

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2007 Award for Legislative Advocacy

Honorable Mike Cheokas



Second term Representative Mike Cheokas of Americus shepherded SB 210 through the Georgia House of Representatives in coordination with Senator George Hooks in the Senate. The bill expanded the Georgia Archives' ability to preserve the state's historical records by entering into partnerships with other government repositories while also safeguarding the Archives' ownership of historical electronic records. With Representative Cheokas' support, the bill passed the House unanimously and expanded protection for the state's most important historical records.

2007 Award for Archival Program Development

Clay County Library

In July 2005, the Clay County Library Board approved a 3,000 square foot building addition to house the local archives, an expansion from its 330 square foot special collections room. Through a GHRAB grant, the Clay County Library established a solid foundation for the effective administration of an archival program before its move to a larger facility. This small library in Southwest Georgia can serve as a model for similar organizations seeking to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and use of historical records.



Georgia Power Corporate Archives



The Georgia Power Corporate Archives has evolved, over the course of the past dozen years, from little more than a closet to an active archives with a research and processing area. Since 1995, the Archives has expanded from 200 to 2,000 square feet and makes extensive use of electronic indexing and scanning to support research capabilities. The holdings document much of the history of electricity in Georgia and include over 200,000 photographs, slides, negatives, and videos. The Archives responds to both internal and external requests for information.

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2007 Award for Documenting Georgia History

Helen Morek Chambers

For her master's thesis at the University of West Georgia, Helen Morek Chambers of Carroll County wrote "From Community Center to Memory: The Oak Mountain One-Room School and Norman Rockwell." Famed American illustrator Norman Rockwell visited Carroll County in 1946 looking for a one-room school to document for a *Saturday Evening Post* feature. Chambers explores Rockwell's visit and the implications of his illustrations on post-World War II America's nostalgic desire for a warmer, safer America.



John W. Jacobs & The Northeast Georgia History Center

The Northeast Georgia History Center documents the land and people that make up the Piedmont Region of North Georgia and owes its existence to the vision and dedication of one individual — John W. Jacobs Jr. of Gainesville. With displays using artifacts and documents to illustrate the area's history and frequent programs on the area's folk arts, architecture, dress, and manners, the Center tells visitors, residents, and thousands of school children the story of their ancestors. The Center also invites individuals to share their special stories of growing up in the foothills and mountains of Northeast Georgia.



2007 Award for Documenting Georgia History

Timothy J. Crimmins, Anne H. Farrisee, & Diane M. Kirkland

Timothy J. Crimmins of Georgia State University and Anne H. Farrisee of Atlanta wrote *Democracy Restored* featuring the photography of Diane M. Kirkland, former photographer of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The book is a history of the Georgia State Capitol and is a project of the Georgia Humanities Council, published by the University of Georgia Press. The authors used original historical records as part of their research strategy and presented the documentary evidence in photographic, narrative, and analytical terms. *Democracy Restored* is a visually stunning and academically solid history that is intended to reach a broad public audience.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2007 Award for Excellence in the Educational Use Historical Records



Melissa P. Johnston

Melissa P. Johnston of Canton, a school library media specialist at Silver City Elementary School in Forsyth County, has made teaching history using primary sources a focus of her instruction. By using primary sources, she puts real faces and emotions on events to make history come alive and creates an engaging way for students to learn about the past. Johnston has developed lessons based on the Georgia curriculum that integrate primary sources beginning with kindergarten through 5th grade. This is an on-going project for Johnston as she plans to develop more lessons in the future to connect primary sources to the Georgia Education Standards.

2007 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Graduate Level

Keri Leigh Merritt

Keri Leigh Merritt of Atlanta wrote "A Vile, Immoral and Profligate Course of Life': Poor Whites and the Enforcement of Vagrancy Law in Antebellum Georgia" as her master's thesis at the University of Georgia. Georgia's poor whites were in a peculiar legal position in that, although they were not slaves, neither were they wholly free. Her thesis examines when, where, and why vagrancy law was enforced and demonstrates that paternalism applied not just to women and blacks - it served to control poor white men as well.



Charles Hooper Wilson III

Charles Hooper Wilson III of Flowery Branch made extensive use of the resources of the Georgia Archives in his research for his master's thesis at the University of Georgia in Athens. For "Testators, Beneficiaries, and Bond-servants: What Early Georgia Wills Reveal," he examined over 400 wills written by testators who lived in Georgia from 1733 to 1790. These rich sources revealed much about their authors, including their occupations, family composition, and property holdings.

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2007 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate Level

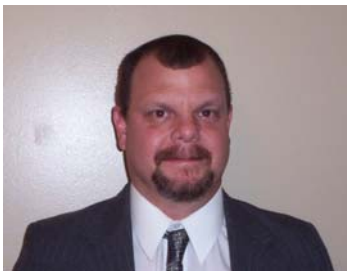
Elizabeth Stephens

Elizabeth Stephens of Snellville wrote "Principle Above Politics: John Marshall Slaton and the Leo Frank Case" for her senior paper at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville. The paper explores the decision of Governor John Marshall Slaton to commute the death sentence of Leo Frank to life imprisonment. Stephens also examines the public reaction, positive and negative, both in the press and in the thousands of letters that Slaton received. Stephens used the Georgia Archives and the John Marshall Slaton Papers extensively in her research.



2007 Honorable Mention for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate Level

Michael A. Wagner



Michael A. Wagner of Woodstock wrote his senior thesis at Kennesaw State University titled "As Gold Is Tried in the Fire, So Hearts must be Tried by Pain": The Temperance Movement in Georgia and the Local Option Law of 1885." Wagner found that the Local Option Law, an aspect of the prohibition movement, was supported by people from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds and many organizations besides the obvious Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Wagner used local and online sources and materials from the Atlanta History Center and University of Georgia Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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2007 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9-12



Robert Creel Marshall II

Robert Creel Marshall II of Macon is a junior at Central High School in Macon. In his paper for National History Day, Marshall explored and analyzed the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, a leader in the development of the atomic bomb who later became an active opponent of continued development of nuclear weapons. Marshall's paper finished first at the state contest, which is sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council. For his paper Marshall located primary and secondary source materials including newspaper accounts and government publications. The paper is a carefully crafted essay based on solid research.

Indira Pal

Indira Pal of Marietta is a junior at George Walton High School in Marietta. In her essay for National History Day, Pal explored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This paper placed second at the state contest, which is sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council. Pal accessed many of Dr. King's writings through published volumes or digitized copies on the Internet. A unique aspect of her research is her use of email interviews with scholars and contemporaries of Dr. King. Of special note, Pal completed this project outside of a classroom assignment and entered National History Day independently.



Christopher O. Simmons

Christopher O. Simmons wrote his International Baccalaureate thesis on the significance of the Underground Railroad in the abolition of slavery during his senior year at Robert W. Groves High School in Savannah. The International Baccalaureate is an academic program based somewhat on the curriculum that a high school student in Europe or Asia would follow. When Simmons was in the 10th grade, he began researching the Underground Railroad in conjunction with developing a National History Day entry. He created an individual exhibit that year that was ranked in the top 14 nationally. In subsequent years, Simmons maintained his interest in the Underground Railroad. Throughout these efforts, he has continued to explore primary and secondary sources in his extensive research on this important topic.

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2007 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 6-8

Molly Baker, Gabrielle Alexandria Brown, & Mary-Ann Ionascu



For their 7th and 8th grade National History Day topic, Molly Baker, Gabrielle Alexandria Brown, and Mary-Ann Ionascu of Columbus researched the story of Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. They developed a group performance that weaves together three perspectives on the tragic situation. In researching their topic, the girls explored primary and secondary sources. They even made a trip from Richards Middle School in Columbus to pursue research at the Andersonville Historic Site and the University of Georgia Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Starting this manner of research as middle schoolers will undoubtedly serve them well as they go into high school and beyond.

Zach Jones

Zach Jones of Cataula explored the story of Phenix City, Alabama, during the 1950s, for his 8th grade National History Day topic at Midland Middle School in Columbus. During this era, Phenix City was a center for gambling, prostitution, and organized crime. Public outcry led to changes in Phenix City and its eventual recognition as an "All-American City." Jones reviewed many primary documents at the Simon Schwob Library at Columbus State University and conducted on-site research at the Elite Cafe and Coulter Building in Phenix City. Jones' paper placed first at the state contest, which is sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council. It is a strong example of what students can achieve when they make the effort to research both primary and secondary sources together.



Denver Norris, Dillon Norris, and Lewis L. Goode IV

For their 8th grade National History Day topic, Denver Norris, Dillon Norris and Lewis L. Goode IV of LaGrange researched the life of Horace King, a slave who became a master bridge builder, and a free man. They developed a group exhibit to present their findings. Their exhibit placed first at the state contest, which is sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council. They conducted research at their school library at Gardner Newman Middle School in LaGrange, the local public library, and at the Troup County Archives. Their exhibit is a strong example of student research on an important local topic.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2007 Special Recognition Award



Clayton State University

A unique partnership of the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, Georgia Archives, and Clayton State University launched the Circuit Rider Archivist program in 2005 to assist local governments, historical societies, museums, and libraries in Georgia with managing archives and records. The University's contribution was crucial to establishing this new program. The University contributed its educational vision, staff resources, and financial resources in order to make the program work. Through the program, university students are being taught about archives, and an experienced archivist is counseling over 100 organizations on issues ranging from the proper environment for the preservation of letters from the Civil War to efficient use of storage space.

2007 Award for Lifetime Achievement

Kaye Lanning Minchew

Kaye Lanning Minchew of LaGrange has spent her entire professional career working to improve the documentation of Georgia's history. As Director of the Troup County Archives for 24 years, she has sought to improve records keeping in Troup County, West Georgia, and Georgia as a whole. Minchew is spearheading an NHPRC grant-funded project to make 19th century court records of Troup County available on the Digital Library of Georgia's website, which will greatly increase their accessibility to researchers. She has also worked on the state and national levels to improve the care of government records through her service as a long-term member of the GHRAB Board and as co-chair of the national "Closest to Home" local government records project of the Council of State Archivists.



Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

2007 Award for Lifetime Achievement

Edward J. Cashin (1927-2007)

Edward J. Cashin, a native of Georgia who spent most of his professional life in his hometown of Augusta, will be remembered among the great historians to live and work in Georgia. Author or editor of more than thirty books and dozens of articles, Ed Cashin was a scholar, a teacher, an advocate for history and the archives, and a leader in the profession. Through his tireless mining of archival collections and the quality of his published scholarship, he has helped shape much of what we know about early Georgia history.

This Lifetime Achievement Award is given posthumously by the Georgia Historical Records and Advisory Board with a profound appreciation for the rich legacy that Ed Cashin now leaves to the generations who will come after.



Robert Eugene (Bob) White, Jr. (1949-2007)

Robert Eugene White, Jr., a native of DeKalb County Georgia, represented the very best in public service. He spent most of his professional life at the Georgia Archives including several years as Deputy Director. He completed his State career as Budget and Capital Projects Director for the Secretary of State. His respected leadership and trusted fiscal analysis helped to preserve the written documentation of Georgia's history and heritage. Everything he pursued, from fiscal planning to capital projects, he did with integrity, frugality, humor, and a spirit of service.

This Lifetime Achievement Award is given posthumously by the Georgia Historical Records and Advisory Board with a profound appreciation for his many contributions to the preservation of our history.

