



Award for Local History Advocacy Cindy Barton

Archivist Cindy Barton noted only 22 men were identified as killed in action on the Griffin-Spalding County World War I Doughboy Memorial statue. Realizing it was unlikely so few local men died in service during The Great War, Barton set out to determine if the names of some soldiers had been omitted from the memorial. Through dedicated research, she ultimately identified 15 soldiers who had not been recognized. A large number of these were African Americans. Thanks to her efforts, those soldiers' families were honored guests at the unveiling of a new plaque bearing their ancestors' names that has been added to the memorial. Furthermore, they are also now able to view documents and records pertaining to their loved ones' military service and the community is finally able to honor *all* of its fallen soldiers. This local history would remain hidden today if not for Barton's research and advocacy. She was driven to unearth the truth about these servicemen and committed to correcting the long incomplete historic record.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Cindy Barton, Toby Graham

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Lifetime Achievement Award Mary Ellen Brooks

For nearly 40 years, Mary Ellen Brooks has cared for the historical, literary, and artistic treasures of Georgia's heritage that are housed in the University of Georgia Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. During the 15 years she served as director of the Hargrett (1992-2008), Ms. Brooks acquired 532 manuscript collections, roughly 20 percent of Hargrett's holdings; built up Hargrett's collection of Fine Printing, Small Press books, and other works related to the Book Arts, making it the 5th largest in the country; curated more than 100 exhibitions of Hargrett material on campus and elsewhere in the state to generate visibility, appreciation and use of the Hargrett holdings; and established the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. In addition to procuring Georgia collections, Ms. Brooks' early embrace of new technology enhanced not only their preservation, but also their accessibility to everyone, regardless of the location of the researcher. The initial project was digitization of historical maps of Georgia and the Southeast, putting UGA among the first in the nation to do so. Ms. Brooks is now director emerita of the library.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Mary Ellen Brooks, Toby Graham

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**Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of an Archives
Vincent Joseph Dooley and Samuel Norman Thomas, Jr.**

The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853-1863, by Dooley and Thomas relays the story of a young man, on the cusp of a promising law career in the 1850s who comes to the conclusion that his way of life, and that of his neighbors, is about to change forever. Interwoven with those of his wife, Rosa Eugenia Huguenin, the Delony correspondence offers a window into the lives of independent individuals during the Civil War who also happened to be well-placed in society due to birth. Coach Dooley discovered the Delonys' Civil War letters in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at UGA. Monthly meetings were held with his coeditor, Sam Thomas, for a period of over five years to work on this project. The editors add much valuable material to the volume, including a timeline, general introduction, footnotes, a pair of appendices, and an index. They also usefully organize the huge body of correspondence into fourteen chapters, beginning each with a lengthy introduction that offers detailed background and context for the letters that follow. The volume also contains a large number of good quality maps, a feature often overlooked in books of this type.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Samuel Norman Thomas, Jr., Vincent Dooley, Toby Graham

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**Lifetime Achievement Award
Walter Javan “Jay” Fraser, Jr.**

Dr. Walter Javan Fraser, Jr. (deceased 2017), known both respectfully and affectionately as “Jay” to colleagues and friends, received all of his academic degrees in history: his BA from the University of Virginia in 1958; his MA from East Carolina University (then, College) in 1964; and, his PhD from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville in 1970. His master's thesis was entitled, *Collegians and Conscription on the Home Front During World War I, 1917 – 1918*. Dr. Fraser taught history at The Citadel in Charleston, SC, for 19 years before joining the history faculty at Georgia Southern University (then, College) in 1982, from which he retired as Department Chair May 30, 2001. In 2000 he received Georgia Southern's Ruffin Cup, which “recognizes the highest achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences,” and which is “awarded annually to a teacher-scholar who has combined excellent teaching with outstanding contributions to the spirit of the liberal arts.” On June 1, 2001, Dr. Fraser was named Professor Emeritus and Chair Emeritus, Department of History, Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Fraser was a historian, professor, and scholar of the American South who often documented “social and racial inequities which underpinned the history of a complex region he loved deeply.” His biographical profile in WorldCat, the online, international library catalog, identifies 24 works in 55 publications with 4,939 library holdings worldwide. He was both a user of, and a contributor to archives, and his publication roles included author, editor, interviewer, interviewee, and curator of archival collections. His genres included books, articles, essays, book reviews, conference proceedings, photographic works, biography, interviews, and archival finding aids. In all four of the books authored solely by Dr. Fraser, he focused the lens of his extensive historical research and his engaging writing style on his beloved and intimately known Georgia and South Carolina Low Country.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Lynn Wolfe (Dr. Fraser's widow), Toby Graham

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Award for Local History Advocacy
Gainesville High School 125th Anniversary Celebration

In 2016, Gainesville High School principal Tom Smith commissioned a hearty team of alumni to plan a celebration of the school's 125th anniversary.

The resulting events showcased memorabilia collected and loaned by alumni, showed off the school's campus, offered fellowship opportunities among alumni and friends, and sustained its rich traditions as one of Georgia's oldest public high schools. Exhibits, designed in categories, were assembled and displayed in multiple locations across campus, including scrapbooks, school newspapers, photographs, trophies, and all manner of memorabilia. A podium used by FDR during his 1938 visit was on display.

Gainesville High School welcomed thousands to the historic celebration; with alumni from more than ten states represented at this very special observance.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Jean Brannon, Helen Perry, Kim Davis, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives
Monica R. Gisolfi

In *The Takeover: Chicken Farming and the Roots of American Agribusiness* (published by the UGA Press), Dr. Gisolfi, Associate Professor of History at University of North Carolina Wilmington, examines the rise of Southern agribusiness and its environmental, human, and social costs. Economists have described the upcountry Georgia poultry industry as the quintessential agribusiness. Following a trajectory from Reconstruction through the Great Depression to the present day, she shows how the poultry farming model of semi-vertical integration perfected a number of practices that had first underpinned the cotton-growing crop-lien system, ultimately transforming the poultry industry in ways that drove tens of thousands of farmers off the land and rendered those who remained dependent on large agribusiness firms. Gisolfi puts a local face on one of the twentieth century's silent agribusiness revolutions. Her work draws on records at the National Archives, National Museum of American History, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at UGA, and the Georgia Mountain History Center in Gainesville.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Monica R. Gisolfi, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate level Benjamin Joiner

Gordon State College student Benjamin Joiner's Senior History Seminar paper, "Science Education and the Seminary Movement of Central Georgia, 1820-1840" traces the changes in what society deemed appropriate education for a Southern woman. These were changes that ultimately led to the establishment of the first female college in the United States, Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. Joiner argues that ideals of "republican motherhood" (the 18th century notion of women as custodians of civic virtue) and the Second Great Awakening helped to push educational transformation in rural Southern states. Northern teachers were drawn to Southern schools and colleges to help the advance of education for young Southern women. In his research, Joiner made use of manuscript collections (including the Thomas Bogue Slade Letters from Columbus State University); a variety of newspapers from central Georgia (such as the *Athenian* and the *Augusta Herald*); and printed primary sources (including the Georgia laws).



L to R: Tristan Denley, Benjamin Joiner, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

For over 40 years, subscribers to the *Sunday Atlanta Journal-Constitution* have been educated and entertained by Ken Thomas' Genealogy/Local History column. Since May 1977 Ken's articles have shown readers new ways to research, provided new ideas on sources to use, raised various issues related to preservation of Georgia's records, and have shared upcoming events and programs related to genealogy and history.

Each year, Ken features a Georgia Day column proving information on Georgia's founding; he regularly spotlights resources for those researching African American ancestry; and helps to educate readers on other key anniversaries, like the ongoing WWI commemoration.

Certainly, the Georgia Archives has had no greater journalistic advocate than Ken, who argued for the institution's importance when it might have closed its doors for lack of funding in 2013.

Over the 40 years of his column, Ken has had "Georgia on his mind" in order to promote, disseminate, and educate one and all, genealogists, historians, and lay readers who enjoy his writing among the AJC Sunday edition's half-a-million-plus online readers.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Toby Graham

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Award for Local History Advocacy John Lynch

A charter member of the Fayette County Historical Society, John Lynch became its second president at age 24. Now in his 45th year of service, he assisted with producing both *The History of Fayette County, Georgia, 1821-1971* and *All Known Cemeteries of Fayette County, Georgia*. Lynch has authored two books related to the community through his family's history: *The Dorman-Marshbourne Letters: With Brief Accounts of the Tenth and Fifty-third Georgia Regiments, C.S.A.* and *Scarlett's Neighbors*. He was instrumental in establishing and furnishing the Holliday-Dorsey-Fife Museum in Fayetteville. In 2003, Lynch became the first museum manager, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. He remains an active member of the Museum's board, has held the post of Official City of Fayetteville Historian, and has served as a speaker for numerous organizations and civic groups.



L to R: Tristan Denley, John Lynch, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9 through 12 Eleanor Clary McCoy

As a student at Columbus High School in Muscogee County, Eleanor McCoy's National History Day project, "Mercy Otis Warren and the Idea of America" won State 1st Place for Individual Documentary, Senior Division. McCoy tells the story of Warren, a Massachusetts woman who wrote plays and poems supporting the cause of Independence in the 1770s and 1780s. Relying on online primary sources from the Massachusetts Historical Society--the Adams Family Papers and the correspondence of Mercy Otis Warren and Hannah Winthrop--to develop her thesis, McCoy also used the Founders Online Portal of the National Archives and printed collections of letters from the UGA Press and the Liberty Fund. Images selected for her documentary came from the Library of Congress, National Archives, Walpole Collection at Yale University, and paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Eleanor Clary McCoy, Kaye Minchew, Rhonda Barnes, Toby Graham

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Award for Local History Advocacy Middle Georgia Archives

Although the Middle Georgia Historical Society formally established the Middle Georgia Archives by 1978, the growing collection has developed over a span of 180 years. In 1980, the Washington Memorial Library in Macon became its permanent home. The Archives is committed to documenting the rich history of Middle Georgia, to preserving the region's historical records, and to serving as a resource center for the archives and manuscript collections of the area. Its 700 collections total 1,656 linear feet and include architectural, business, church, educational, personal and family papers. Currently, it has 10 online exhibits hosted by the Digital Library of Georgia. The Archives has a strong record of scholarly use. In the last 20 years, researchers have published more than 30 books and articles through the use of its collections, and seven previous GHRAC Award recipients have used the Archives for their award-winning projects.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Muriel Jackson, Toby Graham

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Award for Local History Advocacy Judge J. Wade Padgett

Until last year, the most recent history of the Augusta, Georgia Judicial Circuit was published as long ago as 1890. Judge Padgett has expanded upon that history in his book, *From Court in the Wilderness to Court in the Metropolis: A History of the Augusta Judicial Circuit* published by Mercer University Press, which examines the judicial history of the state of Georgia from its inception as a Royal Colony through the 2016 elections. Judge Padgett's book is no dry recitation of judicial history, but rather brings to life the stories of the men and women who have served in various judicial positions within the Circuit. He pays special attention to genealogical facts associated with each of the office-holders, and Judge Padgett includes an architectural history of the courthouses of Richmond, Columbia, and Burke counties. Filled with facts and stories unique to Augusta, the book is also rich in colonial history.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Judge J. Wade Padgett, Toby Graham

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Award for Advocacy Deborah Prosser

As Dean of Libraries of the University of North Georgia in Lumpkin County, Dr. Prosser established the University of North Georgia Special Collections and Archives following the consolidation of Gainesville State College and North Georgia College and State University in January 2013. Her focus has been to preserve the histories of both former institutions, to build research collections in anticipation of the growth of the new university, and to collect and preserve documents related to the history and cultures of the communities the university serves across its four campuses. Prosser merged the small, disparate uncatalogued collections of papers and photographs at the two separate universities into a growing research center that serves students, the community, and scholars. Her advocacy has resulted in targeted collection growth and professional management that is achieving a vision that anchors UNG as a leading center of primary research in Northeast Georgia, one with an international digital presence via the University's Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Deborah Prosser, Toby Graham

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Award for Local History Advocacy
Beth Pye

Archivist Beth Pye documented Gordon College's football program for a reunion of the football players. The football program existed from 1896 until the fall of 1971 when the college joined the University System of Georgia. Pye gathered and organized the rich history and tradition of early football in Georgia through the lens of Gordon College. Her project drew great interest from alumni both near and far and was well received. This project resulted in eight notebooks of photographs and numerous compilations, memorabilia, and newspaper articles, which remain accessible as part of the library's holdings at Gordon State College in Barnesville.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Beth Pye, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History Sonny Seals and George Hart

Historic Rural Churches of Georgia (University of Georgia Press, 2016) by Seals and Hart looks at aspects of Georgia's unique history through its rural churches. As the Georgia backcountry rapidly expanded in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the churches erected on this newly parceled land became the center of community life. These early structures ranged from primitive outbuildings to those with more elaborate designs and were constructed with local materials to serve the residents who lived nearby. From these rural communities sprang the villages, towns, counties, and cities that informed the way Georgia was organized and governed and that continue to influence the way we live today. The book includes scholarly entries on the growth of religion in Georgia and a foreword by President Carter. *Historic Rural Churches* presents forty-seven early houses of worship from all areas of the state. Nearly three hundred color photographs capture the simple elegance of these sanctuaries and their surrounding grounds and cemeteries. The book is a project of the Historic Rural Churches of Georgia organization, whose mission is the preservation of historic rural churches across the state and the documentation of their history since their founding.



L to R: Tristan Denley, George Hart, Sonny Seals, Toby Graham

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Award for Advocacy

Still Raising Hell: The Art, Activism, and Archives of Camille Billops and James V. Hatch

For more than 50 years, Camille J. Billops and James V. Hatch have been stewards of African American history and memory. As artists, teachers, and activists, the duo has been at the fore in raising awareness and concern about the racism, classism, and ageism embedded in the complex narratives that have shaped American culture, politics, and identities throughout American history. This project explores the lives and careers of this dynamic couple through their archives, and a number of artists, writers and activists with whom their lives intersected. The exhibition and catalog, created by Pellom McDaniels III, Curator of African American Collections at Emory University, not only account for their work and commitment to speaking truth to power, but both reflect upon the changing meaning of art for African Americans from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. The exhibition explores questions related to how art and its production are used to capture historical truths as well as advocate for social and political activism on behalf of the marginalized. Finally, like the exhibition, the catalog explores the variety of materials found throughout the Billops-Hatch Archive and highlights the importance of collecting and preserving materials related to African American history and culture. The exhibition contributed to the ongoing conversation related to the importance of “keeping records” and “sharing histories.” Through a series of public programs, spaces were created for dialogue and critical engagement between members of the public, the university students and staff, and the administrators of Emory's library services.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Pellom McDaniels III, Toby Graham

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Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9 through 12 Megan Turner

As ninth grade student at Ola High School in Henry County, Megan Turner's National History Day project was "Samuel Worcester: A Missionary's Stand Against the U. S. Government's Removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia." For this year's theme "Taking a Stand in History," Megan wanted to find a historical figure associated with her home state of Georgia. After research at the Georgia Archives, she decided to focus her project on Samuel Worcester, a missionary who lived and worked with the Cherokee Indians in the early 1830s. Worcester was arrested several times for refusing to leave New Echota (the Cherokee capital of Georgia). He firmly believed that the Cherokee Indians had a right to their land, and should not be forced from it. Worcester brought a famous case to the Supreme Court (Worcester v Georgia) to press for the sovereignty of the Cherokee nation. At the Georgia Archives, Megan found many resources to help her with her project. She also visited New Echota and was able to spend a day researching Worcester at the New Echota library.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Megan Turner, Kaye Minchew, Rhonda Barnes, Toby Graham

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**Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development by a
Local Government Repository
Warner Robins Oral History Project**

The Warner Robins Oral History Project resulted in 85 files containing 43 hours of video interviews with families in the Warner Robins community. These interviews are now available on hard drives through the Houston County Public Library system and online worldwide via Georgia HomePLACE and the Digital Library of Georgia.

Warner Robins, Georgia is a relatively young town, having been developed during World War II around a newly created aviation logistics depot. A unique opportunity to record verbal interviews with individuals who were there from the town's birth inspired a community effort to save these memories. The Warner Robins Bureau of Civic Affairs in conjunction with the Warner Robins Rotary Club and funded in part with a grant from Flint Energies and with support from Rotary International, the Warner Robins Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Houston County Commission, created an oral history collection of interviews with the pioneers and pioneer families of Warner Robins, Georgia.



L to R: Toby Graham, Tristan Denley, Tommy Stoner, Michael Chaloult, Angela Stanley, Marsha Buzzell,
J. Sara Paulk, Greg Boike

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Award for Local History Advocacy Laurel Wilson

The documentary, *5 Generations: From Enslavement to Public Service in Atlanta* is a commemoration of the achievements of five generations of African-American women in the Metro Atlanta area from Reconstruction to the 21st Century. Laurel Wilson's documentary is the culmination of years of research on those buried in the historically segregated part of the Decatur Cemetery known as Section 6. The research led to relationships with many African American elders of a community in Decatur known as Beacon. This over-100-year old community has disappeared as a result of urban renewal, and there are very few records in public archives pertaining to Beacon. Through this project, however, some elders have allowed the producer to record oral histories and to digitize personal holdings. The documentary drew upon the online archives of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Daily World, the Library of Congress, Georgia State University's Southern Labor Archives, Ancestry, and FamilySearch. Ms. Wilson was able to use family photos, land deeds, a school charter, and scrapbook items shared from the personal collection of Clara Axam, narrator and one of the subjects of the documentary.



L to R: Tristan Denley, Laurel Wilson, Toby Graham

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