

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Legislative Advocacy



Honorable Don Parsons

Representative Don Parsons of Marietta has worked many hours to provide support to the GHRAB grant program. In his capacity as Vice Chairman of the General Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative Parsons helped to restore the GHRAB program funding to the 2007/2008 level during the appropriations process.

Rep. Parsons supports GHRAB's current efforts to combine state appropriations funding with private sector funds, and he was a strong legislative advocate on behalf of GHRAB during the 2008 General Assembly Session.

2008 Award for Local History Advocacy

Lillian D. Champion

Lillian D. Champion of Pine Mountain has worked throughout her life to preserve the history of Pine Mountain, formerly known as Chipley, and its environs. Mrs. Champion published *Giant Tracking: William Dudley Chipley and Other Giants of Men*, which chronicles the history of Pine Mountain, and *The History of Bethany Baptist Church*, which was founded in 1828.

Mrs. Champion served as the secretary of the Board of Directors for the Chipley Historical Center of Pine Mountain, an organization she co-founded.



Dillard D. Ensley

Dillard D. Ensley of Sparks has devoted himself to documenting the history of Cook County. He helped establish the Cook County Historical Society in 1981 and has served as President for the past ten years. Mr. Ensley helped lead the effort to restore the old Adel Post Office which now serves as the Cook County Museum of History and Genealogical Library.

In 2002, Mr. Ensley wrote, *Great Was Their Valor: Profiles of Sacrifice*, which contains biographies of servicemen from three wars. He currently writes a weekly column for the *Adel News* on the history of the area.

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2008 Award for Local History Advocacy

Sylvia Burch, Amy Allen, & Rosemary Fischer

Sylvia Burch and Amy Allen, Henry County Board of Education employees, collaborated with Rosemary Fischer, Clayton State University archivist, to create the McDonough School Museum. The Museum showcases the history of the school, and education in Henry County, from the 1890s to 2002.

The museum includes a replica classroom, textbooks and encyclopedias, a shop teacher's collection of paddles used to discipline students, and oral histories of alumni and teachers. The Museum has raised public awareness of the importance of local history and made historical records and artifacts available to a broader public audience.



Irvin Earl Richardson

Irvin Earl Richardson of Jesup, often referred to as "Mr. Georgia History" in the local press, investigates Wayne County's earlier days. He then presents programs for school classes, high school reunions, civic clubs, and the local radio station morning show.

Mr. Richardson also conducts guided historic walking and bus tours as part of the in-service training for local educators. He is a valued resource to the entire community, sought out by citizens, the library, and the local newspaper to provide historical information.

Ellen Keith Thompson

Dr. Ellen Keith Thompson of Dalton began collecting photographs of the Whitfield County Schools in 1986. Today, that collection numbers over 1,000 historic photos of schools, school groups, and individuals and it is still growing. Each Wednesday, Dalton's *Daily Citizen* publishes another old school photo, much to the delight and interest of the public.

What began as a collection of photographs has expanded to include educational memorabilia, such as band uniforms, yearbooks, election cards, and diplomas. Through her efforts, Dr. Thompson has ensured that the school system's history will be preserved.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Advocacy



Association County Commissioners of Georgia

The Association County Commissioners of Georgia surveyed Georgia counties about their recordkeeping practices and produced *Best Practice Guide for Records Management* which it distributed to every county in Georgia. The Guide is an important tool because a good records management system is vital in order to provide customer service to the public, comply with open record requests, and locate records in an efficient manner.

The Association has established a long-term commitment to keep records management front and center with Georgia counties.

Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia

The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia engaged in a year-long effort to raise disaster planning awareness in Georgia superior courts. The Council surveyed all superior courts and developed a disaster plan template and a planning guide for courts to use to protect their important records.

In cooperation with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority, the Council also developed a computer system that creates a secure, offsite backup of all electronic documents in each county's courthouse.



Harlan Greene

Harlan Greene had been the Archivist at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston for less than three years when he grew suspicious that some records he was processing might have been stolen from Georgia counties.

Mr. Greene contacted the Georgia Archives whose staff found microfilm copies of the records made in county courthouses in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Greene returned the items and is investigating possible action against those responsible. Through his actions, Mr. Greene acted as a powerful advocate for records in Georgia.

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development

Delta Air Lines Corporate Archives Delta Air Transport Heritage Museum

The Delta Air Lines Corporate Archives started as an "after hours project" in 1946 and has grown from a single desk drawer to a 5,000 sq. ft. facility today. The collection contains records that document aviation events in Georgia and many artifacts, including 8,000 uniforms.

The Archives is a weekly contributor to the award-winning Delta Blog. Launched in 2006, the Blog has turned into a very successful venue for promoting both Delta history and archives in general. Thanks in large part to the Archives, the most-frequently visited category on the Blog is "History."



Paulding County School District



In 2005, the Paulding County School District developed a comprehensive records management plan that includes a full-time records clerk and training for 37 records coordinators. In 2006, the District's administrative offices relocated, and the former offices were converted into a records center with compact shelving.

The District conducted an inventory of district records and transferred permanent records to the records center for preservation. The Paulding County School District's work serves as a model for school districts and other government entities in the state.

Civil Rights Digital Library

The Civil Rights Digital Library, a collaborative project of twelve organizations, is an ambitious initiative to deliver educational content about the Civil Rights Movement via the Web.

The digital library promotes an enhanced understanding of the Movement through its three principal components: a digital video archives of historical news footage; a portal that provides access to Civil Rights-related materials from libraries, archives, and museums across the nation; and instructional materials that facilitate the use of the content in classrooms.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY
DOCUMENTING AMERICA'S STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History

Erskine Clarke

Dr. Erskine Clarke of Decatur wrote *Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic*, the story of four generations of wealthy planters and their slaves in coastal Georgia and the complex ways in which these two communities interacted. Through letters, court documents, archaeological findings, and the memory of the African-American community, Dr. Clarke brings to light the long-suppressed history of the slaves of the Charles Colcock Jones plantations (1804-1869).

The book, published by Yale University Press, won the 2006 Bancroft Prize sponsored by Columbia University.



2008 Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of an Archives



Mark V. Wetherington

Dr. Mark V. Wetherington of Louisville, Kentucky, wrote *Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War & Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia*. The book addresses one of the deep voids of Georgia history: the culture, experience, and impact of these events on the average residents of this region.

Dr. Wetherington used pension applications, governor's records, newspapers, and other sources to discern the historical voice of this neglected group of Georgians.

2008 Award for Excellence in the Educational Use of Historical Records

Museum of Aviation Flight & Technology Center

The Museum of Aviation Flight & Technology Center at Robins Air Force Base in Houston County has grown into a significant exhibit, education, and cultural center drawing more than 500,000 visitors a year. The Museum recently developed a teacher's guide for its Tuskegee Airmen exhibit that involved researching primary documents, interviewing original Tuskegee Airmen, and working with teachers to develop lesson plans that meet Georgia's QCC standards.

The Museum advocates the use of primary sources in educational settings to provide students with a better understanding of our world.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9-12



Margaret Drew Bongiovanni

Margaret Drew Bongiovanni is a rising 12th grader at Central High School in Macon. Her National History Day paper "A Struggle for Compromise: Cooperationists in the Secession of Georgia" demonstrates outstanding use of archival sources.

Ms. Bongiovanni used several historic newspapers from Milledgeville, Macon, and Columbus; letters from the era; and the actual proceedings from the secession debates in the legislature. The paper placed first at the state contest of National History Day.

2008 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 6-8

Chloe Battle, Sydnie Grace Cheplick, Caroline Kipland Johnson, Karsin Spinks, & Tori Willis

The group performance "Rosie the Riveter: Making Compromises at Home and at Work" by middle schoolers Chloe Battle, Sydnie Grace Cheplick, Caroline Kipland Johnson, Karsin Spinks, and Tori Willis is an outstanding example of student use of archival records.

These students at West Side Magnet School in LaGrange conducted oral histories with former Rosies, whom they located via a letter to the editor in their local newspaper and a contact in the Rosie the Riveter Society, based at FDR's Little White House. The performance took first place at the state contest of National History Day.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2008 Award for Lifetime Achievement

Carrie Moore Adamson

First and foremost a genealogist, Carrie Moore Adamson is also a writer, editor, lecturer, and cemetery historian and interpreter. As the charter president of the Augusta Genealogical Society in 1979, she helped the Society's membership purchase a free-standing building as a home and provided valuable leadership to the Society over many years.

During her distinguished career, Mrs. Adamson has lectured throughout the Southeast, taught thousands of researchers how to locate and use primary sources to find their ancestors, and provided memorable interpretive tours through Magnolia and Summerville cemeteries in Augusta, both of which date from the early 1800s.



Anthony R. Dees (1937— 2007)

Anthony (Tony) R. Dees, the first archivist for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, was a teacher, mentor, and colleague to many Georgia archivists. A native of North Carolina, Mr. Dees began his nearly forty-year career as a librarian at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He then moved to Georgia and served as Director of the Georgiana Collection and Curator of Manuscripts at the University of Georgia Libraries. He also served as Director of the Georgia Historical Society and Assistant Director of the Georgia Archives.

For over twenty years, Mr. Dees played a leadership role in the Society of Georgia Archivists. His colleagues held him in high regard and sought his counsel. They also delighted in his wonderful humor and cherished his friendship.