

FROM The VAULTS

Newsletter of the Georgia Archives



www.GeorgiaArchives.org



Volume 4, No. 1

February 2019

Deputy State Archivist Steven Engerrand Retires After 34 years with the Georgia Archives



Deputy State Archivist Steve Engerrand retired from the Georgia Archives at the end of 2018. He began working at the Georgia Department of Archives and History in 1984 as an Archivist 1 in Government Services. Steve came to the Archives with extensive background in Georgia history and records. The Dahlonega native has three degrees in History including a PhD from UGA. His Archival education consists of a library degree from Emory University with a concentration in Archives, including a six-month internship at the Georgia Archives and completion of the Georgia Archives Institute. While working on his PhD in Athens, Steve served as a graduate school assistant to Kenneth Coleman, assisting Professor Coleman with his project to edit and publish the previously unpublished manuscript volumes of Allen Candler's *Colonial Records of Georgia*.

During his 34-year career, Steve worked in all major divisions of the Georgia Archives. In the Government Records Section, Steve processed and described incoming agency and county records. He joined the Records Management section as an Operations Analyst in 1986. From 1989-1991, Steve coordinated Georgia's effort in the pioneering Research Libraries Group grant project with ten other state Archives to enter descriptive and appraisal information for government records using MARC cataloging into the national database RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network). Later, in 1995-1996, he was Co-Director of the GAMMA (Georgia Archives and Manuscripts Automated Access) Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which added hundreds of records descriptions from over thirty institutions across Georgia to OCLC and RLIN.

In 1990 Steve became Assistant Director of the Descriptive Services Section of the Archives and continued to hold that position until a reorganization in 2000, when he became the Assistant Director for Archival Services. (Continued on page 11)

News From Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH)

Update from the President

Welcome to 2019! FOGAH was happy to have been a part of celebrating the centennial of the Georgia Archives last year. We believe that we have sent the Archives into the next century in grand style. In the spirit of the centennial, I encourage each of you today to become aware of the archival and historical collections in your communities. Find out more about them, like how to use them and the types of materials that they contain. Not only should we seek to preserve the Georgia Archives, but the history found throughout Georgia.

FOGAH would like to extend our invitation to join FOGAH. Your membership helps supports the many events that the Georgia Archives host throughout the year. If you would prefer not to join FOGAH, consider a one-time donation to support a specific event or project. For more information about memberships and donating to FOGAH visit our website: <http://fogah.org>.

Thank you for your continued support
of FOGAH!

Josh Kitchens, President



Friends of Georgia Archives and History 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.

Thank You For Your Donations!

From the State Archivist

Welcome to another issue of *From the Vaults*. As detailed in this issue, we have had an exciting beginning to 2019 with wonderful events and new staff members joining us. Our programs have received a resurgence in interest and attendance and we expect that to continue. Although we are saddened by the retirement of Steve Engerrand, we are comforted by the knowledge that we will continue to see him at the Archives as he researches and assists with special projects. I hope you too will come in and do research and attend our events. There is much going on this year and we hope you get to take part in it.



Christopher M. Davidson, J.D.

Georgia Archives Exhibits

The Georgia Archives' exhibits new displays from its collections every few months. For the centennial of the armistice of World War I, our last exhibit, "Georgians in World War I," and an exhibit case "1918 Influenza in Georgia" was viewed by many visitors to the Archives. Our current exhibit, "The African Case" is on display through May 11.

In October 1817, a ship traveling to Cuba and carrying Africans to be sold as slaves, was captured by privateers and brought to Amelia Island, off the coast of East Florida. At this time, Amelia Island was under the control of Commodore Louis-Michel Aury, who was involved in the South American independence movement and claimed the island on behalf of the revolutionary republic of Mexico. Aury's privateer friendly governance along with the island's proximity to the U.S. made it a hub for slave smugglers.

On Amelia Island, the Africans were sold to William Bowen, an agent for a Savannah merchant. Because bringing slaves into the United States was illegal, Bowen tried to hide what he was doing. He transported the Africans to Creek Nation territory, but despite Bowen's efforts, the Africans were seized and held by the State of Georgia. In accordance with Georgia law at the time, some of the Africans were sold at auction. Suits were filed by the owners of the ship and by Bowen attempting to obtain compensation. This case continued for a number of years and became known as "The African Case."



Exhibit: Georgians in World War I



Display Case: 1918 Influenza in Georgia

Recent Lunch and Learn Programs from 2018-2019

October 12— "Southeastern Railway Museum: Georgia's Transportation Museum" by James Polihronakis, Education Coordinator. This presentation was full of information about the museum's trains, historical exhibits, tours, and activities available for the individual and the whole family.



November 9 — "The Veterans History Project at the Atlanta History Center" by Sue Verheof, Director of Oral History and Genealogy. Sue gave a PowerPoint presentation on the oral history collection of those who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, post 9-11 conflicts, and civilians who supported them. She shared parts of several interviews with the group.



December 14— "Etched in Stone: The Language Carved in Victorian Cemeteries" by Penny Cliff, Education Specialist, Georgia Archives. This presentation introduced the "language" of symbolism etched into headstones and monuments of 19th and early 20th century United States and Europe. Those in attendance learned how to "read" this symbolism from the Victorian era.



January 11, 2019 — "Antique Mechanical Music: Music Boxes, Street Organs and More" by Mr. Craig Darlak, Collector and member of Automated Musical Instruments of America. Mr. Darlak brought approximately 50 different types of antique mechanical musical instruments to the Lunch and Learn. A short video of some the instruments played at the program can be viewed on the Georgia Archives' Facebook page.



Recent and Upcoming Lunch and Learn Programs

The monthly Lunch and Learn programs are sponsored by FOGAH. These free programs are available to the public on the second Friday of each month from noon until 1 p.m. No registration is required. Bring a lunch and enjoy the program.

February 8 — "Colonial Georgia: The Oglethorpe Years" was presented by Robert Jones, author of 45+ books on historical topics. Robert is a former long-time president of the Kennesaw Historical Society and member of the executive board of the Kennesaw Museum Foundation.



March 8 — "Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens" by authors Mary Anne Eaddy and Staci Catron. Interest in gardening and garden design was strong in early twentieth-century Georgia and resulted in some of the state's most noteworthy designed landscapes, a number of which are still in existence. *Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens* (UGA Press, 2018) chronicles the evolution of several of these properties, all originally identified in the 1933 volume *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*.



April 12 — "Genealogical Collections at the Georgia Archives: A 'Hidden' Treasure" by Tamika Strong, Reference Archivist, Georgia Archives. There are several manuscript collections held by the Georgia Archives that were created by local genealogists. These collections may hold the clue to unlocking a family's historical past. Join us as we explore the contents of one such collection.



May 10 — "The Ancestral Wanderer: In Search of a New Beginning" by Dr. Nydia Hanna, Ph.D., R.Ph., A.P.G. Professor, Pharmacist and Genetic Genealogist. This presentation will outline the key knowledge we need to successfully identify the ancestral birthplace of our immigrant ancestors.



Georgia Archives and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Metro Atlanta Chapter Explored Black History Journey in Georgia

The Georgia Archives and the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) hosted a time machine of the black experience in the state, "1619-2019: African Americans' 400-Year Journey – Footprint in Georgia," Saturday, February 9, 2019.

Included were cameo portrayals of historical luminaries and chapter members' ancestors; presentations by expert speakers on struggles and achievements in art, business, education, politics and other aspects of Georgia life since 1619; and a presentation on relevant research resources at the Archives.

Among speakers and topics were Tuskegee University history professor Dr. Lisa Bratton on before the colony, former NBA player and current Hawks announcer Mike "Stinger" Glenn on sports, genealogist Kristin Harms on Georgia's founding, Emory University historian Dr. Candy Tate & AAHGS member Louis Childers on art and music, Dr. D. L. Henderson on education, church historian Jacqueline Henderson on religion, author-historian Velma Maia Thomas on Atlanta politics and business, genealogist Johnette Books on the military, and archivist Caroline Crowell on Georgia research resources at the Georgia Archives.

This program was supported by a generous grant from Georgia Humanities.



Save the Date

Georgia Archives Symposium

April 6, 2019

“Land Use in Georgia: Urban Planning and Neighborhood Change in the Peach State”

The Symposium will include four sessions and a student presentation, plus lunch with two breaks. There will be a variety of presenters. The program will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Symposium is free and open to the public. Closer to the date, more information will be posted via the Georgia Archives' webpage, www.georgiaarchives.org, and the Archives' Facebook page.

Staff Updates

We welcome student assistant **Kersten Toebben**. Kersten is currently a junior in Clayton State University's honors program. She is working on her Bachelor of Arts degree in history, continuing her education started at Wright State University in Ohio. Kersten hopes to graduate with Clayton State's Public History Badge. Originally from northeast Iowa, she now resides in Douglas County.



We welcome our new conservator **Sigourney Smuts**. From Cape Town, South Africa, Sigourney is returning to the United States after being the National Endowment for the Arts Paper Conservation Fellow at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, from 2017 to 2018. She was previously employed as the sole conservator for the University of Cape Town Special Collection Library for two years and as a self-employed paper conservator in private practice in Cape Town for two years. Sigourney received her BA in Fine Art, specializing in sculpture, from the University of Cape Town before completing an MA in Conservation of Fine Art, specializing in paper conservation, from Northumbria University, United Kingdom. She has interned at the Conservation Centre for the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Iziko South African National Gallery, Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, UK, and The Better Image, New Jersey.

Reward Excellent Work in Archives Call for GHRAC Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has done outstanding work using, preserving, or making historical records more accessible? Think about the historical or genealogical society, library, museum, county or municipal government, researcher, local historian, educator or student. The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) wants to encourage, and reward their efforts.

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) established the Outstanding Archives Awards Program in 2003 to recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, the Board strives to inspire others. Hundreds of organizations and individuals play a significant role in the preservation of our state's documentary heritage.

GHRAC has twelve different award categories for individuals and organizations. Award recipients will be honored at the Georgia Archives by the GHRAC Board at a ceremony during Archives Month in October. **Nominations may be submitted February 1 through June 1. Nominations must be postmarked on or before June 1, 2019.**

All of the following are eligible for an award. (You may nominate your own organization.)
local governments, courts, school systems, state agencies, and institutions

- historical records repositories, historical societies, libraries, and museums
 - educators, students, and researchers
 - legislators and government officials
 - individuals and organizations who support archives and records management specialized subject societies in related fields such as oral history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, etc.
- Information about the GHRAC Awards Program is located on the website of the Georgia Archives, www.georgiaarchives.org. On the homepage, type "GHRAC" in the search bar. You can then click on the link to the "GHRAC Awards Program." Here you will find the links for the Nomination Form and instructions, the Award Categories and Selection Criteria for all 12 awards categories, and a list of all prior award recipients.

A nomination package consists of the one-page nomination form (please provide all requested contact information), a 500-word summary or project description, a copy of the work itself, and any supporting documentation necessary to appropriately portray the complete work (in the case of a project which includes an exhibit, a website, or an audiovisual, instructional, service, or performance component).

If submitted electronically, one copy of the nomination package should be emailed to :christopher.davidson@usg.edu. If submitted as hard copy, seven (7) complete nomination packages should be sent to: GHRAC, Georgia Archives [5800 Jonesboro Rd. Morrow, GA 30260](http://5800JonesboroRd.com) [Copies will not be returned.] Nominators should pay particular attention to the following requirements: 1. Georgia students who research and write in an area other than Georgia history or a Georgia subject must use the resources of Georgia records repositories to qualify for these awards. 2. Student nominations which are self-nominated, or nominated by a family member, must be accompanied by a letter of support from a professor, teacher, adviser, or other appropriate representative of an organization or institution. Award recipients are typically notified in August or September, and the annual GHRAC Awards Reception and Ceremony are typically held at the Georgia Archives in October. *Don't miss out on this opportunity to get involved and shine the spotlight on the organizations and individuals all across Georgia who are dedicated to preserving and sharing our history.*

For additional information, please email christopher.davidson@usg.edu.

Georgia Archives, 100 Years: Where We Are Now Centennial Tours from 2018

We wish to thank everyone who attended the monthly centennial tours in 2018, "Georgia Archives, 100 Years: Where We Are Now" to celebrate our anniversary.

As the tours were well-received, we have decided to continue offering tours on a quarterly basis. Our quarterly tours will be held on the second Saturday of the tour month beginning on Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. which will be "African American History: Colonial Beginnings Through the 20th Century: Stories and Documents."

The following were some of the themes of the tours which were given in 2018:

- "Tour of the Second Floor and Reference"
- "State Seals, History of Archives Buildings and Reference"
- "Reformatting and Reference"
- "Idea to Reality Tour" — Conservation, Reformatting and Behind-the-Exhibit Cases
- "Early Georgia" — State Seals, Reference, Land Distribution
- "Flattening the Counties of Georgia: Creating Access to Court Records"
- "Stories in Pictures: Miniatures, Daguerreotypes, Tintypes and More"
- "Venturing into the Vault: Behind the Scenes"
- "Mapping the way to Conservation and Cartography: Maps and the History They Provide"



Conservation

Experimenting With the Chemistry of Rust – Observations and Advice for Home Collections Care

This spring, Assistant Conservator Tracey Johnson is taking a correspondence course to gain a better understanding of chemistry and its role in the preservation of cultural heritage materials. Below are her observations.

Among other things, the course involves many hands-on experiments meant to test the concepts learned in the required readings. The results of the first experiment help explain why iron rusts and corrodes in certain environments, and what we can do to control some of those factors when thinking about preserving our personal collections at home. This experiment recreated different conditions within test tubes to show how iron nails would react in each situation. The test tubes were set up as such:

Tube 1: Contains deionized (highly purified) water. Nails dropped in tube using tweezers to prevent depositing natural oils from hands.

Tube 2: Contains deionized water. Nails dropped in by hand to deposit some natural oils.

Tube 3: Contains deionized water with a pinch of salt. Nails dropped in using tweezers.

Tube 4: Contains silica gel (like the packets that come in shoe boxes, etc.). Nails dropped in using tweezers.

Tube 5: Contains deionized water that was boiled and allowed to cool. Nails dropped in using tweezers.



Tubes 1 – 5, left to right.

After just one day, some of the nails began to react to their new environments. Orangey-green sediment was present at the bottom of each of the first three tubes. However, tubes 4 and 5 had no reaction. As the days went by, the first three tubes became progressively worse, but at varying rates. The tube of salt water was showing the strongest reaction, until about day 21 of the experiment when tube 1 took the lead. By day 27, the submerged bits of the nails in both 1 and 2 had corroded enough to look like emerging versions of Woolly Willy, while those in tube 3 had not.



Tubes 1 – 3, day 27; Woolly Willy magnetic toy

As the experiment progressed, it was easy to see that there is no environment suitable for metal objects where both water and oxygen are present. However, tube 2 was a good example of how oils can help prevent corrosion despite these conditions. To avoid contaminating the documents I work on, I frequently wash my hands to remove excess oils. Because of this, I had very little on my hands when I picked up the nails and placed them in the test tube. The parts of the nails resting in the water began to change immediately, but it wasn't until day 13 that the areas where I had handled the nails began to rust (it was day 6 for tube 1, and day 3 for tube 3). I suspect I had inadvertently disturbed the small amount of oil by moving the water around in the tube to get a better look at the submerged parts of the nails. (Conservation continued on page 11)

Deputy State Archivist Steven Engerrand Retires

In 2013 Steve was appointed Deputy Director, and in 2015 his title became Deputy State Archivist. During his last five years with the Georgia Archives, Steve enjoyed working in Reference as Historical Records Advisor. He has been the Georgia geographic names advisor to the U. S. Bureau on Geographic Names since 2012.

As a manager, Steve encouraged staff to participate in professional activities. Early in his career, he was on the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Description Section's Steering Committee (1985-1989) and edited the section's newsletter. He won the section's tongue-in-cheek First Annual "Most Boring Series Described" award in 1985. As a member of the Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA), Steve chaired the Education Committee from 1987-1988; was on the Program Committee in 1985, 1987, and 1993; and served on the Nominating Committee in 1987 and 1992. Steve was on the Editorial Board of *Provenance* from 1990-1994, chaired meeting sections at the 1987 and 1994 meetings, and was elected Director for 1994-1995.

In retirement, Steve plans to continue writing his history of the Georgia Archives and working on his Georgia Weather History blog.

In Memory Of

We mark the passing of two former Archives employees and friends. **Carl Anderson** died December 13, 2018. Carl worked part-time in Reference Services from 1997 to 2003. After his retirement, he was a frequent researcher at the Archives, where he shared his enthusiasm and knowledge of military and railroad history with both patrons and staff. Staff also appreciated his skill in clearing paper jams in reference printers, which saved much time and many a service call. Carl was a kind and generous man, and his many friends remember him fondly.

Sally Moseley passed away January 10, 2019 in Atlanta. Sally joined the Georgia Archives in September 1969 as a clerk in the Microfilm Library and worked in several different sections. In July 1972, she became Section Head of the Microfilm Library and continued there until a major reorganization in 1989. Sally then cataloged microfilm in the Descriptive Services section, and also worked in Reference several days a week. She retired in August 2003 with 34 years of service, four months after the Archives moved into the Morrow facility. Sally is remembered for her quick wit, her knowledge of Archives history and its records, her skills in storytelling, in turning a phrase, and for her kind heart.

Conservation

Tubes 4 and 5 had no reaction because either moisture or oxygen had been removed from the environment. Silica gel is used to remove excess moisture from its surrounding environment to inhibit mold growth and other adverse effects, which is why you see packets of it in containers everywhere. Once the moisture was absorbed by the gel, there was no threat of corrosion. The water in tube 5 had been boiled to remove most of the oxygen in it, and then a layer of oil was poured on top to prevent oxygen from dissolving back into the water.

To reiterate, both oxygen and moisture must be present for iron to rust. If you have any metal objects in your collection, especially anything that contains iron, be aware of the storage environment they are in. Metal objects are best preserved at or below 55% relative humidity (RH) and between 60° and 75°F. I recommend purchasing an inexpensive temperature and humidity sensor (thermo-hygrometer) to begin monitoring the space.

If you find that the conditions in the storage area are more humid than 55% RH, try reusing the silica gel that comes in various packages of consumer goods. The specifics of its use are outside the scope of this article, so please check other sources for information on how to use it properly. While silica gel works best for smaller, enclosed environments, such as display cases or boxes, try using a dehumidifier for larger spaces. Because using a dehumidifier is intended as a short-term solution, you might want to take a more holistic approach, if you find that the humidity is consistently too high.

Records Management

New Records Retention Schedules Approved

The State Records Committee met on November 14 and approved new and/or revised records retention schedules for the following agencies: Governor's Office, State Road and Tollway Authority, Student Finance Authority, Department of Audits and Accounts, Department of Economic Development, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, State Board of Workers' Compensation, and the Judicial Branch. The Committee's next meeting is in April. Agencies interested in updating or creating retention schedules should contact Karl Simpson (karl.simpson@usg.edu) to begin the process.

New Year Resolution – Organize Personal Records

At the beginning of each year, people often make resolutions to improve something in their lives. Some resolutions require a lot of effort and will-power, such as giving up Starbucks or eating healthier; while others are a bit easier. One somewhat easier resolution that you can accomplish is to organize your personal records.

We all have a lot of records and they are often scattered throughout our homes, cars, and other places. When records are scattered, they are hard to manage, which can cause a variety of issues ranging from annoying inconveniences, such as not being able to find a receipt to return an item, to serious problems, such as not being able to find documents necessary to complete your tax return.

Organize

The first step in organizing your records is to find and identify what you have. Locating records may be harder than it sounds, depending on how scattered they are. Once you have them in a central location, organize them into categories – medical records, bills, tax information, bank statements, etc. Then break each category down into subcategories, such as utility bills by company. It will help to write down the categories, subcategories, and date ranges as you will have many piles. Put the records in each subcategory in chronological order. You may discover that you have records that can be destroyed, do your research first before you destroy anything. Place the records in file folders, you can put all the records relating to one entity in a folder or further divide them so that each folder has one entity for each year. File the records in file folders in a filing cabinet or sturdy boxes. You may choose to put all the files from previous years in a location that is out of the way and the ones from the current year in an area that is easily accessible in case you need reference them.

Upkeep

Once your records are organized, you must continue to follow the organizational scheme or the records will quickly become disorganized. Records management is not a passive activity. Once a year – at the end of the year or after completing your tax return – place the past year's records in with your older records and destroy the records that can be destroyed.

New Staff: Meet Morris Taylor

Morris joined the University System Office (USO), in the Georgia Archives' State Records Center, on January 1st as an Inventory Assistant. The Atlanta native previously had a 10 years stint at the UPS as an Operation Supervisor, succeeded by 2 years at MSC Industrial Direct Co as a Team Coach in Receiving. Most recently, he worked at the Atlanta Tech College as a Mailing Clerk, where he also earned Technical Diplomas in Computer Information System and Real Estate Management. Associate Degrees in Supply Chain Management and Procurement, respectively, were later achieved at the same institution. Ever the nurturer, Morris is active in mentoring young people, while in his leisure time he enjoys smooth Jazz music and a game of billiards. He is a father of one. Please join us as we extend a hearty records welcome to Morris. Welcome!