



Award for Local History Advocacy

Billy and Loree Beacham

Billy and Loree Beacham are dedicated to seeking out and documenting the graves in and surrounding Laurens County. In their quest, they seek out obituaries, death certificates, probate court records, and any other relevant information about those persons buried in local cemeteries.

The Beachams have personally documented and created almost 98,000 memorials and added 123,867 photos to the Find-A-Grave website. Each post involves a photograph of the grave plus the relationship of the deceased to other members of the family buried nearby. They have completed 2,118 requests for volunteer photos for people who are not able to visit a gravesite. An example of the result of their work is a family reunion being held in Dublin that included the Beacham's giving a 110-mile tour to visit seven cemeteries.

This service has provided highly invaluable resources not only to genealogists, but also to others, such as probate courts and Superior Court clerks, attorneys, law enforcement, and other governmental agencies, such as the Social Security Administration.



Billy and Loree Beacham



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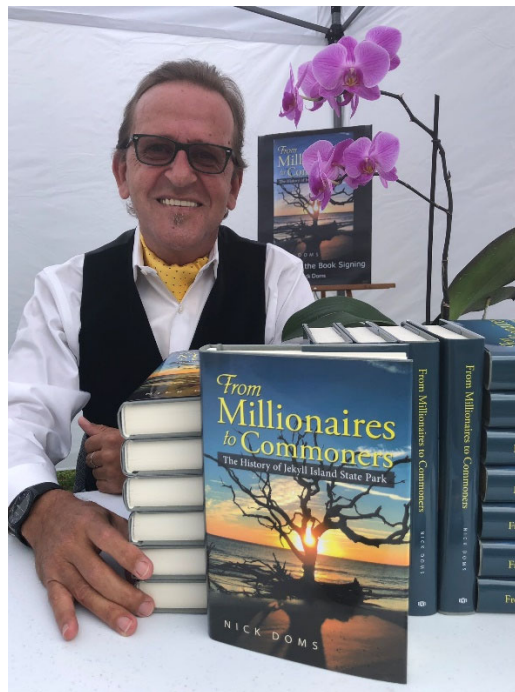
Nick Doms

From Millionaires to Commoners; The History of Jekyll Island State Park By Nick Doms is a comprehensive, 70-year history of Jekyll Island State Park, from 1945 through 2015.

Organized chronologically, and extensively footnoted, this work fills the void of a detailed documentation of the complicated, roller-coaster eras in the growth, development, decline, and redevelopment of this unique entity

Dom focuses much attention to the frequently changing mission and direction of this entity, and to the political, social, financial, and economic contexts in which it has functioned. The personalities and roles of its principal players are fleshed out.

Doms made extensive use of the archives of the Jekyll Island Museum, including the Tallu Fish Scrapbooks (1954-1970) and contemporary newspaper articles, as well as the Minutes of the Meetings of the Jekyll Island Authority, online Georgia legislative and departmental records, and contextual information from online resources of the Georgia Archives, the New Georgia Encyclopedia, and the Civil Rights Digital Library



Nick Doms



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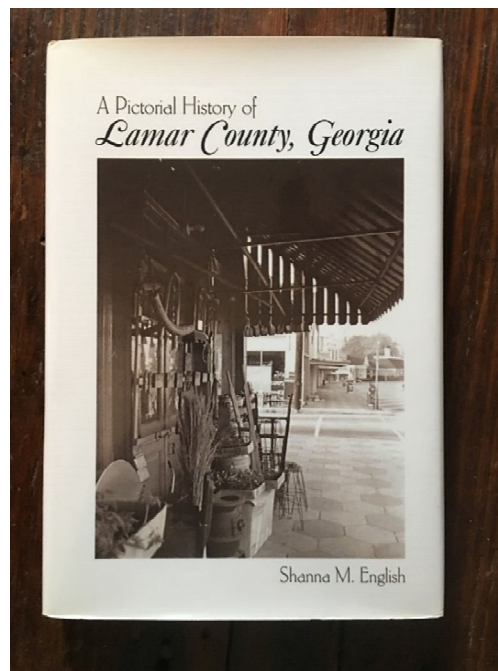
Shanna English

In 1995, Ms. English organized and renovated Lamar County's Old Jail Museum and Archives with the help of Local Historian Tim Turner. For the last 25 years she has continued to acquire historical records and artifacts in an effort to preserve the rich history of Lamar County and Barnesville, Georgia. The museum houses relics from the city's history as the Buggy Capital of the South and serves as a genealogical research center.

Ms. English works to maintain artifacts, genealogical records, photos, and transcripts for closed schools in Barnesville and surrounding municipalities. She works to preserve the uniforms that were once worn by the cadets of the Gordon Military College. Ms. English also supports the educational programs and tours of the Old Jail Museum.

Ms. English has written 4 books about Barnesville and Lamar County. Her writing demonstrates the passion and the love that she has for Lamar County and the City of Barnesville, Georgia. Most recently, Ms. English obtained a grant for the museum from NHPRC and GHRAC to assist in the preservation of the archival collections.

Through the work of Ms. English, the museum has become a focal point for the community.



"A Pictorial History of Lamar County, Georgia," by Shanna M. English



Award for Local History Advocacy

Gwinnett County Government

Gwinnett County celebrated its 200th birthday with a yearlong celebration in 2018. Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash, a lifelong Gwinnett resident, saw the opportunity to bring people together. County officials enlisted the Gwinnett Historical Society, Gwinnett Public Libraries, cities, schools, churches, and many other public and private groups to help organize a celebration with 365-plus themed events throughout the year.

One lasting legacy of the effort was the Story Vault, a collection of video interviews with more than 200 Gwinnett residents averaging about 27 minutes each. Excerpts from many of the interviews were used in a six-part documentary series and other programs.

Other Bicentennial events and activities included a 20-panel traveling historical exhibition, five parades, a torch run, a minor-league baseball throwback game, a Bicentennial Fourth of July at the Mall of Georgia, and an interactive website. In addition to containing the Story Vault, the website features an innovative historical site locator and interactive torch run map. The entire site remains accessible to the public. Research was conducted at the Gwinnett Historical Society and the Georgia Archives.

The Bicentennial Celebration, which received three National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, helped Gwinnett's diverse population feel connected, included, and proud of their community.



Lawrenceville, downtown Perry Street, facing courthouse, 1925. Vanishing Georgia Collection



Award for Local History Advocacy

Imogene Wells

Ms. Wells, a member of several lineage societies, creates detailed reports of the meetings and sends them to the various newspapers covering these groups. Her reports contain immense genealogical information and biographical information about the settlers and families of Georgia. These reports are quite valuable for history buffs and genealogists.

Ms. Wells also keeps the archives at her local library updated with electronic copies of her reports. She is also a resource for those who research the history of the region.



*National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution Historic Marker,
Crisp County, Georgia*



Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development in a Local Government Repository

Griffin-Spalding Archives

The Griffin-Spalding Archives was established in September 2012. Former City commissioner Dick Morrow found it perplexing and unacceptable that the community had no formal repository for historical documents. Support was garnered from the City of Griffin, Spalding County, and the Griffin Spalding School System. The Archives officially opened April 1, 2013 in a classroom in an unused middle-school building with Cindy Barton as the archivist.

Collections cover local history from the 1820's to the present and include family papers, photographs, maps, church histories, civic organization collections, business records, oral histories, and memoirs. Since opening, the Archives has welcomed over 1600 visitors and supplied long distance assistance to others around the world. Users include government offices, organizations, students, professors, authors, filmmakers, and genealogists.

The Archives has been instrumental in research contributions to projects such as the award-winning renovation of the Griffin Historic City Hall, and has also provided cultural resources to the community via speaking engagements and a special events program series entitled "Evening at the Archives."

In January 2020, the Archives moved from the original 1000 square foot classroom to the 10,000 square foot permanent home at the centrally located Griffin Spalding Welcome Center.



Griffin-Spalding Archives Welcome Center



Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development in a Local Private Repository

Stacey Savatsky

In a concerted effort to provide access to its archival collections, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia hired Stacey Savatsky to implement a workflow for processing archives. Stacey established finding aids for many of these collections which are now available online.

Through the Museum's website, Stacey has enabled access to additional associated materials, providing a more in-depth examination of the world of contemporary art in Georgia. Georgia artist's biographies are accessible via the artist pages, and each artist page contains links to related PastPerfect artwork records.

A partnership with the Digital Library of Georgia has enabled the museum to link to numerous Georgia artist catalogues produced over the last 12 years. Artist talks, recorded over the last 15 years, are featured on the museum's YouTube channel and interwoven with links to PastPerfect records pages and curated pages featuring oral histories and videos.

Stacey has boosted MOCA GA's ability to follow its mission and document Georgia's contemporary visual art and artists through the museum's website.



Stacey Savatsky



Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History

Paul Bolster

Fifty years ago Georgia chose how it would use the natural environment of its coast. The General Assembly passed the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act in 1970, and, Governor Lester Maddox signed it into law. With *Saving the Georgia Coast: A Political History of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act*, Paul Bolster brings to life the political leaders and the coalition of advocates who led Georgia to pass the most comprehensive protection of marshlands along the Atlantic seaboard.

Saving the Georgia Coast explores how that political coalition came together behind governmental leaders and traces the origins of environmental organizations that continue to impact policy today.

Bolster's account reviews state policy toward the coast today, giving the reader an opportunity to compare yesterday to the present. Current demands on the coastal environment are different, but the political pressures to generate new wealth and new jobs, or to perch a home on the edge of the sea, are no different than fifty years ago. *Saving the Georgia Coast* spotlights the past and present decisions needed to balance human desires with the limits of what nature has to offer.



Paul Bolster



Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History

Maxine Pinson Easom and Patsy Hawkins Arnold

Across the River: The People, Places, and Culture of East Athens is an exploration of a part of Athens, Georgia, that is both the city's origin as well as its working heart. Authors Maxine Pinson Easom and Patsy Hawkins Arnold saw the need to bring attention to the historical significance of East Athens, from the first settlement to present day, and to bring to light the common cultural characteristics, accomplishments, and contributions of East Athens residents who have lived there for generations.

Across the River is organized around community and cultural institutions. These featured places are shown on an historic map at the beginning of their chapters, allowing the reader to geographically orient themselves in neighborhoods within the area.

Relying heavily on personal collections, the book provides context and support to the stories and memories shared using extensive research in the collections at the University of Georgia libraries as well as the Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room.



Maxine Pinson Easom and Patsy Hawkins Arnold



Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives

Dr. G. Wayne Clough

Things New and Strange: A Southerner's Journey through the Smithsonian Collections chronicles a research quest undertaken by G. Wayne Clough, the first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution born in the South. Soon after retiring from the Smithsonian, Clough decided to see what the Smithsonian collections could tell him about South Georgia, where he had spent most of his childhood in the 1940s and 1950s. The investigations that followed expanded as Clough discovered that the collections had many more objects and documents from South Georgia than he had imagined. These objects illustrate important aspects of southern culture and history and also inspire reflections about how South Georgia has changed over time.

Clough's discoveries not only serve as a springboard for reflections about the region and its history, they also bring Clough's own memories of his boyhood in Douglas, Georgia, back to life. Clough interweaves memories of his own experiences, such as hair-raising escapes from poisonous snakes and selling boiled peanuts for a nickel a bag at the annual auction of the tobacco crop, with anecdotes from family lore, which launches an exploration of his forebears and their place in South Georgia history. In following his engaging and personal narrative, we learn how nonspecialists can use museum archives and how family, community, and natural history are intertwined.



Dr. G. Wayne Clough



Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives

Dr. Gary S. Hauk

A college campus serves as a repository for the memories of students, staff, and faculty who have passed through its halls. The history of a university resides not just in its archives but also in the place itself—the walkways and bridges, the libraries and classrooms, the gardens and creeks winding their way across campus.

In his book, *Emory as Place: Meaning in a University Landscape*, Gary Hauk invites the reader to think of Emory as place, which is to not only consider its geography and its architecture, but also to imagine how the external world can cultivate an internal world of wonder and purpose and responsibility—in short, how a landscape creates meaning.

Emory as Place offers physical evidence of how landscape and population have shaped each other over decades of debate about architecture, curriculum, and resources. More than that, the physical development of the place mirrors the university's awareness of itself as an arena of tension between the past and the future—even between the past and the present. Most of all, thinking of Emory as place suggests a way to get at the core meaning of an institution as large, diverse, complex, and tentacled as a modern research university.



Dr. Gary S. Hauk



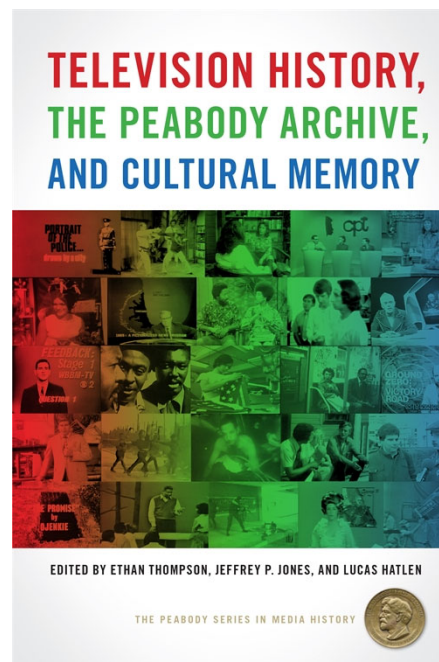
Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives

Dr. Lucas Hatlen, Dr. Jeffery P. Jones, and Dr. Ethan Thompson

Television History, the Peabody Archive, and Cultural Memory is devoted to the Peabody Awards Collection, a unique repository of radio and TV programs submitted yearly since 1941 for consideration for the prestigious Peabody Awards. The essays in this volume explore the influence of the Peabody Awards Collection as an archive of the vital medium of TV, turning their attention to the wealth of programs considered for Peabody Awards that were not honored and thus have largely been forgotten.

Because the collection contains programming produced by stations across the nation, it is a distinctive repository of cultural memory. The contributions to this volume ask a range of important questions. What do we find if we look to the archive for what's been forgotten? How does our understanding of gender, class, or racial representations shift? What different strategies did producers use to connect with audiences and construct communities?

This volume's contributors examine intersections of citizenship and subjectivity in public-service programs, compare local and national coverage of particular individuals and social issues, and draw our attention to types of programming that have disappeared. Together they show how locally produced programs have acted on behalf of their communities, challenging representations of culture, politics, and people.



Television History, the Peabody Archives, and Cultural Memory” edited by Lucas Hatlen, Jeffrey P. Jones, and Ethan Thompson



Award for Excellence in the Educational Use of Historical Records

Special Collections Libraries, University of Georgia

In 2015, the University of Georgia Libraries and the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) established a faculty development opportunity for individuals who teach full-time at The University of Georgia to explore archives-based learning as a high impact learning practice through intensive workshops with archivists in the University's special collections libraries: Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, and the Walter J. Brown Media Archives & Peabody Awards Collection. Special Collections Libraries Faculty Fellows apply this learning to adapt an existing course or to develop a new course to include an archives-focused approach to the pedagogy and the course content.

Since 2015, UGA faculty working with archivists and librarians have launched 55 new archives-centered courses in about 25 different areas of study. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, this program was bringing UGA students to the archives more than 3,000 times a year. To keep this program moving forward, Special Collections staff have digitized all of the material requested by faculty to support their archives-based teaching in an online environment.



University of Georgia Special Collections Instructional Team



Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate Level

George Gavalas

Kennesaw State University student George Gavalas's senior thesis, *Finding Purpose in Idle Lands: Hunting, Fishing, and the Creation of Georgia's Wildlife Management Areas*, charts the rise of state lands conservation in Georgia. Beginning during the New Deal era, the state of Georgia used the authority granted in federal legislation to take over the management of "marginal" lands throughout the state and to manage them for public use.

Unlike so much conservation history that stresses the rise of new ecological thinking as the catalyst for public lands conservation, Gavalas instead looks to deeper economic, social, and cultural shifts to explain the expansion of public lands. The enclosure of the open range in the previous decades, he argues, shut off important subsistence and recreational outlets for rural Georgians, and the state stepped in to offer a new kind of "commons" for people to hunt and fish.

In his research, Gavalas drew on a variety of archival materials, including records of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, as well as the magazine *Outdoor Georgia*, both of which are housed in the Georgia Archives.



Charles Elliott Wildlife Center



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

Eva Cheraisi and Mary Christian McCoy

Suffrage, Smuggling & Schizophrenia: The Barrier-Breaking Ethos of Katherine Dexter McCormick, the documentary created by these two students at Columbus High School, was awarded first place in the Senior Group Documentary category at Georgia National History Day.

The film analyzes the personal ethos of Katharine Dexter McCormick, who was the second female graduate of MIT and a national figure in the suffragist and birth control movements.

Cheraisi and McCoy utilized the Columbus Public Library, the Columbus State University Schwob Library, the LaGrange College Lewis Library, and USG's Galileo, which led to primary and secondary sources at numerous other institutions.



"Suffrage, Smuggling & Schizophrenia: The Barrier-Braking Ethos of Katharine Dexter McCormick"
Documentary by Eva Cheraisi and Mary Christian McCoy



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

Destiny Butts, Lillian Harper and Tai-leea Jones

That Very Rich Negress, is a documentary, which Destiny Butts, Lillian Harper, and Tai-leea Jones developed for National History Day while at Miller Magnet Middle School in Macon. The 8-minute documentary shares the story of Amanda Dickson and her legal battle to inherit as a slave. After winning, Dickson became the wealthiest black woman in America.

After learning that the sources needed were here at the Georgia Archives, the students missed school, with permission, and spent the day at the Archives researching. Their video shows images of the primary and secondary sources and a voice over of their script.

Their newfound excitement for research and tales of their time at the Archives captivated their classmates upon their return.



Amanda Dickson



Lifetime Achievement Award

Tim Howard

Tim Howard, known locally as Mr. Murray County History, began researching local history and genealogy while he was in junior high school. He joined the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society in 1976 as a high school student.

Tim is an advocate for local historic sites to encourage tourism and teaches the local history session for the Chatsworth-Murray Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Murray program. He has taught the *Murray on My Mind* walking history course since 1986 to educators, the general community, and in a summer camp for young people. His influence on his many students is incalculable. He has inspired young people to volunteer at local historic sites, and he has encouraged many of his students to pursue history studies in college. On the 2013 state Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, one hundred percent of the students in his eighth grade class scored Exceeds Expectations in social studies, an amazing achievement.

In 2016, Tim volunteered and led the effort to reorganize the county records housed in the Murray County Courthouse and the Probate Court building. The records, which spanned from 1833 to 1990, were inventoried, sorted, indexed, and rehoused in archival boxes.

Tim worked on the successful National Register for Historic Places nominations for Murray County historic sites: Spring Place, Chatsworth, Pleasant Valley, and Murray County High School. In 2008, the governing authority of Murray County named Tim Howard the official county historian. In the words of the Murray County Clerk of the Superior Court earlier this year, Tim Howard's knowledge and expertise are valuable treasure to the community.



Tim Howard



Lifetime Achievement Award

Hon. Michael Thurmond

Michael L. Thurmond has devoted much of his life to public service as a legislator, education leader, state labor commissioner and through his work as the current CEO of DeKalb County, Georgia. A sharecropper's son raised in Clarke County, Georgia, he graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Paine College and later earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina's School of Law. He also completed the Political Executives program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mike Thurmond's development as a noted historian parallels his career as a public servant. His first book sprung from an idea planted by his teacher, Miss Elizabeth King, in his 1971 senior year African American history class. When he asked why there was no textbook, she replied that if he wanted one, he should go and write it himself. Inspired, Thurmond determined that one day he would write a book about black history. Subsequently, a Thurmond family debate on the historical relevance of black Athenians led him to the University of Georgia's Special Collections. A lengthy search was discouraging until he located a Master's Thesis about Athens during the Antebellum period, and one source led to others.

In the summer between college and law school, Thurmond submitted a successful proposal to the Superintendent of Clarke County Schools and completed a pamphlet on the African American history of Athens to be provided to local schools. Now fully invested in his book project, Thurmond balanced law school with his continued research, which he later described "as only a trickle of information [that] soon erupted into a flood tide of facts, dates, and events concerning the history of African American Athenians." In 1978, he published *A Story Untold, Black Men & Women in Athens History*, the story of the African American community in Athens from the end of the Civil War through the modern civil rights movement. Thurmond hoped that a demand for black history would increase.

As Thurmond's political career took off, he continued to research and write. In 2002, his second book, *Freedom: Georgia's Antislavery Heritage, 1733-1865*, was published with much acclaim as a unique, fascinating story of black Georgia from the early eighteenth century until the end of the Civil War. It was a recipient of the Georgia Historical Society's Lilla Hawes Award, and listed by the Georgia Center for the Book as one of "The 25 Books All Georgians Should Read."

John Inscoe, an emeritus UGA history professor, worked with Thurmond on a recent project profiling James Oglethorpe, who opposed slavery in Georgia. Inscoe said Thurmond's commitment to his efforts in recovering history has been influential, stating "If he hadn't done it, I'm not sure who else would. He deserves a lot of credit."

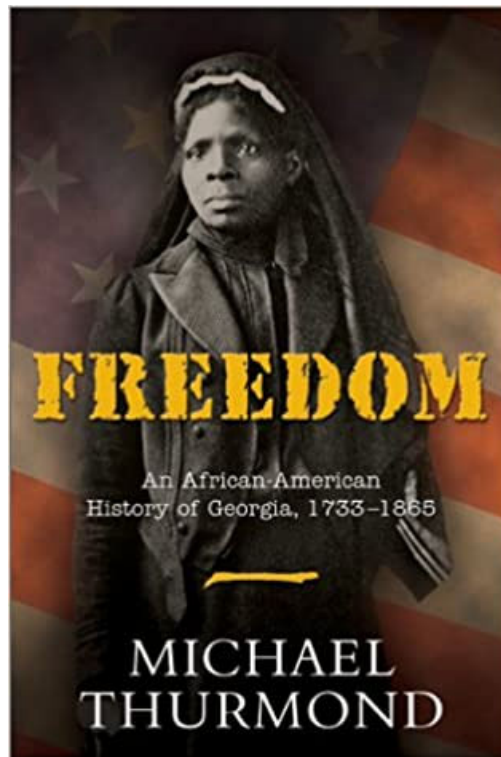
Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the publication of Thurmond's first book, which was recently reissued by Athens Historical Society in conjunction with Deeds Publishing to add more information not previously available and a revamped index. The reprinting was the society's project to observe the 200th anniversary of the founding of Athens and Clarke County.

Indeed, Thurmond's research and publications have had enormous impact on the African-American community. At the time of his first book, very little was remembered or known of the community's past.



A Story Untold generated pride and an interest in preservation of historic black landmarks in Clarke County. Likewise, his second book did the same for the state by recounting the black experience in Georgia from the Colonial through the Civil War eras.

Mike Thurmond's appreciation for archives is evident in his decision to place his own papers in a research repository. In 1998, he donated his collection to UGA's Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and continues to add materials from his current activities. As an advocate for archives, he extolls the riches to be discovered in the documentation of our history in any presentation or conversation about his research. It is also reflected in his service to the University of Georgia Libraries' Board of Visitors and the Georgia Historical Society's Board.



"Freedom: An African-American History of Georgia, 1733-1865," by Michael Thurmond