

FROM THE VAULTS

Newsletter of the Georgia Archives



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Vol. 7, No. 1

April 2022

Save the Date!

Visit our website in July for information on free classes, presentations, and tours of exhibits on segregation, and Georgia’s response to desegregation. Instructions for registration for classes will be available on the website closer to the events.

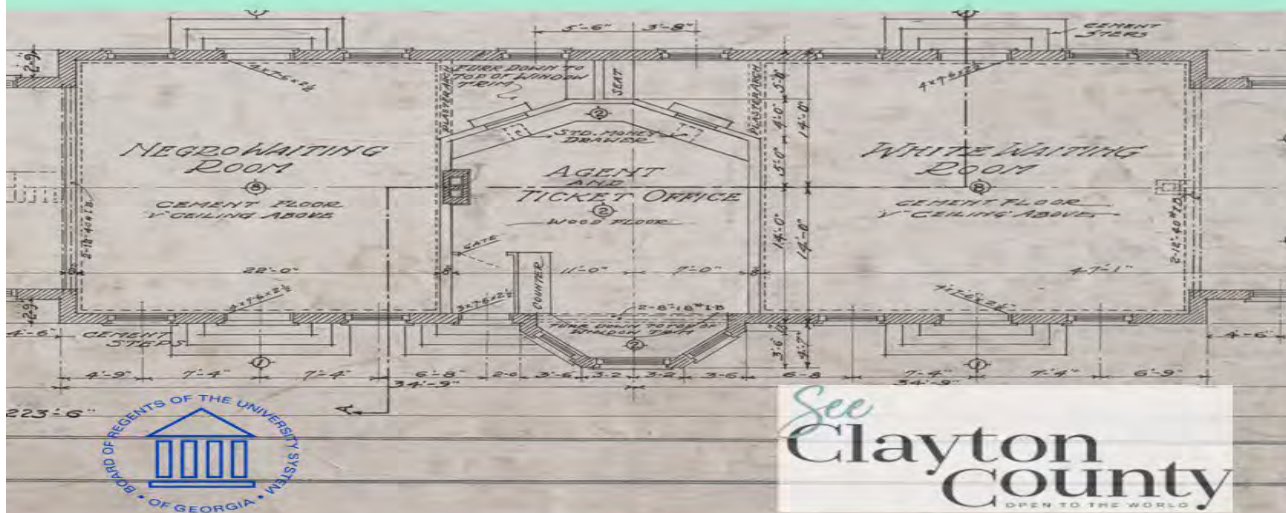
Georgia Archives

Preserving the Past, Promoting Lifelong Success

Come to the Georgia Archives to explore Georgia’s past, learn about your family history, attend a Lunch and Learn lecture or one of our other monthly events. To learn more, visit GeorgiaArchives.org.

Save the Date! Special programs on desegregation in Georgia

- August 19 & August 26, 2022 Classes
- September 23, 2022 Presentation
- October 21 & 28, 2022 Classes
- November 4, 2022 Presentation



Visit us at 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow
GEORGIAARCHIVES.ORG 678.364.3710

Image from Georgia Archives, Palmetto Depot (1916) in the Atlanta and West Point Railroad Architectural and Engineering Drawings collection (ac. 1975-0435M)

News from Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH)

Despite the warmer weather and layer of yellow pollen on every surface, we already have a sneak peak of the 2022 Georgia Capitol Ornament. This year's ornament features the model of the Georgia Capitol dome on display in the Georgia Capitol Museum on the 4th floor. The completion of the US Capitol dome in 1863 inspired several states, including Georgia, to build their own domed state capitols. As seen in this cutaway, the Georgia dome is comprised of three domes: a small one above the cupola, a larger outer dome and an inner dome. Beneath the inner dome is the rotunda which serves as the architectural and ceremonial center of the building. This 5/16" = 1' scale model was created by Matthew DeCleene of Southern Model, Inc. Ornaments will go on sale in the fall.

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 presentations, the Georgia Archives Institute, and summer internship program. Please also consider a one-time donation to support a specific event or project. All donations made to the Friends of the Georgia Archives 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.



All donations made to Friends of the Georgia Archives 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

Please enroll 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 _____

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 another edition of From the Vaults, the newsletter of the Georgia Archives. There are many exciting projects going on at the Archives, but I want to focus on one in particular. The Georgia Archives has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to sponsor several events at the Georgia Archives dealing with the topic Georgia's Response to Desegregation. The classes and public programs supported by this grant will help to increase participation and education opportunities for the public.

As part of the grant, Penelope Cliff and Tamika Strong have begun researching in specific collections of the Archives, and they will soon be joined by two research assistants. The collections they are researching 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. Tamika Strong will process selected collections throughout the project and provide metadata to increase access by researchers. As related documents are identified through research, Sigourney Smuts and Tracey Johnson will perform appropriate conservation treatments as necessary to stabilize fragile materials.

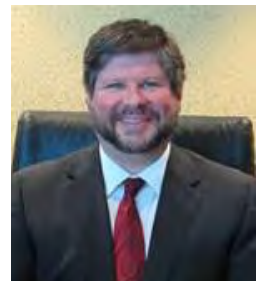
In August, Penelope Cliff will begin delivering her first course on the topic, which will consist of two class meetings. On September 23, Tamika Strong will give a public presentation on content different but similar to that covered by the course. Staff will create and install an exhibit related to the course and presentation. Tours of the exhibit will be available.

In October, Penelope Cliff will begin delivering her second course, which will also consist of two class meetings. Tamika Strong will give a public presentation on November 4, which will cover content different but similar to that of the course. Staff will create and install a second exhibit related to the material. Tours of this exhibit will also be offered. In late November, I will give a public presentation summarizing the work of the grant and the assistance provided by NEH.

You may have seen some advertising of the project through Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB), which was done through a generous grant from Clayton County Tourism Authority. When visiting the Archives, consider spending the night in one of the area hotels and trying one of our local restaurants to fully experience what Clayton County has to offer.

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

Christopher M. Davidson



Notes from Reference Services

Resource Highlight: HeinOnline – Session Laws

Reference Library Portal

Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives	Ancestry Library Edition <i>(On-site use only)</i> Courtesy Friends of Georgia Archives & History	Digital Library of Georgia
Book and Manuscript Catalog (GIL)	Fold3 <i>(On-site use only)</i> Courtesy R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation	GALILEO <i>(On-site use only)</i>
Virtual Vault	FamilySearch	Georgia Supreme Court Cases, 1846-1917
Vanishing Georgia Photograph Collection	Atlanta Constitution, 1868-1984 <i>(On-site use only)</i> Courtesy R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation	County Maps Database
Visual Materials Database	Newspapers.com Library Edition <i>(On-site use only)</i> Courtesy R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation	Garrett Necrology Index
Georgia Legislative Documents		War of the Rebellion (Cornell University)
Georgia Government Publications		Historical Organizations & Resources in Georgia
 HeinOnline Legal and Legislative Resources Courtesy R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation		

HeinOnline, courtesy of the R.J. Taylor, Jr., Foundation, has been added to the Reference Library Portal. **This resource can be accessed for free onsite at the Georgia Archives in our search room library.** HeinOnline is an online research platform which gives you access to a variety of legal resources. One of the resources it provides access to are the State Session Laws.

State laws are useful resources for a variety of research. If you are writing a history of a city or town, the laws will include the incorporation, city charter (which establishes city government), and describes the city boundaries. Likewise, changes in county boundaries will also be recorded in the laws.

BRASWELL, TOWN OF INCORPORATED.

No. 102.

An Act to incorporate the town of Braswell, in the county of Paulding, to define the corporate limits of said town, to provide for the election of a mayor and aldermen for the government thereof, and for other purposes.

Corporate limits. SECTION I. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this Act the town of Braswell, in the

Notes from Reference Services cont.

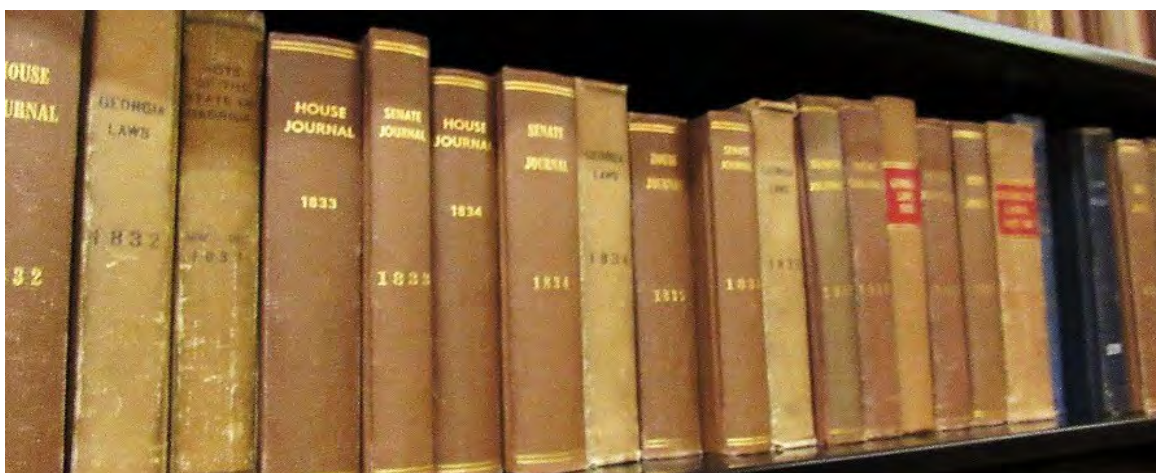
You can use laws for family history research as well. Early laws document divorces, requests for relief, legitimatizations, name changes, and manumissions (freeing) of enslaved persons.

**A N A C T**

To manumit and make free certain persons of colour, whose names are therein mentioned.

WHEREAS Richard Meriwether, and others, have petitioned the present Legislature, praying that, an Act may be passed, to manumit and make free Lucy Barrot, and Betty Barrot, Jim, commonly called Jim Lary, and a mulatto girl, named Nancy, late the property of Alexander Kevan, persons of colour, who

Georgia Laws 1801, pg. 40



Georgia Laws, House and Senate Journals, are located in the Search Room Library

(No. 352.)

An Act for the relief of William S. Rackley and Eliza A. Rackley, formerly Eliza A. Brazzwell of the county of Decatur, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble.

Whereas, Anna Jane Rackley, former wife of William S. Rackley, abandoned her said husband and went to Florida, for that purpose, in the Courts of which she obtained a divorce, *a vinculo matrimonii*, from the said William S. Rackley, upon grounds and evidence wholly insufficient to authorize the same in Georgia; and whereas, the said Anna Jane, after obtaining said divorce, intermarried with another husband; and whereas, the said William S. Rackley, deeming himself released from his marital obligations with said Anna Jane, contracted matrimony with the said Eliza A. Brazzwell, of the county of Decatur, in January last, and that the same was duly and legally solemnized:

Wm. S. Rackley relieved.

13. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That the said William S. Rackley be, and he is hereby fully relieved from all the penalties, liabilities, and disabilities by him incurred in consequence of his intermarriage with said Anna Jane Rackley, formerly Anna Jane Blount, and of the divorce obtained by her, as aforesaid.

W. S. Rackley and E. A. Brazzwell relieved.

14. SEC. II. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the said William S. Rackley, and Eliza A. Brazzwell, of the county of Decatur, be, and they, and each of them, are hereby fully relieved from any and all penalties, liabilities and disabilities, incurred by reason of their said intermarriage.

Marriage declared valid.

15. SEC. III. *And be it further enacted*, That the marriage of the said William S. Rackley and Eliza A. Brazzwell, be, and the same is hereby declared valid, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

SEC. IV. Repeals conflicting laws.

Assented to, 20th Dec., 1859.

Georgia Laws 1859, pg. 352

HeinOnline gives you access to federal laws and state session laws from around the country including: Session Laws GA 1735-2021, Session Laws AL 1819-2017, Session Laws SC 1694-2019, Session Laws NC 1715-2018

The Georgia Archives also holds published copies of the Georgia Laws in the Search Room library. The published laws are shelved with the House and Senate Journals.

Not onsite? There are other ways to access the Georgia Laws (for free):

- [Georgia Legislative Documents](#) (1799-1999, with some gaps) FREE ONLINE
- [Georgia General Assembly website](#) (2001-2022) FREE ONLINE

Notes from the Collections Management Section

The Georgia Archives Collections Management section rang in 2022 with transfers of permanent records from several agencies. The section receives incoming records from state agencies and also assists in aiding researchers using Georgia Archives' collections.

We have accepted and processed records from state agencies including the Department of Law, Secretary of State, Real Estate Commission, MARTA, Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of Natural Resources. We are finalizing processing of records from series 030.04.038, Parks and Historic Sites - Historic Preservation Section - Federal Tax Incentive Case Files. This program evaluates historic preservation applications for properties and projects preserving and restoring historic structures. These records include correspondence and frequently have before and after photographs of revitalized properties. If you are interested in this collection, search "historic preservation case files" in the Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives and select the first result. Additionally, we continue to process, re-house, and describe new and existing collections.

We have also finished processing manuscript collection Georgia National Guard Field Hospital No. 123, Collection 2021-0006M. These records include photographs and a scrapbook of the unit that served at the Mexican border in 1916-1917, Camp Wheeler in 1918, and France during the First World War.

If you are interested in any government records series or privately donated manuscript collections held at the Georgia Archives, you can contact us by submitting a question to our Ask an Archivist form, or calling us at 678-364-3710.

Notes from the Education Section

Later this year: Georgia's Response to Desegregation of Schools

Save the Date!

Beginning in August, using state government records, the Georgia Archives will begin the first of four free classes, two presentations, and two exhibits on Georgia's response to desegregation of schools because of the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. Classes, presentations, and exhibits are made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In early July, look for the registration link on our website (www.georgiaarchives.org) to register for on-site classes. Classes and presentations will use many of the Georgia Archives' records and collections including 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.

The Georgia Archives' classes combine lecture, videos, examining facsimiles and viewing of original documents in the Original Documents Reading Area. There will be two presentations for the public after class one sections and class two sections.

The first two classes will focus on African American experience in public education during segregation after Reconstruction beginning with Jim Crow, and ending at the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and *Brown II* (1955). The second two classes focus is on the state's response to desegregation, beginning with *Brown v. Board of Education, Georgia's* massive resistance, and a focus on the integration of the University of Georgia in 1961. The state response to desegregation of massive resistance in public education is an underutilized area of the Civil Rights Movement. The Georgia Archives plans to make this useful history available through classes, presentations, and exhibits.

~~TRYING TIMES~~

These past few days have been trying ones for all of us -- days of shock, frayed tempers, anger, shouting, even violence, but, over in the distance, through it all shone a steady light -- the light of Georgia character, the innate, inbred integrity of our people.

We hold fast to a common heritage and share a mutual destiny.

Our minds, our hearts, our roots grow deep in Georgia's sandy soil, in her rolling plains and in her red clay hills.

On her landscape, we have felt the joys of youth, the experiences of growing and on her ground we have shed our tears.

Ingrained in each of us, is the deep personal unchangeable conviction that separate public education -- segregated facilities -- not only are best but are mandatory, under the circumstances existant here, if peaceful relations are to continue between the two races as they have in the past.

Governor Ernest Vandiver's public education pro segregation address, page 4, January 18, 1961, 00784 Ad Hoc Collection

August 19: Class 1 part one
August 26: Class 1 part two
September 23: Presentation 1
Exhibit 1 July 9 – Sept 24

Oct 21: Class 2 part one
Oct 28: Class 2 part two
Nov 4: Presentation 2
Exhibit 2 Oct 15 – Dec 17

RECOGNITION**Georgia Women of Achievement: Mary Givens Bryan 2021**

Article by Dr. Steven W. Engerrand



L-R: photograph 1: Mary Givens Bryan; photograph 2: Georgia Archives Reference Manager Allison Hudgins and Dr. Steven W. Engerrand, photograph courtesy of Kenneth Thomas, Jr.; photograph 3: commemorative plate; photograph 4: L-R: Dr. Adrian L. Epps, Dr. Steven W. Engerrand, Georgia Archives Deputy Director Kayla Barrett, and Dr. Penny L. Elkins, courtesy of Georgia Women of Achievement

On March 9, 2022, the fourth Georgia Archives director Mary Givens Bryan was included among eight inductees from 2021 and 2022 at the 30th annual Georgia Women of Achievement program held at Wesleyan College in Macon. Mary Givens Bryan, a 2021 honoree, was nominated by former Georgia Archives Deputy State Archivist, Dr. Steven W. Engerrand.

For fourteen years in the 1950s and 60s, State Archives Director Mary Givens Bryan (1910-1964) was the official responsible for overseeing the preservation of Georgia's historical records for future generations. Working through others and partnering with other organizations when funding was inadequate to accomplish her ambitious goals for Georgia, Bryan developed a modern program later directors could build on. When she began, she had no formal archival training, but acquired training wherever she could find it. With her business college experience, she was an expert with budgets and had solid organizational and communication skills. She was mentored by a handful of national and state archives leaders, and she, in turn, mentored many young archivists. Bryan left two monuments in her 53 years: one was a modern Archives Program including microfilming and records management, and the other was a state-of-the-art building to help preserve the permanent records of Georgia.

Mary Eugenia Givens was born in LaGrange in Troup County on 3 September 1910 to Janie Lou Cox Givens (1876-1913) and Young Clyde Givens (1877-1938). After her mother died before Mary's third birthday, Mary went to live with her aunt and uncle in Decatur, Georgia. She was educated in public schools and at Mount de Sales Academy in Macon. She graduated from Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville and then attended Chrichton's Business College in Atlanta. In later years, Mary took additional courses at Emory University and at the University of Georgia's Atlanta Division (evening college). In 1934, she was hired as a clerk with the Georgia Department of Archives and History where she worked with Ruth Blair, the Director, and Blair's successor, Louise Frederick Hays. Some of Mary's earliest tasks involved helping compile the Georgia Official and Statistical Register. She later became an assistant director and in 1950 was appointed Acting Director. In 1951 after Mrs. Hays died, Mary was appointed director of the Department by the Secretary of State, Ben Fortson.

In her personal life, in 1948 Mary Givens married Dr. T. Conn Bryan, a history professor at North Georgia College in Dahlonega. The marriage only lasted three years and they were divorced in 1951.

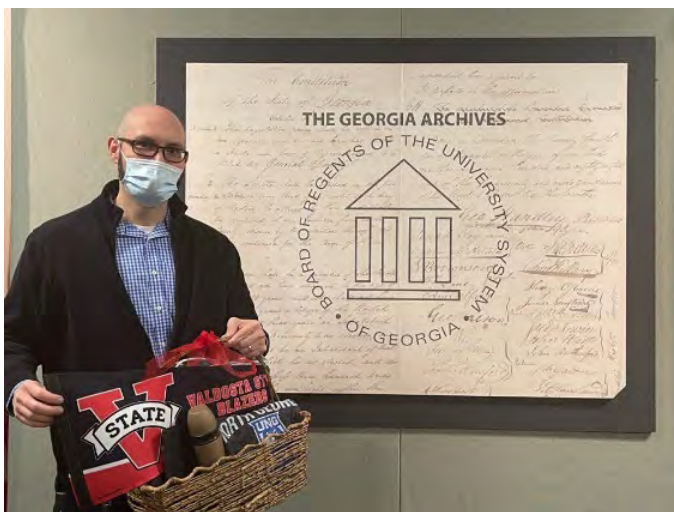
Mary had continued studying and learning about Archival Administration during her first sixteen years at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, but after Ben Fortson's appointment as Secretary of State in 1946, Mary had support for more formal training. She received a diploma from American University (Washington, DC) in Archival Administration and Preservation in 1951 and in Records Management in 1956. As the first trained archivist to serve as director, Mary wanted to make major changes in the way the Archives functioned and improve the environment in which records were stored. She also began to see the need for a records management program to assist state agencies at the creation end of the records life cycle and to work with archivists. She and Fortson developed plans to build a strong program but the budget was still tight. Fortson had been able to secure better appropriations for operations of the Archives, but without Mary's efficiency and the management skills she had learned at business school, progress would have been limited.

Because there was no additional space in Rhodes Hall for state government records, they began a county records program to microfilm and preserve permanent records in the offices of Clerks of Superior Court and county Ordinaries (renamed Probate Judges in 1975). They also began to press for a new building to house the 20,000 cubic feet of records stored in Rhodes Hall and to hold additional permanent state records stored in state offices and future records. Rhodes Hall leaked and records stacked to the ceiling were damaged by water and resident squirrels. Fortson set aside space in the Secretary of State's "Annex" on Mitchell Street for an overflow archives, a microfilming program for state records, and temporary records center for non-permanent records, but these were stopgap measures at best. Mary began crisscrossing Georgia to enlist all Georgians in her campaign to build a new archives building. Speaking to church groups, civic organizations, local government officials, patriotic groups, organizations of veterans, and students, Miss Mary as she was known made the case for preserving Georgia's history as documented in records. Many of the people she rallied to her side talked to their legislators about the need to preserve records. They listened and in 1960 and 1961, the Georgia General Assembly set aside money for architects and planning and then \$6 million to construct a state-of-the-art repository for Georgia's archives. Groundbreaking took place in 1962 near the Georgia Capitol and over the next two years the building rose above the Interstate highways "downtown connector" at the junction of I-20 with I-75 and I-85.

Mary was successful because she was able to bring together large numbers of people from diverse backgrounds. She promoted the new building tirelessly. In addition to her speeches, she used newspapers and radio and television stations to spread her message as she traveled around Georgia. Mary had a national fan club as well: the Society of American Archivists. She had joined SAA in 1951 when she became State Archivist and published an article outlining her vision for the Georgia Archives and other repositories in the state. She soon found kindred spirits in a number of other state archivists. Mary became head of SAA's State Records Committee and served from 1954 until 1957. For all of the states and territories she compared the laws covering archives and published these compilations in 1955, 1956, and 1957. Mary was elected President of the Society for 1959-60. Her colleagues provided advice and suggestions based on their own buildings, and she in turn shared what she had learned about publicity in an American Archivist article in 1964: "The Georgia Archives Building—A Case Study in Promotion." Mary's professional work nationally taught her much that she used in her state position, and she relied on her state planning and management experience to assist archivists from other states.

Unfortunately, Mary died in the summer of 1964 when the building was nearly complete, but before the building could be dedicated and the records moved from Rhodes Hall. At the 1965 building dedication nearly all the speakers spoke of Mary's devotion to the preservation of the state's historical record and how sad it was that she never got to move into the building she had designed with help from her friends.

WSB radio and the Atlanta Gas Light Company presented their Shining Light Award for outstanding contributions to the community posthumously to Mary in 1966. At the joint meeting in 1966 of the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History, a large bronze plaque honoring Mary was placed near the entrance to the new building. Although Fortson said many times in the years after Mary's death that the new building should bear Mary's name, it never did.



Georgia Archives Collections Manager Hendry Miller wins 2021 University System ConnectED Banner Contest

[Article and photograph courtesy of University System Office (USO) ConnectED]

After 26 banners guesses, institution fun facts, and friendly coworker competition, Hendry Miller has emerged as the victor for the 2021 USO ConnectED Banner Contest! Hendry is a reference archivist for the Georgia Archives.

In the USO ConnectED Banner Contest, employees of the System office raced to guess the location in the photo used as the intranet banner every other Friday. Each banner showed a University System of Georgia (USG) institution. After a few initial rounds, tips for the latest banners appeared in the weekly newsletter to help guessers and share some USG knowledge. Guessers had until noon on Thursdays to submit their answers. The first person to submit the right institution for the banner was heralded in the Friday USO ConnectED newsletter. All other correct guessers were put in a drawing for when the contest ended on Dec. 16. After a quick spin of the wheel, Hendry became the winner. Learning that he won, Hendry said he feels lucky. "I never win anything!" he said.

For winning the contest, Hendry received an assortment of USO and USG paraphernalia, which included such items as a USO Well-being blanket, a USO HR padfolio, a pennant from his alma mater, Valdosta State, and a long sleeve T-shirt from the University of North Georgia.

While the contest ran, Hendry had fun figuring out the locations. For some of the guesses, he utilized tips but with others, he just threw out wild guesses. His favorite banner was, as could be guessed, the banner for his undergraduate alma mater, Valdosta State. Hendry has a Ph.D. and master's degree in history from Florida State University, a bachelor's degree in history from Valdosta State University, and an associate degree from Gainesville College (now part of the University of North Georgia).

Notes from the Records Center

Records Emergency Planning and Response Webinar – May the 4th

"If an item does not appear in our records, it does not exist." Jocusta Nu, Chief Librarian of the Jedi Archives, Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones.

While the loss of records may not be a part of an intergalactic plot, loss of information can seriously affect a government agency's ability to respond to and to recover from a disaster. Preparedness is key to lowering the risk of losing records due to a disaster. Join the Georgia Archives Preservation and Records Management staff on May 4 for a day-long webinar on Records Emergency Planning and Response (REPR). Topics covered include developing, analyzing, and testing a Records Emergency Action Plan (REAP); assessing disaster damage; developing emergency response; and recovery procedures. The webinar is free and is available to local and state government employees, including USG and TSG staff. For more information, contact Christine Garrett, christine.garrett@usg.edu. Until then, May the Fourth be with You.

Cybersecurity and Your Phone

Cybercrime is on the rise, with stories of government agencies, private businesses, and other organizations having their systems attacked. Attacking large entities can result in the hackers stealing large quantities of classified or private information for nefarious purposes, causing major disruptions, and earning the hackers large sums of money. However, large organizations often have stronger safety protocols in place, resulting in lower success rates than hacks into less secure systems. Unfortunately, for the public, often the least secure systems are those of individuals and, in particular, personal cellphones. While people tend to have antivirus and other security protections on their computers and tablets, phones tend to get overlooked.

Cellphones need to have higher level of security against cyberattacks. Ensure phones are protected from antiviruses. Update phones on time, instead of continually putting the updates off until more convenient times, which never seem to come. Whenever possible, put phones on airplane mode or turn them off. Only download verified apps. Check overall and individual app data usage. When possible turn off tracking. Check how long apps, such as GPS, retain information and what information is maintained (some GPS apps will save every trip taken for years as well as tie it to emails and photos from each day). While it may be fun for someone to look back and see where they went and photos taken on a specific date three years ago, the information can be used by hackers to learn more about the person's movements and possible preferences. Such information can either be of direct use to cyber criminals or of indirect use to help figure out passwords and security questions to accounts. Finally, follow the same security measures as are done on computers and other devices.

October 2021 State Records Committee Meeting

The State Records Committee met on October 20, 2021 and approved new and revised records retention schedules for the Georgia Department of Revenue; the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Environmental Protection Division; and the Georgia Student Finance Commission. The Committee met again on April 21, 2022 and approved revisions to the Georgia Statewide Common Schedules and the Georgia Department of Administrative Services. The Committee's next meeting will be in October. The deadline for submitting proposed new and revised schedules is August 1. Contact Karl Simpson, karl.simpson@usg.edu, for more information and for the template used to update schedules.