives. Indeed, the Project's new logo showing Murray Bowen's bookplate also emerged from the discussions.

Subsequently, Jean Harrison translated the design approach into a set of design concepts that would provide visitors to the website a virtual tour through time of the places to which Bowen's unfolding odyssey toward a science of the human took him. This tour through time would provide a sense of how Murray Bowen, the physician-scientist-explorer, put together his observations of the human and integrated them into his natural systems theory of human emotional functioning. In photographs and Bowen's own words taken from the Bowen Archives, a visitor would come to know Bowen's experience of the world as it unfolded for him at the time it was actually unfolding. The design concepts also include topical tours, where a visitor could see how Bowen applied his insights in his writings to such subjects as family relationships, family history, death, societal process and the human's relationship with the Earth.

Beginning on Dr. Bowen's birthday, January 31, we will post one Oral History Interview each month. We are exploring the possibility of a "chapter-by-chapter" offering on the website of Clarence Boyd's book. In addition, as important documents are scanned and entered into MetaMurray, we hope to make them accessible through the website.

In sum, the redesigned website will become a portal into the work of the Archives Project, as well as the Archives themselves, and a way of communicating to those already supporting the work of the Project's mission.



### Change Notice

At their October 31, 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to change the name of "Leaders for Tomorrow" to "The Murray Bowen Archives Project."

## A Few More 2015 Highlights

In addition to the many accomplishments and events already described, a few more bear noting:

- In October, Libby Malone, Secretary, offered a presentation on the Archives Project to the ISS Family Institute in Hong Kong
- We were well represented at the First International Conference on Bowen Theory, held in Pittsburgh in August. Catherine Rakow offered a presentation on the archives. Pat Comella, Joanne Bowen, Ann Jones, and Carol Jeunnette attended and staffed a table with information.
- At the Bowen Center Fall Symposium, Carol Jeunnette, Executive Director, offered a presentation on “Glimpses of Theory in Early Letters and Notes of Dr. Murray Bowen.”

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Frances Bowen Hutchison, Dr. Bowen’s youngest and last surviving sibling, and long-time supporter of her brother’s research and his archives died on November 11, 2015. She was buried in Waverly, TN.

## Donations may be sent to:

The Murray Bowen Archives Project  
c/o Bill Dwyer, M.D.  
301 Belvoir Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Please make checks payable to: *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*  
Thank you!

## *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*

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Carol Jeunnette, Ph.D., Editor  
Pat Comella, Contributor

## 2016 Goals

- Complete the redesign of the website and bring it online;
- Complete processing 20 boxes of the Williamsburg Collection, including organization, metadata entry, scanning and redaction of important documents;
- Bring MetaMurray online to enable access to documents ready to be released;
- Post 12 Oral History Interviews - audio and transcripts online through the website;
- Research processes and costs for AV restoration and preservation; commence fundraising to begin this work early in 2017
- Offer presentations on the *TMBAP* to at least three Bowen-related centers;
- Develop plans for the first *TMBAP* archival scholarship conference, to be held early in 2017.
- Seek out and apply for grants to support the work of the *TMBAP*.

## Ways You Can Help

### Donate

The Murray Bowen Archives Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible and are used support the ongoing work of the project. Thank you to all who have donated through the years!

### Volunteer

The majority of the work done in the Murray Bowen Archives Project to this point has been completed by volunteers. We are grateful for their time, energy, thinking, support and work. As we move into Phase II, volunteers are needed in Williamsburg to help with the physical processing of the collection. We will soon need volunteers to enter information about documents and photographs into MetaMurray. This can be done at home! Watch for *MBAP Email Blasts* or contact Carol Jeunnette for more information. [caroljeunnette@murraybowenarchives.org](mailto:caroljeunnette@murraybowenarchives.org).