

FROM THE VAULTS

Newsletter of the Georgia Archives



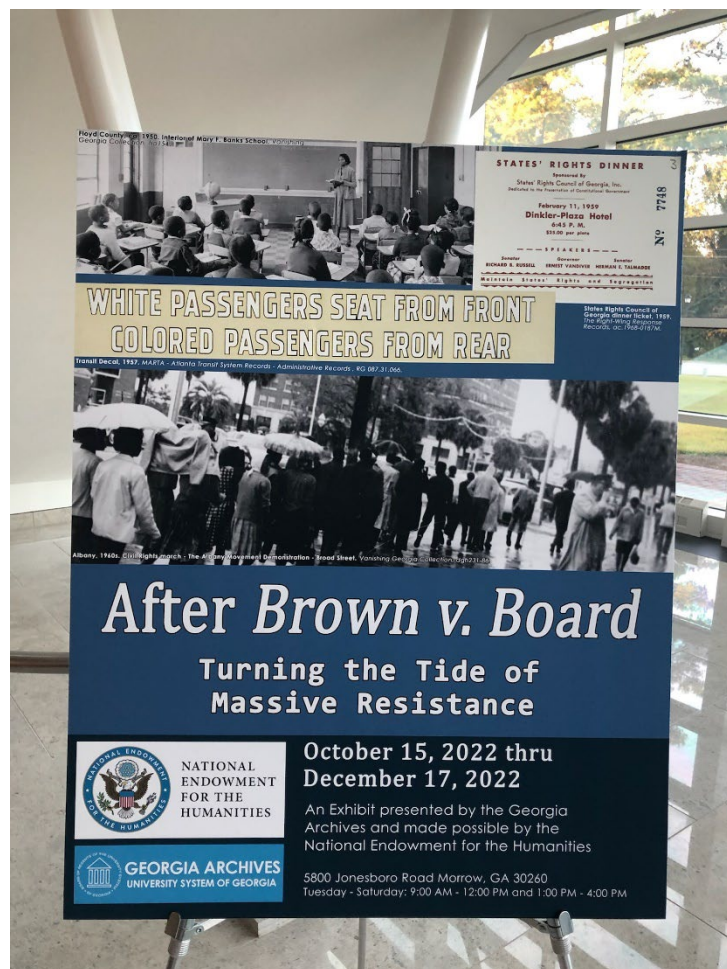
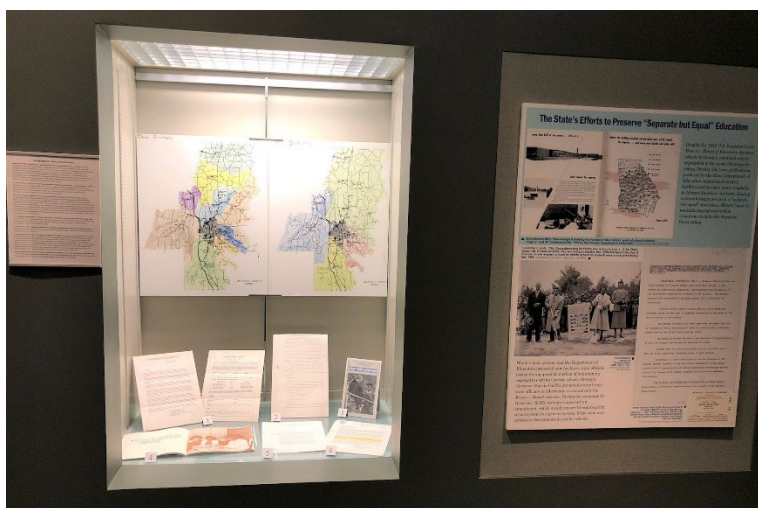
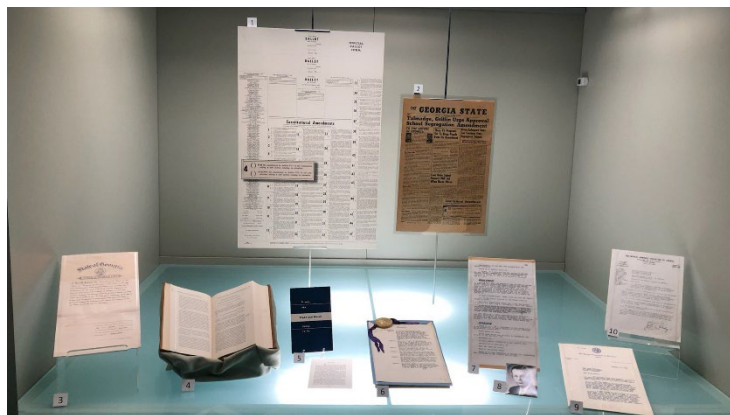
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Vol. 7, No. 2

December 2022

The exhibit, *After Brown v. Board of Education: Turning the Tide of Massive Resistance*, was open to the public through December 17, 2022. This was the second of two exhibits curated under the National Endowment for the Humanities grant, which also included classes and presentations on the State's response to desegregation.



News from Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH)

Our 2022 ornament is here! This year's ornament features the model of the Georgia Capitol dome on display in the Georgia Capitol Museum on the 4th floor. The 2020-2022 ornaments are \$30.00 each (includes shipping) or \$25.00 if picked up at the Georgia Archives. There are limited amounts of the 2004-2019 ornaments on sale for \$5.00 each (plus \$10.00 shipping per order). You may place your order at www.fogah.org/shop, email fogah2004@yahoo.com or call 678-364-3732.

As always, we would like to encourage you join FOGAH. Your membership helps supports the many events that the Georgia Archives hosts throughout the year including Lunch and Learn, the Georgia Archives Institute and the summer conservation internship program. Please also consider a one-time donation to support a specific event or project. All donations made to FOGAH are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. You may send a check to the address below or donate online at www.fogah.org.



Thank you for your support of FOGAH!

Karin Dalton, President



Friends of Georgia Archives and History Membership Enrollment

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.

Please enroll at the indicated level:

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

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____

Return your check to P.O. Box 711, Morrow, Georgia 30261-0711
For more information on membership or on volunteer opportunities visit www.fogah.org.

Thank you for your donations!

From the State Archivist

Christopher M. Davidson, J.D.

Greetings and welcome to the end of the year. This has been an exciting and busy year for the staff of the Georgia Archives, so I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our work and tell you a little about our plans for next year.

The Georgia Archives is steward of the records of the State and, as such, we strive to preserve the history and rights of the people of Georgia. Since 2013, the Georgia Archives has been a unit of the System Office of the University System of Georgia, which is under the Board of Regents. The Archives is made up of four divisions: Administration, Archival Services, Records Management, And Facilities. Archival Services is broken down into Reference, Education, Collections Management, and Preservation. We currently have 23 permanent positions, two of which are currently vacant.

We continued our Lunch & Learn Lectures, which are free presentations the second Friday of each month from 12-1 p.m. covering many different topics of Georgia's history. Our most recent Lunch & Learn was on *Victorian Christmas Traditions at Stately Oaks*, which is an antebellum home in Jonesboro listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This and many of our other programs are available for streaming on our YouTube Channel and I encourage you to check them out. Our programs on YouTube had over 6,700 views in the first ten months of this year, which is a 30% increase over the previous year's views.

In addition to Lunch & Learn, we had other presentations and events each month. We will soon be posting the schedule for next year, but our next big event to look forward to is in February. Thanks to a grant from the Clayton County Tourism Authority Board, we will be expanding our African American Genealogy Day to the three-day African American Genealogy and History Event. We are very excited about this and hope you will consider joining us. We expect to have details available soon.

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) Awards were held at the Archives this October after two years of being held virtually. The GHRAC Awards Program acknowledges the outstanding work of some of the users of Georgia's archives and of those who have advocated for improvements in the care of records in Georgia. Dr. Ashwani Manga, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, joined me, Dr. Toby Graham, Chair of GHRAC, and the entire GHRAC board to recognize 26 individuals and one organization. Nominations for the 2023 Awards will be accepted beginning February 1, 2023. More information about the awards as well as about the GHRAC grant program is available at GeorgiaArchives.org.

Amid all this activity, our staff continued to help researchers at the Archives. In October we hosted a workshop for beginners in genealogy and we hope to soon begin offering training to new and unfamiliar users of the reference room. Some of the new collections you can access at the Archives include Death Penalty Case Files, Reapportionment Plans, Local Government Audits, Records of state-owned property, and unit records of the Georgia National Guard Field Hospital number 123.

From the State Archivist, cont.

The Preservation Program continued to ensure that our records are appropriately preserved. Conservation staff ensure the collections are stored at appropriate temperature and humidity and are free from pests and mold. They also prepare records for display in our exhibits and for scanning, and perform stabilization treatment and repair as needed. Reformatting staff scan select records for uploading to the Virtual Vault where you can access them from the comfort of your home. Most of the work of the reformatting section is generously funded by the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation. Records digitized and made available in the virtual vault this year include Greene County Inferior Court Case Files Plaintiffs, 1810 – 1865; Hancock County Land Lotteries Persons Entitled to Draw, 1805, 1820, 1821, 1827; and Wilkes County Miscellaneous Court Records, 1791 – 1811.

In 2021, the Georgia Archives was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. With the award of \$122,000, we were able to temporarily hire two researchers to join Education Specialist Penny Cliff and Reference Archivist Tamika Strong in identifying documents in our collection to tell the story of Georgia's reaction to desegregation (1954-1965). These collections include over 2,500 cubic feet of records of the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Legislature, Georgia Secretary of State, University of Georgia, Governor, Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority, University System of Georgia, State Literature Commission, Edward Eugene Cox Collection, and J. D. Rowlett Collection.

We were also able to purchase a mobile system with a computer, camera, speakers, and large monitor to assist us with our educational programs. Penny delivered multiple in-depth classes and Tamika gave two public presentations summarizing some of the same content, with both providing tours of the Archives for their respective attendees. Reference and Preservation staff also created and installed two exhibits related to the courses and presentations.

I encourage each of you to check out our website at GeorgiaArchives.org, where you will be able to access the Virtual Vault, see recent announcements, and learn about our collections and policies. While you're there, please consider clicking the donate button to help fund our current and future programs. We hope to see you soon in the Reference Room or at one of our events.

Thank you for your continued interest and support, and I hope to see you soon.

Christopher M. Davidson



Notes from Conservation

Georgia Archives Conservation Internship

A Dive into Atlanta City Directories at the Georgia Archives

By Kayla Moorhead

The conservation staff at the Georgia Archives completes various preservation tasks to help protect the institution's historical materials. As a pre-program conservation intern, I've had the opportunity to work alongside Assistant Paper Conservator Tracey Johnson to create box enclosures for the Atlanta City Directories located within the institution's Reference Library. These directories are considered predecessors to the White Pages and Yellow Pages. To gather historical context, I spoke with one of our Reference Archivists and Genealogist Tamika Strong to discuss the history behind the directories and how their importance plays a role in serving the Georgia Archives' patrons today.

These massive books were published in the late 1800s and provided a compilation of information on businesses, schools, churches, libraries, and more. Georgia citizens could also locate family members by their name or the street they resided in. This information was collected by "Door to Door Canvassing," as quoted in the 1969 edition of the Atlanta directories, a direct way of collecting information from Atlanta residents. They also provide additional information in the introduction, where you can find a statistical review, historical points of interest, Atlanta's general environment, and climate conditions.

It is important to note that, although the directories provide general information for researchers and patrons, they also reflect Georgia's segregated history. In the early editions of the directories, you will find a separation of African American residents from white residents. The directories provide a list of abbreviations that aid with deciphering specific identifiers, many of which include "*", "c'old", or "(c)" for people of color. As the city directories expanded over time, the language changed, making the directories moderately inclusive. However, this information is still relevant for African American genealogy and helping patrons identify family members that lived within the Metro Atlanta area.

In considering time and priorities for historical materials that need more attention, Tracey, along with State Conservator Sigourney Smuts, determined that creating phase box enclosures for the directories would be the best option to maintain patron accessibility. Phase boxes are one of many box enclosures assembled to protect bound material. These decisions are determined by identifying the size of the materials and assessing their condition.

Considering the 1969 edition of the Atlanta City Directory specifically, the book's outer casing and spine card have detached, leaving the textblock as a separate unit. The corners of the case are abraded and, due to the weight of the textblock itself, the adhesive used to attach the case during the binding process failed. The listed conditions are universal for most directories and result from heavy use and the mishandling that occurs when removing them from the shelves by the top of the spines and not the shoulders.

Notes from Conservation, cont.

The phase boxes created to house these damaged city directories are made from a heavy, acid-free archival board. Two pieces of the board are cut into one vertical and one horizontal strip measured from the height, width, and depth of the book, with extra space for where the board will fold on itself at corners, and an overlap where fasteners will be placed to close the box. Then the two board strips will be adhered to one another and cotton tying tape will wrap around the fasteners for security.

I want to thank Sigourney and Tracey for allowing me to work on original material at the Georgia Archives and for being incredible mentors throughout my internship. They do an excellent job executing conservation treatments and they inspire my career in the field of conservation.

I want to also thank the wonderful Tamika Strong for providing history on the Atlanta City Directory Co. and bringing awareness to the wealth of resources for African American genealogy.

And remember, always grab a book from its shoulders, not the top of its spine!

Figure 1 - Front of the 1969 edition Atlanta city directory

Figure 2 - Inside of the 1969 edition with detached case and spine card from the textblock

Figure 3 - Introduction pages of the 1969 edition

Figure 4 - Example of a phase box open

Figure 5 - Example of a phase box closed with fasteners and wrapped cotton tape



Figure 1



Figure 2

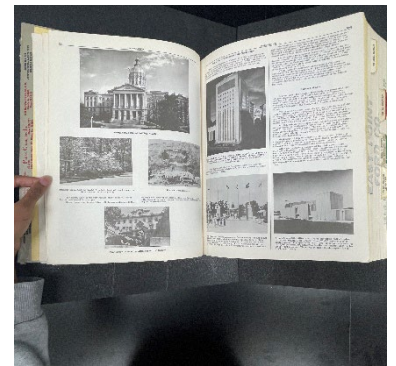


Figure 3

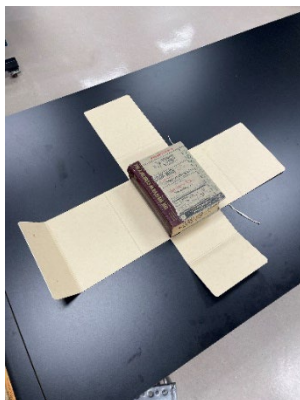


Figure 4



Figure 5

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council Awards Winners

Christopher Davidson, State Archivist and Assistant Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ashwani Monga, Executive Vice Chancellor, from the University System of Georgia, in addition to Dr. Toby Graham, Chair, Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC), and the entire GHRAC board, recognized the GHRAC Award winners during the twentieth annual awards ceremony, held at the Georgia Archives on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. The GHRAC Awards recognizes outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia.

2022 GHRAC Award Winners

Award for Advocacy

Gwendolyn Ware-Redwine, for leadership service in the Troup County Historical Society and the Troup County Preservation Society, and for projects documenting the legacy of Horace King.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Ashwani Monga, Executive Vice Chancellor, from the University System of Georgia, Ms. Gwendolyn Ware-Redwine, and Dr. Toby Graham, Chair, Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC).

Award for Local History Advocacy

Evan Kutzler, PhD, for documenting the history of Americus with the websites “Influenza in Americus,” “Americus History Trails,” and “The Public History Newspaper Project.”



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Dr. Evan Kutzler, and Dr. Graham.

Skeeter Parker, for work contributing to the mission of the Berrien Historical Foundation, and for projects documenting the history of Berrien County.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Mr. Skeeter Parker, and Dr. Graham.

Award for Excellence in Student Archives-Centered Work in a Public Institution

Lla Anderson, Ayana Arrington, Luke Christie, and Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia, for the digital symposium “Digital Clinton: Slavery and Freedom in Middle Georgia and Reflections on our Mutual Past.” (No photograph available.)

Award for Excellence in the Educational Use of Historical Records

The Georgia Historical Society, for the project “Teaching the Civil Rights Movement with the Georgia Historical Marker Program Teacher Training Course.”



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Lisa Landers, Education Manager, Elyse Butler, (Historical) Marker Manager, and Dr. Graham.

Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History

Jackie Kennedy, for the book *Herds and Heritage: The History of Georgia's Cattle Industry*.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Jackie Kennedy, and Dr. Graham.

Christopher R. Lawton, PhD, Laura E. Nelson, and Randy L. Reid, PhD, for the book *Seen/Unseen: Hidden Lives in a Community of Enslaved Georgians*. (No photograph available.)

Ronald L. Bogue, J. Thomas Bowen, Richard B. Lane, and Sam Thomas, for the book *The First Presbyterian Church of Athens, Georgia. A Bicentennial History: 1820-2020*. (No photograph available.)



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Mr. Ronald L. Bogue, and Dr. Graham.

Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives

Ashley Callahan, for the book *Frankie Welch's Americana: Fashion, Scarves, and Politics*.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Ms. Ashley Callahan, and Dr. Graham.

Monica Carol Miller, PhD, for the book *Dear Regina: Flannery O'Connor's Letters from Iowa*.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Dr. Monica Carol Miller, and Dr. Graham.

Timothy J. Minchin, PhD, for the book *America's Other Automakers: A History of the Foreign-Owned Automotive Sector in the United States*. (No photograph available.)

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

Mark Clark O'Dell, Georgia Southern University, for the project "Benevolent Burials: Charitable Organizations Represented in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemeteries."



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Mr. Mark Clark O'Dell, and Dr. Graham.

Jeffrey M. Ofgang, Georgia Southern University, for the online exhibit "Jim Crow in Savannah's Parks."



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Mr. Mark Clark O'Dell, and Dr. Graham.

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

Jonathan Dorminy, Sola Fide Home School in McDonough, for the National History Day project “The Secret Christmas Trip to the White House: Debate and Diplomacy at the Arcadia Conference of World War II.”



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Jonathan Dorminy, and Dr. Graham.

Mansi Patel, Luella High School in Locust Grove, for the National History Day exhibit “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” (No photograph available.)

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

Drew Searles and Ismini Vasiloglou, Westminster Schools, for the National History Day exhibit “Taking Down the Iron Curtain: How the Truman Doctrine Contained Communism and Redefined US Diplomacy.”



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Ismini Vasiloglou, and Dr. Graham.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Valerie Boyd, posthumous award for extensive work in the field of non-fiction writing and archival research and for the book *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker*.



L-R: Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Dr. Veta Gola receiving the posthumous award for Valerie Boyd, and Dr. Graham.

Ann McCleary, PhD, for excellence in educating public historians, archivists, and museum professionals and for undertaking projects that document the history of west Georgia.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Monga, Dr. Ann McCleary, and Dr. Graham.

GHRAC works to promote the educational use of Georgia's documentary heritage and to support efforts to improve the condition of records statewide. The Board is charged with advising the Chancellor and the Georgia Archives on records and policy issues. Nominations for the 2023 Awards will be accepted beginning February 1, 2023, and they must be postmarked by June 1, 2023. More information is available from the Georgia Archives website https://www.georgiaarchives.org/ghrac/awards_program

Notes from the Records Center

Welcome, Rebecca!



In July, Rebecca Wood began working as an Inventory Assistant at the State Records Center. Her duties include pulling destructions, completing records requests, assisting with pickups and deliveries, and shelving new consignments.

Rebecca is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. She holds two Bachelor of Art degrees from Piedmont University in English and Drawing. She is currently enrolled in a Master of Science: Library and Information Technology with an Archival Management concentration at Simmons University.

On the side, she works as an editor for the International Association of Professional Writers & Editors (IAPWE) to keep up with her literary background. She also continues to create art, leading her to have been published twice and allowing her to host a solo show at an art gallery in April of 2022. She enjoys reading, hiking, and visiting Atlanta with her friends. Her hobbies include playing a drum set in a small jazz band, visiting museums, and caring for her many houseplants.

October 11 – Electronic Records Day

October 11 was Electronic Records Day, a day when records managers and archivists focus on how to manage and preserve electronic records. Protecting electronic records is not only something that government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations need to do, but also families should actively manage their electronic records to prevent premature loss and identity theft. It is easy to save files on computers, in the cloud, and on portable storage media and forget about them. However, if the files have not been properly managed since they were created, they might not be accessible or usable. The software and hardware that they are in may no longer be compatible with current technology. The media may have degraded. The files may be poorly named, have special characters in their names that software cannot handle, or be poorly organized, making locating them difficult. Make sure all files, even older ones, are saved in the computer's current software and program version, and on compatible hardware that is regularly checked for signs of degradation. Only connect devices to the internet when using them. Keep virus protection current and keep up to date on types of cyber scams to decrease the likelihood of successful cyberattacks.

Essential Records Webinar

On October 11, Records Management and Conservation staff presented the Essential Records Webinar to 97 attendees from local government, state government, cultural institutions, and the Technical College System of Georgia (TSCG) and USG institutions. The webinar is part of Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER), a two-course program designed to help government agencies protect essential records from premature loss. Essential records are those records necessary to respond to and recover from an emergency. Topics covered in the Essential Records Webinar include how to identify essential records, essential functions, hazards, and risks, as well as how to mitigate threats to records. While not all disasters can be prevented, there are steps that can be taken to limit their impact and to aid in the preparation for and response to them.