

# FROM THE VAULTS

Newsletter of the Georgia Archives

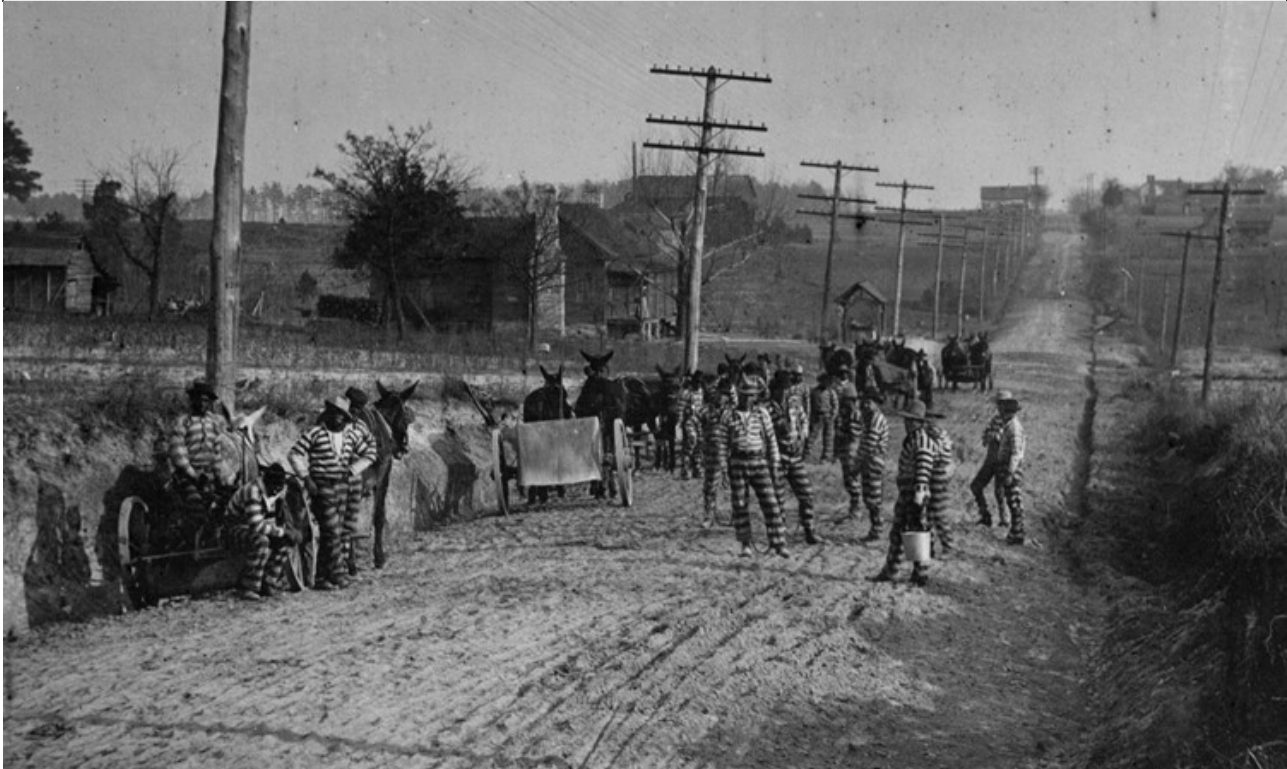


[www.GeorgiaArchives.org](http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org)



Volume 1, No. 2

March 2016



Convicts repairing a road in Rockdale County, 1909 (Vanishing Georgia, roc063)

## **The 100th Anniversary of the Georgia Department of Transportation**

Georgia's Department of Transportation is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. In response to a 1916 federal act providing aid for road building, the Georgia General Assembly in August of 1916 authorized the establishment of the Highway Department of Georgia. Before this act most road building in Georgia had been local, but Georgia had encouraged other forms of transportation.

For the first three quarters of the nineteenth century, the Legislature authorized numerous attempts to build internal improvements to get Georgia's products to markets. Initial efforts ranged from improving river navigation or building canals to incorporating railroads across the state. From 1816 to the Civil War, laws were passed to allow monopoly toll roads or turnpikes made of planks or gravel or other primitive forms of paving, although few were actually completed.

[Continued on page 11]



## News From Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH)

### Update from the President

I am honored to be serving as President of the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH). We hope you enjoy this issue of the Georgia Archives Newsletter. The principal purpose of FOGAH is to raise funds to assist the work of the Archives. We raise funds primarily through membership donations and by selling an annual holiday ornament. We are already working on a design for next year's ornament!

Members of the Board of Directors of FOGAH are very excited about the progress being made at the Georgia Archives and pleased to have the Archives operating under the Board of Regents. The Archives is open to the public five days a week and has twenty-four full-time employees, up from just 10 in 2012-2013 when the Archives was on the verge of being closed to the public except by appointment. We were pleased to fund in the past year student internships that restored 19th century maps, records management workshops for state and local staff from across the state, the monthly Lunch & Learn program offered to the public at the Archives, and the Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day.

We will have our annual meeting on a Saturday in September. In addition to reviewing FOGAH business, we will have a special program on Franklin D. Roosevelt in Georgia.

If you have questions or special projects you would like to see FOGAH undertake, please let me know. We look forward to funding special activities at the Georgia Archives and we need your support to make that possible.

Kaye Lanning Minchew



### 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

FOGAH is a not-for-profit organization that supports and assists the Georgia Archives in fulfilling its mission. Membership is open to individuals and corporations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Return with your check to P.O. Box 711, Morrow, GA 30261-0711  
For more information on membership or volunteer opportunities visit [www.fogah.org](http://www.fogah.org).

**Thank You For Your Donations!**

## From the State Archivist

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia Archives will focus over the course of this year on transportation in Georgia. A special exhibit of panels from GDOT and original materials from the Archives will open in April at the Georgia Archives, and all are invited to our April 23rd History Symposium: Transportation in Georgia (see schedule below).



Car on a ferry (Vanishing Georgia, but005)

In celebration of the transportation theme, I encourage everyone to travel around this great state, enjoy the scenery, and also take the time to do research. Georgia has many great organizations where you can research, including the Georgia Archives. To see a list of many of the other organizations, click on the "Historical Organizations Directory" on the front page of GeorgiaArchives.org. The directory is a wonderful tool to help you be aware of organizations near where you travel, so you can stop in and get a little research done. Be aware that the directory may contain outdated information until we finish updating it. Make sure to check with the organizations to verify current hours of operation.

Enjoy hunting for treasures across the state while researching and exploring.

Christopher M. Davidson, J.D.



### TRANSPORTATION IN GEORGIA SYMPOSIUM

#### April 23, 2016

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:50   | <i>'Just a Snake Stretched Out Across the Path': Travel and Trade in Georgia from the Mississippian Era to 1900</i> , James Owen, University of Georgia  |
| 10:00-10:50 | <i>Atlanta's Historic Streetcar Systems</i> , Patrick Sullivan and Wm. Matthew Tankersley, New South Associates  |
| 11:00-11:50 | <i>A Century of Pavement Politics: GDOT, Road Building, and the Creation of Modern Georgia, 1916-2016</i> , Ashton Ellett, University of Georgia   |
| 11:50-1:00  | Lunch (Pizza for a cash donation) <i>Screening of Down the Dixie Highway</i> (Rm 114)  |
| 1:00-1:50   | <i>Pave the Way: Atlanta and the Politics of Mobility</i> , Edward Hatfield, Kennesaw State University   |
| 2:00-2:50   | <i>The Odd Couple: Historic Preservation and Transportation—A Review of GDOT's Historic Preservation Products</i> , Sandy Lawrence, Cultural Resources Section Chief, Georgia Department of Transportation |
| 3:00        | Tour of the Georgia Archives (Pre-registration required—please email becky.sherman@usg.edu or call 678-364-3745)   |

### Lunch & Learn at the Georgia Archives

Sponsored by FOGAH, this is a great program 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 free program.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 11 | Georgia Archives Conservation Lab: The Latest Projects,<br>Kim Norman, Preservation Manager, & Staff    |
| April 08 | Free Persons of Color Registers in Georgia,<br>Michael A. Ports, Genealogical Researcher                |
| May 13   | The Chinese in the Deep South: Immigration, Labor and Empire,<br>Dr. Jennifer Brooks, Auburn University |



## Archives Activities

### First Lady and Co-Authors Talk about the Governor's Mansion

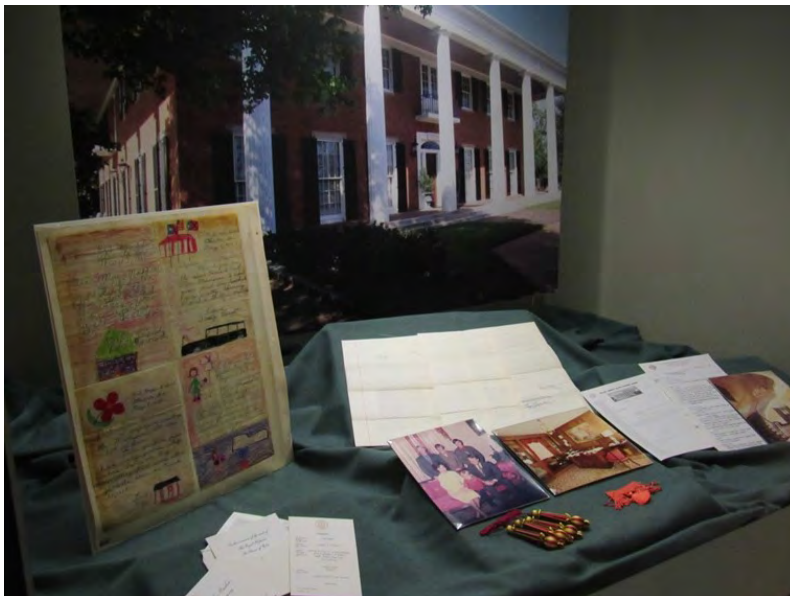
On Friday December 3, Georgia's First Lady, Sandra D. Deal, Jennifer W. Dickey, and Catherine M. Lewis spoke at the Georgia Archives to promote their new book *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of Georgia's Governor's Mansion*. Designed by Atlanta architect A. Thomas Bradbury and opened in 1968, the mansion has been home to eight first families (from Lester Maddox to Nathan Deal) and houses a distinguished collection of American art and antiques. Often called "the people's house," the mansion is always on display and always serving the public. *Memories of the Mansion* tells the story of the Georgia Governor's Mansion—what preceded it and how it came to be, as well as the stories of the people who have lived and worked there since its opening in 1968.

The authors worked closely with former first families (Maddox, Carter, Busbee, Harris, Miller, Barnes and Perdue) to capture behind-the-scenes anecdotes of what life was like in the state's most public house. "All homes have a story to tell, and the Georgia Governor's Mansion is no exception," says Deal.



### Governor's Mansion Exhibit at the Archives

Also on December 3, the Georgia Archives opened an exhibit on the Governor's Mansion. The exhibit featured documents and photographs from the Old Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville, the Ansley Park Mansion, as well as the current Governor's Mansion in Buckhead. Our collection related to the furnishing of the current Mansion is especially rich.



The exhibit was open December 3 through January 29.

*One of the exhibit cases. On the left are letters written by school children thanking Mrs. Maddox for hosting them at the Mansion during a school field trip. On the right, photographs and artifacts highlight the furnishings in the Governor's Mansion.*

## Archives Activities

### Director of the Old Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville Spoke at the Archives

Georgia's seat of government, originally located in Savannah, has moved many times since Georgia, along with twelve other colonies, declared independence from Great Britain. Four cities—Savannah, Augusta, Louisville, and Milledgeville—served as official state capitals before the relocation of the capital to Atlanta in 1868. Before the construction of the current mansion, only the house in Milledgeville had been built for the exclusive use of the governor.

On January 29, Matt Davis, Director of the Old Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville, spoke about this building's unique history. Davis' duties include oversight of the historic properties, coordinating administrative functions, research, curatorial work, educational programming, and fundraising.

Davis spoke on the layout of the town, the building of the mansion and also of its restoration, which began in late 2001 after years of research.



### Georgia Day

Georgia Day is the commemoration of the colonial founding of Georgia. On February 12, 1733, James Oglethorpe landed the first settlers from the ship *Anne* at what was to become Georgia's first city and later the first state capital, Savannah.



In celebration of Georgia Day, Georgia's Royal Charter and Georgia's copy of the Declaration of Independence were on display at the Georgia Archives.

Over 114 students and adults viewed the documents. As an added treat, visitors also had the opportunity to view the current exhibit, *African American Research Resources*.

## Archives Activities

### African American Research Resources Exhibit

Our current exhibit, which opened February 4, highlights items and materials related to research specific to African Americans. Including voter lists, tax digests, and marriage records, our collection is rich with materials that aid genealogical research, as well as records that document lives pre- and post-Reconstruction.

Our upcoming April exhibit will focus on Transportation to coincide with our April 23 History Symposium on Transportation in Georgia.

### Black History Month Event On

February 13, the Atlanta chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Auburn Avenue Research Library, and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History joined with the Archives for a full-day Black History Month program. Speakers included Dr. D. L. Henderson, Louis Childers, Dr. Curtis Grave, Elyse Hill, and Kayla Barrett. There were over 125 attendees over the course of the day.



### January Lunch & Learn

On Friday January 8, Jonathan M. Bryant, Professor of history at Georgia Southern University, spoke as part of our Lunch & Learn program. Mr. Bryant spoke about his book *Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope*.

In 1820, the slave ship *Antelope* was captured off the Florida coast. Though the slave trade was prohibited, slavery was still legal in half of the United States, and the Supreme Court had to decide whether the nearly 300 Africans on board were considered slaves—and if so, to whom they belonged.

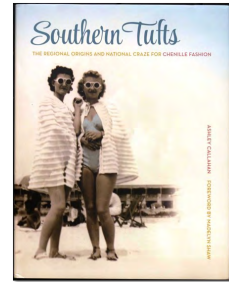


Mining untapped archives, Bryant recounts *Antelope's* fraught journey across the Atlantic, leading up to the momentous courtroom battle of 1825.



### February Lunch & Learn

On February 12, Ashley Callahan spoke about her book *Southern Tufts: The Regional Origins and National Craze for Chenille Fashion*. The talk highlighted the garments produced by northwestern Georgia's tufted textile industry.



Though best known for its production of carpets, in the early 20th century the region was known for its hand-tufted candlewick bedspreads. Ms. Callahan addressed the broad history of tufted textiles and highlighted individual craftspeople who were involved.

### Reference Room Roundup New Books

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



Bullock, Charles S., III, Scott E. Buchanan, and Ronald Keith Gaddie. *The Three Governors Controversy: Skullduggery, Machinations, and the Decline of Georgia's Progressive Politics*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

Callahan, Ashley. *Southern Tufts: The Regional Origins and National Craze for Chenille Fashion*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

Deal, Sandra D., Jennifer W. Dickey, and Catherine M. Lewis. *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of Georgia's Governor's Mansion*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

Fry, Joseph A. *The American South and the Vietnam War: Belligerence, Protest, and Agony in Dixie*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2015.

Manganiello, Christopher J. *Southern Water, Southern Power: How the Politics of Cheap Energy and Water Scarcity Shaped a Region*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Sutter, Paul S. *Let Us Now Praise Famous Gullies: Providence Canyon and the Soils of the South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

## Processing Collections

### Georgia Military Affairs

The Georgia Archives does not have a separate processing program. Instead, Reference Archivists spend some time each week processing collections. These staff members include Kayla Barrett, Caroline Crowell, Alec Hawthorne, Allison Hudgins, Amanda Mros, Becky Sherman, and Jill Sweetapple. We are now addressing some collections at the Georgia Archives that were minimally or incompletely processed in the past.

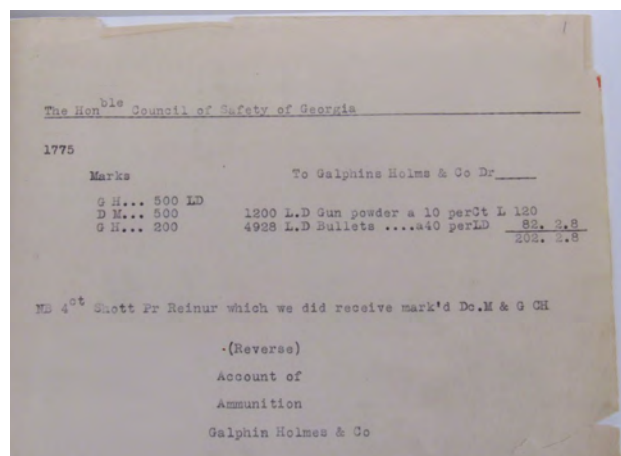
In September 2014, reprocessing began on a collection entitled “Georgia Military Affairs,” which was a 1939 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project that took place at the archives and endeavored to transcribe documents related to Georgia’s military history. At the time, no note was made of the location of the original documents. In the 1960s, a second project began to identify the location of the original documents. A number of original documents were identified and moved into boxes designated for this collection, and multiple photocopies were made for reference purposes. This project was never completed.

In 2014 a project began to physically rehouse the identified materials, giving them new folders and packing the boxes more efficiently, as well as to inventory what had been previously identified and remove extraneous photocopies. As work continued, it became clear that a more comprehensive project to locate the original documents would be beneficial, particularly after a casual investigation revealed that many documents were to be found in the Archives’ recently scanned File II Names collection (available online in the Virtual Vault). Eventually this identification mission spread to several other sets of WPA transcripts focused on Indian records (including “Indian Depredations” and “Cherokee Letters, Talks, and Treaties”), because some of these originals were also stored with the Georgia Military Affairs originals.

This project wrapped up in December 2015, with all the original materials comfortably rehoused, and with 90 percent of originals located across the whole set of transcribed volumes. In addition, by filling the boxes, which had previously been half empty, several cubic feet of shelf space have been freed up for other records. The indexed transcripts are available in our reference library (call number: F290 .H39). Patrons may ask any archivist in the reference room to look up the location of an original document from one of these transcribed volumes by providing the volume and page number of the transcript.



Original Record from 1775



Transcription



## Preservation Program News

### Processing County Records

Closely following the county processing work being completed by reference staff (discussed in the previous newsletter), preservation staff members have been facilitating access to Crawford County court records from the early 1800s to early 1900s. This process includes humidifying and flattening the tri-folded documents, removing dirt and mold residue as necessary, labeling folders with case names, and putting them in chronological order. Each unfinished box becomes two or three finished boxes, meaning the original collection of about 41 boxes will be closer to 82 when processing is finished.



### County Map Survey

The Preservation Department continues a comprehensive survey of County Maps, which is a large and varied record series that includes several hundred maps drawn over a century ago. Under the supervision of the Preservation Manager, the staff examines and evaluates the condition of each item in the collection to determine which actions, if any, best support its long-term stability. A map requiring attention is transferred from the cool storage vault to the conservation lab for the duration of treatment, which is a process thoroughly documented at every stage. Please see the County Maps images accessible on the web at Georgia's Virtual Vault to further explore a portion of this valuable resource.

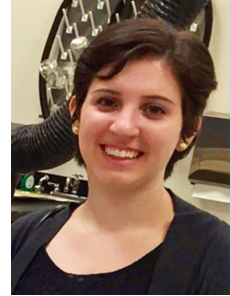
### From the Reformatting Lab:

The Georgia Archives is collaborating with the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) on a GALILEO grant project to scan over 4,000 colonial period documents and make them accessible online to the public. The records include Acts of the Assembly, Colonial Conveyances, Governor and Council Minutes, Proclamations, and Appointments.

The Archives reformatting staff will spend months this year digitizing these collections and transferring the images to DLG. After necessary metadata is attached to each image, everything will be uploaded and be searchable and available to the public. This grant project spotlights work between institutions within the University System of Georgia as an example of a collaborative and successful grant project.

### FOGAH Conservation Internship

Emily Farek, 2015-16 FOGAH conservation intern, is treating two maps in the Archives conservation lab among other projects. Emily reports that it is always exciting to start a new treatment project and learn something new with each item or object that comes across her bench. An important aspect of analyzing and studying paper items is how the materials on the paper surface interact with each other. One of the maps Emily is treating was adhered to a page in a book, but the glue had failed, separating the map from the page. Part of her examination of the map included solubility tests that determined the course of treatment. Emily found that the ink, adhesive, and paper coating on the map were all soluble in water. This meant that removing the failed adhesive from the back of the map would also remove the coating and any ink in that area. Because of the testing, Emily successfully treated the map.



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### Partner Profile

#### Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS)

GGS works to raise the standards of genealogical research in Georgia through education programs, workshops, the publication of genealogical data, assisting the Georgia Archives, and promoting the collection and preservation of the early records of Georgia. GGS presents free webinars on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. For more information and to register, go to the GGS Website: [gagensociety.org](http://gagensociety.org) and click on the “Free Webinar” link.

#### Upcoming GGS Webinars

**March 16–** *Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry* – Blaine Bettinger. Genealogists can use autosomal DNA for ethnicity estimates, finding long-lost cousins and examining specific genealogical problems.

**April 20–** *Using FamilySearch.org: Records, Family Trees and More!* – Amie Bowser Tennant. Learn how to best search these databases (both home and abroad) and learn some tricks along the way. Webinar attendees will be amazed at how much they don't know about FamilySearch.

**May 18–** *DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS)* – Stacie Newton, NSDAR staff. Recently, the DAR has strived to make more than a century's worth of genealogical records accessible to members and the public. To that end, a variety of records have been digitized and made available in the form of several different databases and resources accessible through the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). This presentation will help researchers understand how to access and search GRS and how to evaluate the different types of records in GRS.

**Transportation [Continued from page 1]**

In 1836, work began on a state-owned railroad, the Western and Atlantic, running from what became Atlanta to the heart of Chattanooga. Although the W & A was not completed until the tunnel at Tunnel Hill opened in 1849, Georgia's infrastructure paid off handsomely in setting up routes through Georgia as the best way to get products from the Tennessee Valley region to the coast.

In the years after the Civil War, Georgia's leaders decided against state encouragement of internal improvements, and the Constitution of 1877 limited public debt and public aid to private interests. It did not, however, keep the state from supplying prison labor to companies, including railroads, mines, brick making, or even agricultural interests. Throughout the nineteenth century road building and maintenance were controlled by counties: first by the Inferior Court sitting for County Purposes and later by the Ordinary or by County Commissioners. Adult males had to work a certain number of days in their area each year or pay a fee. As the century drew to a close, counties increasingly began to rely on local misdemeanor convicts to perform the heavy labor on the roads. Most counties had no equipment other than shovels, a road plow, and an occasional mule-drawn grader or scoop. Roads, except in the cities, remained dirt or gravel covered.



Carroll County, ca. 1918. Members of a road crew pose for a photograph. (Vanishing Georgia, carl20)



The end of the convict lease system in 1908 increased the number of convicts available for the Prison Commission to distribute across the state to build and maintain roads, and the number of miles of graded roads began to grow quickly. At the same time, the Good Roads Movement nationally began to have an influence in Georgia. The Dixie Highway efforts to link the Northern States to Florida created interest in better highways. The number of automobiles was growing rapidly. The state began licensing vehicles in 1910 and later provided that a portion of the registration fee would go into a road fund to assist the counties.

When the federal act of 1916 authorized funds to states with a highway department, Georgia was ready with an abundance of convict labor; and chain gangs became a common sight all over Georgia until the early 1940s. The role of convict labor was clear in the 1916 Georgia legislation which appointed all three members of the Prison Commission, the State Geologist, and two engineering professors to serve as the state Highway Department.

In 1919, the General Assembly created a new Highway Board composed of 3 members appointed by the Governor. In 1921, the state instituted a one-cent gasoline tax which was increased to three cents in 1923, four cents in 1927, and six cents in 1929. In 1926 the voters approved an amendment to the 1877 Constitution allowing the state to levy a tax to construct and maintain highways. Beginning in 1920, the Department produced annual maps of the state system of highways. County highway maps were produced beginning in 1930.

In 1931, land near the Capitol was purchased for a new Highway Department building which tripled in size with an addition in 1955. The Department has always relied on federal highway funds. Between 1939 and 1942 the WPA spent over \$14 million helping Georgia build bridges and roads.



1955 addition to the Highway Department building. The original 1930s building is in the center.

After World War II, the Highway department made great progress with new technology and heavy equipment. It began a program of aerial photography to assist in planning for highways. The Atlanta freeway system was designed in the 1940s and began to take shape in the early 1950s. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 established the Interstate System with 90% of the funding coming from federal funds. Georgia set as priorities I-75 and I-20 and also planned the Atlanta circumferential route (I-285).

Jimmy Carter's reorganization of 1972 transferred the Highway Department functions to a new Department of Transportation and added additional functions such as airports. The original Interstate system was completed in 1978 with constant improvements and additional routes added later. The 1984 "Freeing the Freeways" program widened the Atlanta interstates. In the 1980s, I-985, I-675, and I-185 were completed.

After building the major freeways, DOT began to concentrate on planning, safety, and the improvement of existing roads. That focus has continued to the present.



In 2001, DOT began a new focus on safety at work sites with a campaign to "Slow Down. It Won't Kill You." The campaign relied heavily on appearances by a mascot, known as Coneman. Coneman bumper stickers were placed on all DOT vehicles. Traffic deaths declined during the campaign.

## Records Management

We are often asked why only a small percentage of government records are kept permanently. What if the information in the destroyed records is needed at some point in the future? While the need to access records of the past is a valid concern, permanently retaining every record ever created by the government is not practical or necessary.

Government agencies create large volumes of records and storage space is limited as are the funds needed to purchase quality storage supplies and to employ the staff necessary to properly manage large quantities of records. Additionally, most records are not requested after they are no longer actively used by the creating agency. Thus, not every record can or needs to be kept forever and records managers must determine how long to keep individual records by assessing the legal, financial, administrative, and historical value of the content of the records.

Legal value is determined by laws and regulations, such as the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) and the Code of Federal Regulations. For example, O.C.G.A. § 9-3-24 sets the statute of limitations for contracts at six years after the contract is paid; therefore, the retention of contractual records is seven years after expiration to ensure that the records retention covers the entire statute of limitation period. Contracts that deal with construction projects have a retention of eleven years after completion due to an additional legal requirement, established in O.C.G.A. 9-3-51, that sets the state of limitations for deficiencies in construction at ten years following the substantial completion of construction.

Financial value is often tied to the audit cycle, which is five years in Georgia; hence, the retention of many financial records is five years. Other financial records have retentions based on commonly accepted practices and administrative value.

Administrative value is the agency's day-to-day use of the records. An agency may have a particular record that it actively references for ten years after its creation. If the record has no legal, financial, or historical value beyond ten years, then the retention will be at least ten years after creation to cover the agency's need for the record. Generally, legal, financial, and administrative value is temporary and the records may and should be destroyed at some point.

The final value that records can have is historical and those records with significant historical value are designated as permanent. Records with significant historical value include founding documents, policy and program development, and annual reports.

All government records must have records retention schedules in order to be legally destroyed. To view existing records retention schedules, visit the Georgia Archives' website at [http://www.georgiaarchives.org/records/retention\\_schedules](http://www.georgiaarchives.org/records/retention_schedules).