

FROM THE VAULTS

Newsletter of the Georgia Archives



www.GeorgiaArchives.org



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Georgia Governor's Mansion, Atlanta.

Mrs. Deal to Speak at Archives December 3rd

From 10-11 on December 3rd, First Lady Sandra D. Deal will join her co-authors, Jennifer W. Dickey and Catherine M. Lewis, to lecture and sign copies of their book, *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of Georgia's Governor's Mansion*. The book, which was published this year by UGA Press, received the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council's Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History (see page 5). For more information on the book, visit: <http://marb.kennesaw.edu/mansionbook/>.



News From Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH)

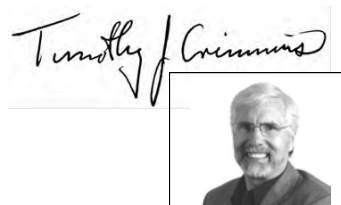
Update by the President

The Friends of the Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH) are proud to be funding the first issue of the Georgia Archives Newsletter. The principal purpose of FOGAH is to raise funds to assist the work of the Archives. Toward this end, we design, produce, and sell the annual holiday ornament with an image of the Georgia Capitol, the original home of the archives. **This year's ornament (on sale now) features a photograph of the Capitol dome at night with a full moon shining next to Miss Freedom.**

This past year FOGAH has funded student internships that have restored 19th century maps, records-management workshops for county and local staff from across the state, the monthly Lunch and Learn programs offered to the public at the Archives, and the Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day.

As a membership organization, FOGAH elected members to its Board of Trustees at its Annual Meeting in September. At the past September 26th meeting, the membership elected five new Board members: Gordon Baker, Dean of Libraries at Clayton State University; John Ford, Vice President for Planning at Robert and Company; Joshua Kitchens, Director of the Master of Archival Studies Program at Clayton State University, Emma Davis Hamilton, President of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, and Courtney Pogue, Director Clayton County Department of Economic Development. These replaced retiring board members Dee Thompson, Grant Wainscott, Richard Pearce-Moses, and John Sheftall.

At its November 11th meeting, the Board of Trustees will elect its officers. My two-year term has come to an end. I am proud to have served as FOGAH President and I look forward working with a new leadership team that will continue to build support for the Georgia Archives.



Friends of the Georgia Archives Membership Enrollment

Please enroll me at the indicated level:

- ☐ Individual/\$20
- ☐ Family or Organization/\$35
- ☐ Ancestry/\$100
- ☐ Heritage/\$500
- ☐ Legacy/\$1,000

Friends of Georgia Archives & History
P. O. Box 711
Morrow, GA 30260-0711

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Return with your check to P.O. Box 711, Morrow, GA 30261-0711

For more information on membership or volunteer opportunities, visit our website www.fogah.org

Thank You For Your Donations!

From the State Archivist

Looking out the windows of my office on the third floor of the Archives Building in Morrow, I take delight in the beautiful changes brought on by the fall weather. There are also delightful changes here at the Georgia Archives as we continue to realize the improvements brought upon by our move to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. One of the most recent changes is that we are able to create this newsletter.

From the Vaults is the spiritual successor to *The Voice*, which was put out by the Friends of Georgia Archives and History. FOGAH will sponsor *From the Vaults*, but the Georgia Archives will provide the material and put it together. This newsletter will come out on a quarterly basis and will include information on events at the Georgia Archives as well as updates from FOGAH and our other friends, regular features from our Preservation, Reference, and Records Management programs, and updates on special projects.

I want to thank FOGAH and all our friends for your continued support of the Georgia Archives. We made it through difficult times and look forward to the future and all the opportunities that await. Hope to see you soon.

Christopher M. Davidson, J.D.



MARTA Bus Route is Back

Take MARTA Bus Route 193 which runs from the East Point station or the Clayton County Justice Center to the Georgia Archives!

Lunch & Learn at the Georgia Archives

This monthly series, sponsored by FOGAH, is a great program to help the public and Archives patrons learn more about Georgia's rich history. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics on the second Friday of each month from noon to 1:00 p.m. Visitors are welcomed to bring a lunch to eat during the program. Lunch & Learn is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. On December 11, Carolyn Newton Curry will discuss her GHRAC Award-winning book, *Suffer and Grow Strong: The Life of Gertrude Ella Clanton Thomas*. Check the Georgia Archives website for future topics and speakers (www.georgiaarchives.org).

Archives Month Activities

Archives Month, which is celebrated in October, is a way to honor the value of Georgia's historical records, publicize the many ways historical records enrich our lives, and recognize those who maintain our communities' historical records.

3rd Annual Genealogy Day

On October 24, the Georgia Archives hosted the 3rd annual Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day, which provided two tracks of day-long learning. The Beginning Basics of Genealogy Class was taught by Laura W. Carter. The four speakers for the advanced track were Dr. Lisa Bratton, *Straight out of Brattonsville: Facts About Enslavement That You Won't Find in the History Books*, sponsored by Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Metro Atlanta Chapter (AAHGS); Joanne Smalley, *Georgia Colonial Land Records and the Genealogist*, sponsored by Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS); Jennifer P. Dondero, *The DAR Library for All: Near or Far, Member or Not*, sponsored by Georgia Association of Professional Genealogists (GA APG); Diane B. Barfield, *Oh Come to the Church ... Records*, sponsored by Cobb County Genealogical Society; and a roundtable discussion with all the speakers and surprise guest, Mary B. Warren.

Over 80 attendees enjoyed the educational opportunity. Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH) and Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA) sponsored refreshments.

Georgia Archives Employee Appreciation

Once again the Georgia Branch of National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims provided a delicious luncheon to thank all Archives employees for their dedication and hard work. October 21 was our 2015 celebration, and we thank them very much for their support.

Governor Deal Proclaims October as Archives Month in Georgia

On October 7, staff from the Georgia Archives joined archivists from metropolitan Atlanta at the Capitol to receive a proclamation from Governor Nathan Deal recognizing October as Georgia Archives Month.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council 2015 Awards Program

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) was created in 1993 by the General Assembly as the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. The Council members are appointed by the Governor and represent educators, historical organizations, professional organizations and citizens. Current members are Toby Graham, Chair; Sheryl B. Vogt, Vice Chair; Glenda E. Anderson; Garrison Baker; Ross King; Kaye L. Minchew; Rhonda Barnes; Beth Williams; Gwyn Chestnut; and Jamil S. Zainaldin.

GHRAC works to ensure that Georgians are made aware of historical records statewide, enhances the preservation and care of these records, and strives to improve public access to them.

In an effort to promote the educational and historic use of Georgia's documentary heritage, GHRAC sponsors an annual program that recognizes outstanding efforts in archives and records work.

Winners are recognized at the awards program held at the Georgia Archives each year. This year, Henry M. Huckaby, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, helped Toby Graham and Christopher M. Davidson give awards to the winners as follows:

Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records -- Graduate Level

Keri Leigh Merritt

Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records -- Grades 6 - 8

Susie Dorminy

Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History

Atlanta History Center;
Sandra Deal,
Jennifer Dickey,
Catherine M. Lewis;

Charlotte Thomas Marshall, et al;
Charles H. Wilson, III

Legislative Advocacy

Senator Valencia Seay;
Senator John Wilkinson

Advocacy

Georgia Disability History Alliance;
Association County
Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)

Local History Advocacy

Houston County Bd of Education
and Perry Area Historical Society;
Tony V. Parrott;
Mary Quinn

Archival Program Development in a Local Historical Repository

Hugh Golson;
Alice Daily

Archival Program Development in a Local Government Repository

Mary Nowell

Research Using the Holdings of an Archives

Charles Bullock,
Scott Buchanan,
Ronald Gaddie;
Maurice C. Daniels;
Joseph A. (Andy) Fry;
Christopher J. Manganiello

Educational Use of Historical Records

Bryan-Lang Historical Archives
and College of Coastal Georgia

Lifetime Achievement Award

Daniel W. Massey;
Richard Pearce-Moses;
Virginia H. Smith

Nomination information is available at:
www.georgiaarchives.org/ghrac.



Left to right: Christopher M. Davidson, Chancellor Henry M. Huckaby, Susie Dorminy, Governor Nathan Deal, and Tim Crimmins, Chair of FOGAH. The Governor presented a special Certificate and FOGAH presented a cash award to Ms. Dorminy for her Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records -- Grades 6 - 8.



Christopher M. Davidson and Chancellor Huckaby present the Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History to Sandra Deal, Catherine M. Lewis, and Jennifer Dickey for their book, *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of Georgia's Governor's Mansion*, which was published by UGA Press.

Processing Collections

The Georgia Archives does not have a separate Processing Program. Instead, Reference staff spend some time each week to process collections. These staff members include Kayla Barrett, Caroline Crowell, Alec Hawthorne, Allison Hudgins, Amanda Mros, Becky Sherman, and Jill Sweetapple.

Projects

Work began in April 2014 on a project to flatten Gordon County probate court records. There were 16 boxes of estate and will records, primarily from the mid and late 1800s. They had come in boxes from the Gordon County courthouse, where they were stored folded into thirds. Some preliminary work had been done on them, but unfolding them for research at this point would have been damaging, so they had to be slightly humidified in the conservation lab here at the Archives. Each batch of the folded records needed 20 to 30 minutes in the humidification chamber before they were carefully unfolded, spread out flat and weighted down overnight.

Once flattened, each batch was organized into estate files, and placed into folders. Once a box was filled with flattened documents, an Excel spreadsheet was created, documenting the names involved in the files. The metadata was put into the Finding Aids section of our Georgia Archives website, and the records are now searchable by family names. The project took about 14 months and now takes up 23 boxes, which can be viewed at the Georgia Archives.



The files were folded into thirds and stored in very acidic brown boxes, which actually protected them in the long run from dust and dirt.



It would be harmful to handle documents that were folded for so long.



The documents spend some time in the humidifying chamber and then get weighted down overnight. Then they are safe to use.

Partner Profile**R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation**

The R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation was created in 1971 under an irrevocable trust established by Mr. R. J. Taylor, Jr., for the purpose of promoting genealogical research and study in Georgia. His own extensive personal research gave Mr. Taylor a deep concern about the loss of Georgia's early records and a keen appreciation for the valuable information contained in the state's records.

The Foundation promotes genealogical research in Georgia by providing grants to individuals and organizations. In order to be eligible for consideration, projects must utilize records of a genealogical nature by way of abstracting, extracting, and transcribing. A significant portion of the project must contain genealogical records concerning Georgia citizens who were residents prior to 1851.

The Trustees review applications quarterly. Application deadlines are March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year. The R.J. Taylor Foundation grant is intended to cover a significant portion of the costs associated with printing/publishing the project. It does not cover travel, research time, etc. The cost of each completed project is priced by a designated publisher/printer and will be confirmed and approved by the Trustees. Other costs that may be approved include the cost of microfilm and costs associated with the publishing process (purchase of ISBN numbers, for example). For more information, see: www.taylorfoundation.org.

To date, the Taylor Foundation has provided over \$285,000 to the Georgia Archives to support scanning projects

Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS)

The Georgia Genealogical Society, which is a nonprofit volunteer organization founded in 1964, works to raise the standards of genealogical research in Georgia through education programs, workshops, the publication of genealogical data, assisting the Georgia Archives in building up its genealogical collection, and promoting the collection and preservation of the early records of Georgia.

GGS recently announced that it will now be responsible for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), which has been housed for over 50 years at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. IGHR, which is one of the four prestigious genealogical institutes in the United States and the only one with special emphasis on Southern research, will be hosted at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in July of 2017. The Georgia Center is on the campus of the University of Georgia and will provide IGHR participants and faculty with a self-contained facility with classrooms, hotel, and food under one roof to accommodate the week-long, intensive series of courses that comprise the Institute. In addition to quality faculty to plan and teach the courses, IGHR courses demand excellent library collections to support the curricula and work of the students. The University of Georgia Libraries will support existing IGHR courses, as well as allow for potential expansion of the number of courses.

Lori Northrup, IGHR Director, and Kimmetha Herndon, Dean of Samford University Library, and the remaining Advisory Board Members of IGHR evaluated a number of proposals for the new host site and chose GGS to be the organization to carry forward the tradition of excellence in genealogical education. Susan Sloan, President of GGS, stated, "It is indeed a high privilege for Georgia Genealogical Society to have this opportunity to raise the standard of genealogical research for the South by continuing the tradition of excellence that is IGHR. We embrace this challenge with great enthusiasm."

Preservation Program News

The Georgia Archives Preservation Program is staffed by Preservation Manager/Conservator Kim Norman; Technicians Randy Fullington, James Irby, Tracey Johnson, and Ephranette Brown; and Intern Emily Farek. Responsibilities of the Preservation Program include providing guidance and information to state agencies and local governments regarding the preservation of records, treating items in need of conservation, reformatting records, and setting up exhibits.

Georgia Archives Conservation Internship Program

When planning our intern projects at the Archives, we like to choose items that especially pertain to genealogy and are in keeping with the interests of our supporting organizations. Last Spring, Michelle Smith treated an 1802 hand-drawn plat of Middleton Plantation in Camden County. The shellac that originally coated the map for protection had become acidic, turned an orange color on the map surface, deteriorated, and darkened in color. The map had torn areas and losses, mold from very early moisture damage, and resulting separation from the original linen backing of the map.

The plat was drawn in 1802 by surveyor John McKinnon to divide into three equal portions, 7,957 acres of William Middleton's estate after his death in 1775 in England. After the linen backing was removed and the mold was abated, we carefully tested small areas with various solvents to determine which one would do the best job of removing the acidic shellac on the surface. Once identified, Michelle used this solvent and worked in small areas around the map borders, moving into the central hand-colored portions that illustrated the local waterways.

Many subtle colors were uncovered as Michelle cleaned the map surface. Drawn oval areas described the crops, homesteads, forests, and single trees, all carefully drawn on the map. After the surface shellac was removed, residual adhesive was cleaned from the back where the linen had been adhered. Mold damage was treated, and the areas of loss on the right edge were repaired with Japanese tissue.



The images of before and after conservation treatment show a dramatic difference.



In addition to the map project, Michelle treated an important blueprint of Sapelo Island. It described land plats owned by life-long residents of the island. Over time, the blueprint color faded in areas, and one end was quite damaged from being rolled for many years. Less visible was the acidity of the paper, which made it very brittle and created a long tear through the middle of the blueprint. Michelle humidified, flattened, and cleaned the surface of this blueprint. Using Japanese tissue, she anchored the center tear and filled all the large losses on the right side. Ultimately, this blueprint was scanned for research purposes, placed in a protective sleeve, and finally stored once again in an Archives vault, preserved for future use.

Michelle Smith completed her internship in the Georgia Archives conservation lab and spent the summer interning at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is now a conservation graduate student at Buffalo College in New York.

Our intern this year, Emily Farek, continues to work at the Carlos Museum of Emory University while interning at the Georgia Archives. This past summer, she was at Stanford University as a conservation intern and will apply to graduate school next Spring. Emily will work on a variety of projects while she is with us.

The conservation internship program at the Georgia Archives is a valuable experience, and we are grateful that the internships are made possible through ongoing advocacy and generous support of First Families of Georgia, Georgia Branch of the Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, and Friends of the Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH).

Michelle Smith (pictured left) interned at the Georgia Archives during the 2014-15 academic year while a Georgia State University student. Emily Farek (pictured right) is our current intern for the 2015-16 academic year and is a student at Georgia Perimeter College.



Records Management

The Records Management Program is made up of Christine Garrett (Electronic Records and State Agencies); Doug Rollo (Local Agencies); Wayne Harrison (Record Center Supervisor); Deborah Robinson (Administrative Assistant); Millan Robinson (Inventory Assistant); and a vacant Inventory Assistant position that we will fill very soon. The program is responsible for providing guidance and information to state and local agencies regarding records management and operating the State Records Center, which houses about 190,000 cubic feet of temporary records for state and local agencies. The program is partially funded by fees generated by the operation of the State Records Center.

The State Records Committee

The State Records Committee (SRC) has the authority to approve and revise records retention schedules for state and local government agencies. The Committee consists of the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Chairman; the Governor; the Secretary of State; the State Auditor; an appointee of the Governor; and a local government official who is appointed by the Chancellor. Meetings of the SRC are held in April and October and are open to the public.

Georgia Archives staff members serve as the staff for the SRC and work directly with the agencies to create and update their schedules. In the past, state agencies' schedules tended to be updated piecemeal, a few schedules at a time; however, agencies are now strongly encouraged to review and update all their schedules at once. The template for revising state agency retention schedules has also been updated. Please contact Christine Garrett at Christine.Garrett@usg.edu for the new template.

New Record Schedules

The State Records Committee (SRC) met on October 15, 2015 and approved revisions to the schedules for the Law Department, University System of Georgia, and the Statewide Commons. Additionally, the SRC approved new schedules for the Office of the Child Advocate. As with all schedules approved by the SRC, the schedules went into effect once they were approved. The date of the SRC's April 2016 meeting is yet to be determined, however, agencies wishing to update their schedules need to have all proposed revisions to Christine Garrett (state agencies) and Doug Rollo (local agencies) by February 1.

Reference Room Roundup

New Books

We are always adding new books to our collection. Please stop by the reference room to peruse these books and other new additions!

Carlson, Ann B. *Roberta's Boys: Four Pitts Brothers of Macon, Georgia*. Malone, NY: Ann Carlson Publishing, 2016 (sic).

Kilbourne, Elizabeth Evans, compiler. *Irwin County, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Ocilla Dispatch)*. Volume I, 1899-1901. Savannah: Elizabeth Kilbourne, 2015.

LeFlouria, Talitha L. *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Poss, Faye Stone, compiler. *Winder in the News: Newspaper Accounts of Winder, Georgia, 1893-1915*. Snellville, Georgia: Faye Stone Poss, 2015.

Silkey, Sarah L. *Black Woman Reformer: Ida B. Wells, Lynching, and Transatlantic Activism*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

