

Georgia's Public Libraries Have that

Exploration of Genealogy and Family History resources in Georgia's public libraries.

Josh Kitchens, October 2026

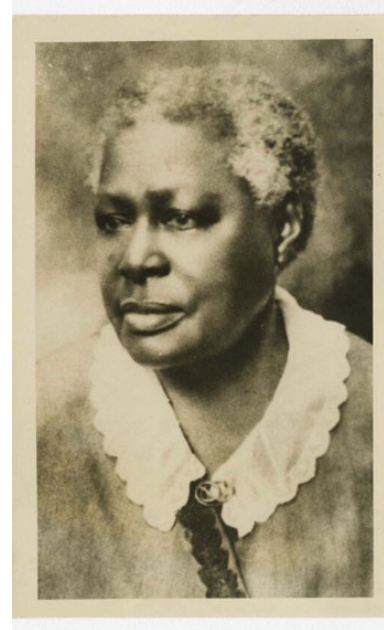


Two Family Stories



Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter
https://dlg.usg.edu/record/nge_ngen_m_-972



Lucy Craft Laney
https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_fpro_laney19331026

Overview

01

hub

GPLS and ASDI

Introduction to Georgia Public Library Service and Archival Services & Digital Initiatives.

02

inventory_2

Special Collections In Public Libraries

Exploration of genealogy, archival holdings, community history, and physical formats.

03

collections

Digitized Collections in the DLG

Accessing local historic items and online primary sources through Digital Library of Georgia.

Georgia Public Library Service empowers libraries to improve the lives of all Georgians.

We achieve our mission by:

- Providing and encouraging visionary leadership;
- Ensuring equal access to information and technology;
- Promoting the value and joy of lifelong reading and learning; and
- Facilitating collaboration and innovation in the broader library community.

Archival Services and Digital Initiatives



Special Collections in Public Libraries

family_history

Genealogy

Trace lineage and family heritage through historical records.

- Books
- Family Files
- Local Genealogy Collections

inventory_2 Archival

Preserving primary source documentation and civic memory.

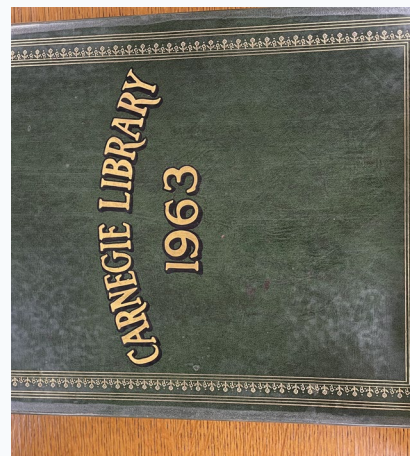
- Business Collections
- Government Records
- Family Papers
- Photograph Collections

Media & Formats

Digital: Digitized Collections, Native Digital Collections

Physical: Objects, Art & Ephemera

Files: Vertical Files & Pamphlets



What ASDI helps libraries and communities with

collections

Digitization

Services to expand digital access to local collections.

- Digikits
- Digitization Support
- Digital Collection Usage

inventory_2

Special Collections

Support & management for library holdings.

- Collection Management
- Preservation Support
- Archival Processing
- Grant Support

groups

Community History

Programming & local narrative preservation.

- Oral History
- Community Projects
- Exhibits

school

Education

Ongoing professional training & skill development.

- Continuing Education
- Workshops & Training

So How Does That Help Genealogists?

`manage_search` Descriptions & Indexes

Collection listings and guides available in public libraries.

- Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries
- Memory Labs
- DigiKits

`folder_shared` Digitized Projects

Direct online access to primary historical source materials.

- Newspapers
- Family Papers and Family History
- Photos, Postcards and other visual material

Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries

Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries



Browse by: [Repositories](#) [Collections](#) [Digital Materials](#) [Subjects](#) [Names](#) [Q](#)

Find what you're looking for:

Enter your search terms

Limit by record type

Search all record types

Search field

Keyword

From year

From

To year

To

Add row

+

Search

Georgia Archival and Manuscript Collections

Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries is an ArchivesSpace-based platform that provides researchers one place to search all archival, genealogy, and historical collections, sharing materials in Georgia public library collections. Some public libraries run an instance of ArchivesSpace. These include Athens Regional Library and Auburn Avenue Research Library (Special Collections). Their metadata has been harvested to be included in this unified platform.

Georgia's Treasures Dashboard

Overview

Genealogy and Local History
Collections

Memory Labs



Georgia's Treasures:

Exploring your genealogy, history and culture at public libraries

Discover Georgia's Treasures at Your Public Library

Every Georgia community has a unique story, and your public library is the key to unlocking it. Libraries not only preserve our shared heritage through historical collections but also empower you to safeguard your own. The Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) proudly showcases these resources, which we call **Georgia's Treasures**.

Genealogy & Local History Collections

Dive into the past with a rich variety of resources available at your local library.

- **Genealogy:** Explore family files, obituary clippings, and other physical records. You also have free in-library access to powerful digital databases like **Ancestry Library Edition** and **MyHeritage**.
- **Local History:** Discover collections of photographs, newspapers on microfilm, county records, and other materials of historical significance.

Visit the **Genealogy and Local History Collections** tab to learn more about the specific offerings at libraries across the state.

Preserve Your Story at a Memory Lab

Several Georgia libraries feature a **Memory Lab**—a free, public space equipped with the technology you need to digitize your personal history. Bring your documents, photographs, and audiovisual materials to convert them into lasting digital files. The **Memory Lab** tab provides a list of participating libraries. Equipment and reservation policies vary, so please **contact the library directly** for details before your visit.

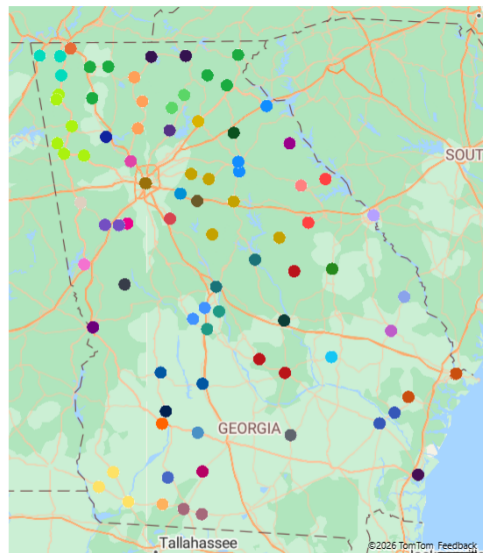
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Libraries with Special Collections

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Libraries with Memory Labs

Georgia Treasures around the State



What kind of collections do public libraries have?

folder_special

Family Vertical Files

Surname records, newspaper clippings, and local family research files.

find_in_page

Obituary Indexes

Searchable indexes and death notices clipped from local newspapers.

description

African American Funeral Program Collections

Rich biographical records, family trees, and community keepsakes.

mic

Oral Histories

Audio interviews and first -hand accounts documenting local heritage.

collections

Image Collections

Historical photographs, glass negatives, and digitized regional prints.

auto_awesome

Postcard Collections & More

Vintage view cards, ephemera, yearbooks, and county records.

Lucy Craft Laney

Pioneering Educator & Civil Rights Leader

school

Haines Normal School

Founder & Principal in Augusta (1883–1933). Developed into a prominent state-chartered institution.

stars

Community Firsts

Created the first kindergarten and nursing training program for African Americans in Augusta.

history_edu

Higher Education

Member of the inaugural graduating class of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University).

map

Statewide Impact

Taught extensively throughout Georgia, including Macon, Milledgeville, Savannah & Augusta.



African American Funeral Programs

Funeral Services

FOR



MISS LUCY CRAFT LANEY

Founder and Principal of Haines Normal and Industrial School, 1886-1933

Thursday, October 26, 1933, 3:00 P. M.
McGREGOR HALL

"Farsaving spirit and idea; mother of the children of the people; purehearted teacher; founder and vigorous sustainer of the educational community; evoker of faith and ambition; inspirer of conscientious and unrelenting discipline; all things renouncing, all work obediently doing; eloquently begging in behalf of your Holy cause; simple indefatigable, indomitable, woman-creative."
Mauden Johnson

THREE MINUTE REMARKS—

Dr. J. W. Holly, Albany, Ga., *Representing National Board of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.*

Mrs. Charlotte Hawkins-Brown, *Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, N. C.*

Mr. John P. Whittaker, *Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.*

Mrs. H. L. McCrorey, Charlotte, N. C., *Women of the Presbyterian Church.*

Mr. L. R. Harper, *Paine College, Augusta, Ga.*

Mr. L. E. White, *City Public Schools*

Rev. P. A. Evans, *Walker Institute, Augusta, Ga.*

Rev. I. J. Yancy, *Ministers of Augusta.*

Hon. William H. Fleming, *White Citizens of Augusta.*

Mrs. Willie McNatt-Oliver, *Women of Augusta.*

Mr. Frank Hutchings, *Macon, Ga., The Alumni Assn.*

Mr. Hayden White, *New York City*

Dr. Thomas W. Josey, *Stoney Medical Association.*

PALLBEARERS

Dr. R. L. Lockett

Dr. L. W. Jones

Dr. J. E. Carter, Jr.

Mr. Charles Floyd

Mr. Henry Cunningham

Mr. J. C. McNatt

Mr. Charles Harris

Mr. Frank Evans

Dr. S. S. Johnson, *Board of Trustees*

Miss Mae Belcher, *Phyllis Wheatly Branch Y. W. C. A., Indianapolis, Indiana.*

Father A. J. Laube, *Immaculate Conception.*

Mr. Walter S. Harris, *The Augusta Press.*

Mr. Jesse O. Thomas, *The National Urban League, Atlanta and New York.*

Rev. J. W. Whittaker, *Tuskegee Institute, Ala.*

Mr. J. C. Bryant, *South Carolina State College*

Representatives: *Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., Georgia State College, Savannah, Ga. and others.*

Senior Class and Faculty of Lucy Craft Laney High School, Augusta, Georgia (1954, 1961, 1963)

Senior Class and Faculty of Lucy Craft Laney High School, Augusta, Georgia (1954, 1961, 1963)

 Collection Collection number: MS-142

 Georgia Heritage Room |  Senior Class and Faculty of Lucy Craft Laney High School, Augusta, Georgia (1954, 1961, 1963)

[Collection Overview](#) [Collection Organization](#) [Container Inventory](#)

Scope and Contents

photos of the faculty and senior classes for the years 1954, 1961, and 1963

Dates

1954 - 1963

Biographical / Historical

provided by Joyce D. Law:

A 1968 alumnus of T. W. Josey High School and current resident of Stone Mountain, GA, Samuel Chiles visited the Georgia Room (15 September 2023) with Friends of the Augusta Library council member Joyce Law to donate materials from his late mother's collection. Mrs. Samuella Willoughby Chiles, a graduate of both Paine Institute and Paine College, retired from the Richmond County Board of Education, after several decades of teaching at Lucy Craft Laney Comprehensive High School. As a resident of a Rosalie Street, Samuel is among the early graduating classes of Josey, who otherwise would have attended Laney before the construction of the second high school in a predominantly African-American neighborhood. The proximity enabled him to walk to school and more freely participate in extracurricular activities. Samuel's older sister, Francene, is represented in the Laney Class of 1963, which includes internationally renowned vocalist Jessye Norman.

Willie Chiles, paternal uncle of Samuel, is remembered as Sunday School Superintendent of Bethel A. M. E. Church. Reared in the Little Dublin Section of Laney-Walker Historic District, Mr. Chiles became one of the most knowledgeable individuals about Augusta's popular history through his role as a window clerk at the Main Branch of the U.S. Post Office. Mr. Chiles interrupted his academic work at Paine College to serve as a logistics warrant office during WWII. He returned and graduated with the Class of 194-. His spouse, Maude, also Paine Institute and Paine College graduate became one of the inaugural faculty members handpicked by Charter Principal Lloyd K. Reese. Mrs. Chiles gained her experience as a professional Librarian at the Calloway Library of her Alma mater Paine College.

Mrs. Chiles father, Samuel Willoughby, graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 189-. He trained at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa during WWI and later worked as the Richmond County Negro Extension Service Agent during the Jim Crow period of racial segregation. Mr. Willoughby eventually entered federal employment, retiring from the U. S. Postal Service. These class pictures represent milestones in education, individual and collective achievement, as well as the hope and dreams of multiple generations to pierce the limits of racial segregation and build foundations to achieve their dreams.

[See less](#)

Extent

1 scrapbook(s) (1 archival binder housing three 36x28cm black and white photographs) ; 36 x 28cm

Language

English

Mrs. Rebecca Gray Zealy

FUNERAL SERVICES

for

MRS. REBECCA GRAY ZEALY



Friday, December 4, 1987 - 3:30 P.M.
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
Augusta, Georgia

Rev. Otis Smith, Pastor

** OBITUARY **

Mrs. Rebecca Gray Zealy passed away at University Hospital, November 30, 1987. Mrs. Zealy was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gray and a native of Abbeville, South Carolina where she received her elementary education. She later attended Haines Institute from which she graduated in 1921. She earned her Bachelors Degree from Paine College and her Masters Degree from New York University.

Her career included working with the Richmond County Recreation Department and teaching assignments at Haines Institute, A.R. Johnson High School, Lucy C. Laney High School and Richmond Academy from which she retired in 1973.

She was married to the late Reverend Marion Zealy. For a number of years, she was active in Christ Presbyterian Church, but after her marriage to Reverend Zealy, she transferred her membership to Union Baptist Church of which he was pastor. She also found the time to give service to the Sunday School at Elim Baptist Church.

Mrs. Zealy was president of the Haines Alumni Association for a number of years, and led the group successfully through negotiations with the Richmond County Board of Education which led to the formation of Lucy Laney High School. In more recent years, she has supervised several successful reunions of Haines Alumni to which many came from all over the nation.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Eddie Gray Daniels, Miami, Florida; two sons, Dr. Marion Edward Zealy, Detroit, Michigan; Mr. Roland Zealy, Buffalo, New York; several cousins and an innumerable number of friends.

Senior Class and Faculty of Lucy Craft Laney High School, Augusta, Georgia (1954, 1961, 1963)

Additional Description

Related Materials

Georgia Room High School Yearbook Collection (Lucy C. Laney High School yearbooks available: 1959, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1975).

Jimmy Carter

Public Service

GA Governor

1971–1975

U.S. President

1977–1981

Background & Legacy

- Humanitarian
- Veteran
- Farmer



Nearest collection - Where

Carney Amos © lab S A L Ry r 712 W 14th av
Carr Chas © (Tommie) 1 lab h 505 W 10th av
Carr E Perry (India H) © (Carr Gro) h 309 E 7th av
Carr Essie M © r 412 W 6th av
Carr Grocery (E Perry Carr) 314 N 7th
Carrell Alice cash McCrory Stores Corp r 106 W 14th av
Carrell Amanda r 303 W 6th av
Carrell Edwin D (Bessie M) service sta 303 W 6th av h same
Carrell Edwin D Jr carp r 303 W 6th av
Carroll Oscar L (Inez L) 1 trk dr r 112 E 8th av
Carroll Wm r 112 E 8th av
Carson Jeff © (Florence) 6 lab h 413 W 3d av
Carswell Franklin L (Minnie A) pres Ga Farms Inc r 609 E 19th av
Carswell Minnie A (Mrs F L) sec-treas Ga Farms Inc r 609 E 19th av
Carswell Ouida bkpr Christopher Furn Co r 720 E 13th av
Carswell Robt emp CCC Camp r 108 E 3d av
Carswell Wm B (Gertrude) trk dr h 505 W 13th av
Carswell Wm D (Irene S) v-pres Ga Farms Inc h 609 E 19th av
Carter Alenia © cook r 507 W 14th av
Carter Annabelle © cook r 708 N 11th
Carter Clayton E (Bernice G) 2 chf clk S A L Ry h 131 E 12th av
Carter Clayton E Jr clk S A L Ry r 131 E 12th av
Carter Clarence © student r 716 W 11th av
Carter Cornelius © maid Ideal Coffee Shop r 716 W 11th av

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BALDWIN AND DISPATCH'S

Carter Dora © 1 cook r 501 W 8th av
Carter Ella © r 1308 S 10th
Carter Ervin © delmn Jennings Drug Co r 712 W 8th av
Carter Freeman © lab r 506 W 8th av
Carter Harold B student r 210 E 16th av
Carter J B © delmn B & D Cash Store r 712 W 8th av
Carter Jas © (Nettie) 2 trk dr Dorsey's Turpentine Co h 302 W 24th av
Carter John © delmn Ray's Meat Shop r 712 W 8th av
Carter John © (Roberta) hlpr County Jail h 420 W 12th av
Carter Leola © 3 h 110 E Reid's al
Carter Lucille © cook r 410 W 11th av
Carter Millard F (Odessa P) 1 ins agt h 210 E 16th av
Carter Millard F Jr student r 210 E 16th av
Carter Mose © firemn Pond Bros Peanut Co of Ga r 406 W 18th av
Carter Otis © lab r 410 W 11th av

Carswell Frances Miss, tchr High Sch, r 718 19th Av E
Carswell Minnie A Mrs, teller First State Bk, r 718 19th Av E
Carter Bros (Rufus J, Harry and Kenneth Carter) gas sta, Vienna Rd

*Carter Chas S, lab, h 907 10th S
Carter Chas S (Betty C) (Top Hat Motel) h 715 23d Av E
Carr Clayton J (Ruby B) emp Cordele Uniform Co, h 310 8th Av E

Carter Dwight (Shirley B) emp Harris F & M Co, h 1626 7th S
*Carter Early (Leola D) emp Cordele Sash, Door & Lbr Co, h 410 11th Av W

*Carter Early B, lab, r 410 11th Av W
*Carter Edw, h 415 10th Av W
*Carter Elijah (Maude E) lab, h 603 10th N
*Carter Elijah B (Maggie P) constn wkr, h 304 21st Av W
Carter Harry (Patricia) (Carter Bros) r RD3
*Carter Isaac (Mattie M) emp Griffin Lbr Co, h 907 9th S
Carter Julius P, emp Griffin Lbr Co, r 410 11th Av W
Carter Kenneth (Lavonia) (Carter Bros) h 413 22d Av E
Carter Lorita H Mrs, bkpr Cordele Banking Co, r RD2

CARTER MILLARD F JR (Amelia E) Pres Reliable Loan & Insurance Corp, Insurance, 103 7th S, Tel 273-2656, h 719 20th Av E, Tel 273-3334 (see top lines)

Carter Odessa P (wid Millard F) h 210 16th Av E
Carter Patricia A Mrs, ofc sec State Farm Ins Co's, r Vienna, Ga

CORDELE BANKING CO.

DEPOSITS INSURED UP TO \$10,000 BY
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.

102 Seventh St. N.

Phone 273-2416

Christopher Furniture Co.

and STORE FOR HOMES

115-117 12th AVE. W.

PHONES 273-3530 and 273-2383

194

CORDELE, GA. (1962-1963) CITY DIRECTORY

*Carter Philip Jr (Rosa A) emp Atlantic Ice & Coal Co, h 512 4th Av W

Carter Rufus J (Carter Bros) r RD3

Carter Sarah M Mrs, ofc sec Wells Hdw & Supl, r RD1

Carter Shirley B Mrs, ofc mgr Liberty Nat'l Life Ins, r RD3

Carter Wayne (Karen B) h 211 3d Av E

*Carter Willie J (Lula M) lab, h 205 14th N

Andrew Young On Jimmy Carter

Audio recording of A. Young Giving Speech at Alpha Event in Sacramento, California, undated

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1 AARL Young 1019

31:37

So Public Libraries in GA

RESOURCE VARIETY

Available Collections

- Family history collections
- Funeral Programs
- City Directories
- And more

RESEARCH REALITY

Dig a Little Deeper

Not always perfect for finding what you are looking for right away.

Successful discovery often requires patience and exploring multiple angles.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Building Full Life Stories

Think about collections for building a full life story of a person or family.

Questions

