

GEORGIA HISTORY | TODAY

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Perspectives

Focusing on What's Important

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

IN MY LAST COLUMN I DISCUSSED THE DRASTIC CUTS IN funding proposed for the Georgia Historical Society in the state mid year FY09 and FY10 budgets. This funding, which is used for the historical marker program and our library and archives, amounted to 15% of our total operating revenue. Its loss would have been a severe blow.

Many of you heard our plea for help and swung into action. Thanks to you and the hard work of our board and staff we successfully restored 75% of our state support. Considering where we began—a complete elimination—this is good news. But we must still absorb a 25% cut, a problem compounded by a corresponding 25% decline in our endowment. All of this has forced us to scrutinize our operating budget carefully to find ways to reduce spending.

Beginning in January we reduced our workforce by 14%, cut library and archives hours by 25%, and restricted or eliminated the frequency and scale of our publications, acquisitions, programs, and other services. By making the tough decisions early we will end the year with a balanced budget and on firm financial footing.

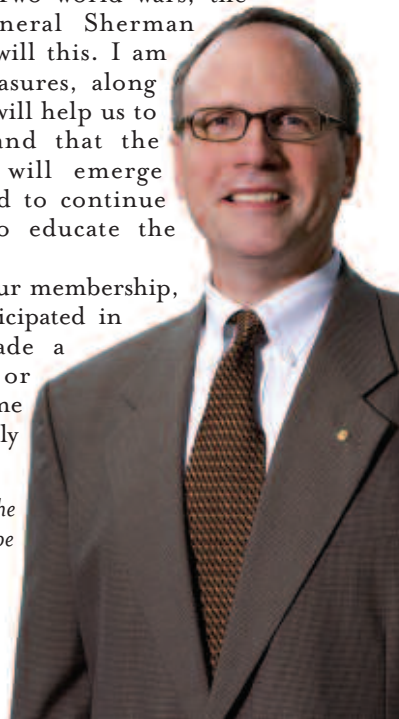
Despite these cutbacks we continue to succeed. Private financial support is still strong and fund raising is right on track. With the recent acquisition of the Judge Griffin Bell papers (see the "Inside GHS" story in this issue) our archival holdings continue to grow and visitation to our library and archives has risen dramatically. In February over 800 people attended the lecture on Johnny Mercer, thousands of school children participated in the 2009 Georgia Days educational programs, and nearly 400 people attended our Annual Birthday Bash and Awards Gala. Membership is at an all-time record of nearly 6,000.

This level of interest tells me that the Georgia Historical Society is no less important to the people we serve just because of tough economic times. Indeed just the opposite is true: history becomes more important during difficult times as we seek a greater historical understanding of the challenging days in which we live. If anything, GHS is more relevant now than ever.

The Georgia Historical Society has met and overcome challenges before. Two world wars, the Great Depression, and General Sherman couldn't stop us and neither will this. I am confident our cost-saving measures, along with your continued support, will help us to weather this latest storm, and that the Georgia Historical Society will emerge stronger and better positioned to continue our 170-year-old mission to educate the future about the past.

To all who have renewed your membership, donated to annual giving, participated in our corporate campaign, made a special gift for operating or endowment, or who took the time to contact the General Assembly on our behalf, thank you. *G*

W. Todd Groce is President and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at wtgroce@georgiahistory.com



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The mission of the Georgia Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share Georgia and American history.

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On the cover:
Griffin B. Bell (1918-2009),
whose papers covering his
career from 1976 to his death
are now at the Georgia
Historical Society. Read more
about this great Georgian's
collection in this issue.

CONTENTS

Perspectives
Focusing On What's Important
by W. Todd Groce

Page
left



Feature
Prelude to Hartsfield-Jackson: A Centennial Reflection on the Atlanta Speedway
by Edwin L. Jackson

2

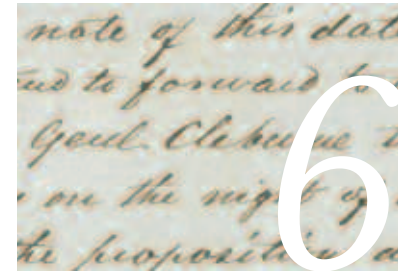


Inside GHS
Griffin Bell Papers at GHS
by Stan Deaton

4

Georgia Gems
by Stan Deaton

6



Profiles
Craig Barrow: Assuring History's Future
by Jim Battin

8

The State of History
University of Georgia Press
by Nicole Mitchell

10



Giving
Contributions

11

Milestones
GHS News

12

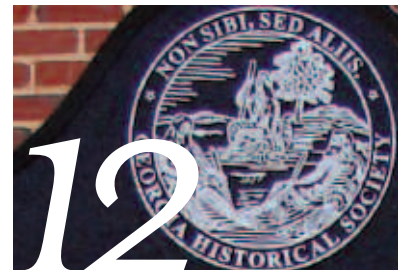


Footnotes
A Message from the Editor
by Stan Deaton

13

Happenings
Upcoming Events and Activities

Back
cover

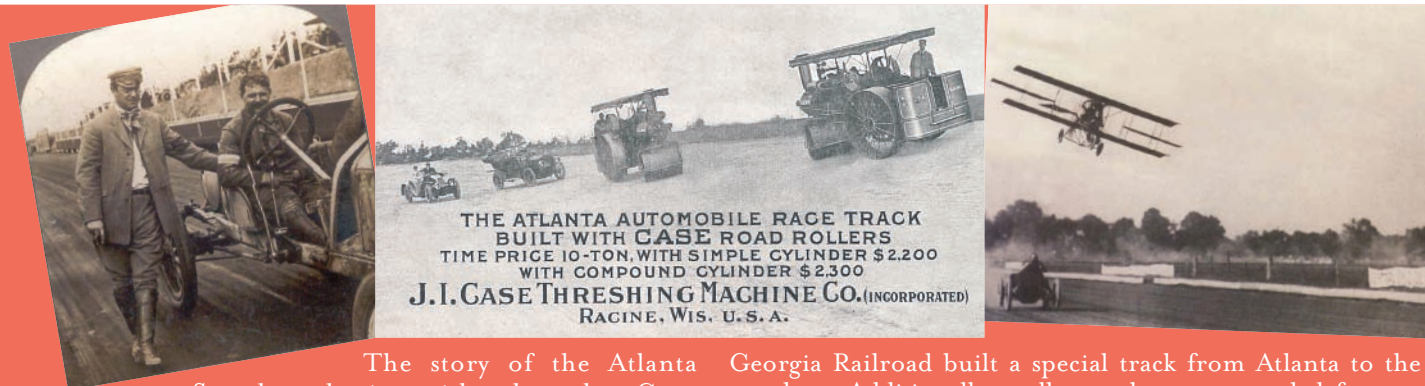


FEATURE

Prelude to Hartsfield-Jackson: A Centennial Reflection on the Atlanta Speedway

by Edwin L. Jackson

CHAMPIONSHIP AUTO RACING HAS LONG BEEN POPULAR IN GEORGIA, TRACING TO the races held through the streets of Savannah from 1908 to 1911. November 2009 will mark the centennial of speedway racing in Georgia. While numerous courses have been built during the past 100 years, there is one track that impacted Atlanta history more than any other—and it was only used as an auto racetrack for a single season. Today, over seven million people a month visit the site of this short-lived racetrack not realizing that Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport sits on what once was the Atlanta Speedway—Georgia's first enclosed banked racetrack.



The story of the Atlanta Speedway begins with—what else—Coca Cola. In 1886, druggist John Pemberton invented the famous drink in Atlanta. Asa Candler soon became involved in marketing Pemberton's syrup and by 1891 was sole owner of the formula for Coke. The next year, he incorporated the Coca-Cola Co.

Candler became president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and believed that just as the railroad had been crucial to Atlanta's past, the new automobile would be critical to the city's future. Candler believed that the automobile would create a new manufacturing and service industry in the South that would rival Detroit.

No national auto show had been held outside of Chicago or New York. The prospect of holding one in the South seemed especially unlikely, as the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers (NAAM) was on record as believing that most Southerners were too poor to afford an automobile. Also, NAAM pointed out that the South had terrible roads and that few state legislators would be willing to raise taxes in order to pave roads. Without good roads, auto sales would suffer.

Atlanta was one of the leading convention cities in the South. With a new city auditorium under construction, a delegation of Atlanta leaders headed by Clark Howell traveled to New York in April 1909 to change the thinking at NAAM and to lobby for Atlanta hosting that year's auto show. Following an impressive lobbying effort, NAAM agreed.

The 1909 auto show was scheduled for November 6-13. Sixty-one auto manufacturers signed on to show off their 1910 models, including Cadillac, Oldsmobile, Packard, Maxwell, and Pierce-Arrow, and a host of long-forgotten auto makers. By opening day, the auditorium's floor was covered with a sea of chrome and steel, signaling the dawn of a new age of transportation.

Atlanta designated the eight days of the show as "Automobile Week." Numerous events were planned to impress manufacturers of Atlanta's interest in autos. There was an automobile parade through downtown. One event—"Society Night"—brought Atlanta's social elite to the auditorium. Even the Barnum & Bailey Circus came to town during the week-long festivities.

One of the most impressive features of Automobile Week was engineered by Candler himself. At his own expense, he decided to build a major auto racetrack that would open during the show. The rare image above (center) shows racetrack construction.

In the spring of 1909, Carl Fisher built the Indianapolis Speedway, billed as "the greatest race course in the world." The first race was held there in August 1909, inspiring Candler to try to build an even better racetrack for the Atlanta auto show.

In August 1909, Candler purchased 300 acres of land nine miles south of Atlanta for \$78,000, formed a stock company known as the Atlanta Automobile Association, and named son Asa Jr. as president. Stock was then issued to raise over \$250,000 to build a 2-mile race course that would rival the Indianapolis Speedway. For three months, one thousand laborers worked around the clock to complete the new Atlanta Speedway in time for the November auto show. With a final price tag of \$400,000, Atlanta's new speedway was billed as "The Fastest Automobile Race Course in the World."

Ironically, in 1909 few people had cars, so the Central of

Georgia Railroad built a special track from Atlanta to the new speedway. Additionally, trolley tracks were extended from nearby Hapeville. Automobile Week organizers undertook an unprecedented promotional campaign to get Atlanta residents and visitors to attend the races.

The Atlanta Speedway races coincided with the final five days of the national auto show. The inaugural race was designated the Coca-Cola Cup, which Louis Chevrolet won reaching a top speed of 70 mph. Chevrolet is pictured above, far left, seated with Asa Candler, Jr., standing.

By all accounts, the auto show and races were a hit. Visitors from across the region crowded into Atlanta hotels, and the *Atlanta Journal* estimated that over 150,000 spectators attended the races. There were several races at the track in 1910, but turnout in terms of both race teams and spectators was poor. Following the last race in early November 1910, the Atlanta Speedway closed.

In December 1910, the *Atlanta Journal* and the Curtiss Exhibition Company hosted a 3-day air show at the Speedway, the first in Atlanta history. The following year, auto manufacturer Lindsey Hopkins and the Curtis Exhibition Company sponsored Atlanta's second air show. For three days, aerial events and races were held at the Atlanta Speedway. One of the most talked about was a six-mile race between a Stearns racing car, motorcycle, and a Curtiss bi-plane. The car and motorcycle jumped out to an early lead, but the airplane began to gain ground. It passed the motorcycle and almost caught the car, but lost the race by 4 seconds (see photo above, far right).

Following a 1911 air show, the Atlanta Speedway sat silent. The grandstands and various buildings were torn down and salvaged for lumber. Soon, only the dirt track gave evidence that championship auto racing once had taken place here. Some areas of the track's infield became farmland.

Only after World War I did interest revive in the Atlanta Speedway site. Once again, Coca-Cola's Asa Candler was a visionary, seeing the oval track and infield as an ideal site for an airport. How Atlanta got its first airport and went on to become the aviation hub of the Southeast is another story—but one likely that would not have occurred without the Atlanta Speedway. *E*

Edwin L. Jackson is the Senior Public Service Associate Emeritus at the University of Georgia Archway Partnership. He can be reached at edjack@uga.edu.



INSIDE GHS

Griffin Bell Papers at GHS

by Stan Deaton




THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAS acquired through donation the papers of Judge Griffin B. Bell, the dean of Georgia lawyers and one of the most prominent Americans in the second half of the twentieth century.

Judge Bell, who died January 5, 2009, at the age of 90, was a preeminent figure in the legal profession, serving under President Carter as the seventy-second attorney general of the United States from 1977 to 1979. Prior to that, Bell served for fifteen years as a judge on the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, appointed by President Kennedy, for whom Bell acted as campaign manager in Georgia in the 1960 election.

The Americus native served in the U.S. Army during World War II and graduated *cum laude* from Mercer University Law School in 1948. He practiced law in Georgia from 1948 to 1961, joining King & Spalding in Atlanta in 1953 and becoming its managing partner in 1958. He served as senior partner until 2004, when he became senior counsel for the firm.

From 1985 to 1987, Bell served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on South Africa. He represented Eugene Hasenfus, whose capture by the Nicaraguan authorities exposed the Iran-Contra scandal, and during the Iran-Contra investigation, he served as counsel to President George H.W. Bush. In 1989, he was appointed Vice Chairman of President Bush's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform. Bell specialized in corporate internal investigations, many that were high-profile, like that for E.F. Hutton following federal indictments for its cash management practices. In September 2004, he was appointed the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

Judge Bell, a life-long supporter of the Georgia Historical Society (having joined in 1948, our longest-tenured member), made this donation last year before his death. The Griffin B. Bell Papers, inclusive for the years 1976 to 2008, cover all aspects of his life and contain approximately 81.5 cubic feet of material. Once processed and made available for research, they will be a centerpiece of the Society's rich collections, which date to the very founding of the Georgia colony. They will be accessed for generations to come by lawyers, students, scholars, teachers, writers, journalists, legislators, and historians who seek a greater understanding of his unflinching devotion to the rule of law, his service to the American people, as well as a deeper appreciation of the man himself.

The proper care and processing of the Griffin B. Bell Papers at the Georgia Historical Society will ensure that this important collection can be opened to the public in a timely manner, thus having the full impact on future scholarship that its subject deserves, and will cement Judge Bell's reputation as one of the cornerstones of responsible American jurisprudence during one of the most troubled periods in American history. If you are interested in making a donation to help process the Griffin B. Bell Papers, or are interested in donating materials to the Georgia Historical Society, please contact us at 912-651-2125. 

Stan Deaton is Senior Historian at the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at sdeaton@georgiahistory.com.

Georgia Gems

by Stan Deaton

IN THE SPRING OF 1865 DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AS LEE'S ARMY HUDDLED IN THE TRENCHES OF Petersburg, and with the United States forces enclosing the rebel army and government in an ever-tightening grip, Confederates began debating in earnest an issue that had, till that time, been considered *verboten*: whether to arm slaves and enlist them in the ranks as fighting men. The United States army had officially been utilizing blacks as soldiers since 1863.

A year before, on January 2, 1864, Confederate General Patrick Cleburne advocated arming slaves in exchange for freedom, unleashing a firestorm of outrage. White Southerners considered soldiering and combat to be the supreme test of manhood, and if blacks could meet that test, as Georgia's Howell Cobb said, then "our whole theory of slavery is wrong." "The day you make soldiers of them," Cobb warned, "is the beginning of the end of the revolution."

Among the Georgia Historical Society's wealth of documents on the Civil War are two letters between Generals William H.T. Walker and Alexander P. Stewart reacting to Cleburne's proposal. The letters are in the Confederate States of America Army Military Records, 1862-1864, MS 169.

Walker attended the meeting of the officers of the Army of Tennessee in which Cleburne presented his proposal to a less-than-enthusiastic audience. Incredulous, Walker planned to write a strong letter of protest to Richmond but wanted the opinions of the other officers present before he did. General Stewart happily obliged.

Stewart wrote back in a cold fury, outraged that anyone would suggest that any but white southern men should fight for "the independence of the South." "I have simply to say that I unqualifiedly *disapprove* every sentiment and proposition of that paper [Cleburne's proposal]," he fumed, "which expresses discouragement at the prospect before us, a doubt of the ability of *free* people of these Confederate States to carry this revolution through to a successful termination, or which favors the arming & emancipation of *slaves* and placing them in the ranks to fight." The very idea, Stewart charged, "is at war with my social, moral and political principles."

Most everyone else agreed and Jefferson Davis quashed the idea. But by the late fall of 1864, even Davis was ready to ask the Confederate Congress for money to purchase 40,000 slaves for noncombatant roles, proposing freedom for those who performed well, and he, at least, was ready to put black men in the ranks if that were the only thing that could stave off "subjugation." On March 13, 1865, with total defeat looming, the Confederate Congress authorized Davis to recruit up to 300,000 black men for the rebel armies. The war ended less than a month later.

W.H.T. Walker did not live to see "the end of the revolution," having been killed in action during the Atlanta Campaign on July 22, 1864. Neither did Patrick Cleburne, killed at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Alexander Stewart, "Old Straight," fought in all of the major battles of the Army of Tennessee, from Shiloh to the Carolina Campaign, and he went on after the war to become chancellor of the University of Mississippi and a park commissioner of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. He died at age 86 in 1908.

How far does one go in sacrificing deeply held beliefs in order both to maintain security and win a victory over a dedicated and formidable opponent? As these documents demonstrate, Americans have been struggling with these issues for a long time, and consensus is no easier now than it was in 1864. It's a question that is likely to trouble us for some time to come. *G*

Stan Deaton is Senior Historian at the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at sdeaton@georgiahistory.com.

A. J. Stewart's Division, Hindman's Corps
A. of T. near Dalton 9th Jan'y 9th 1864

General,

Your note of this date has just been received. You say that you intend to forward to the War Department a copy of the paper read by Genl. Cleburne to the meeting held at the Head Quarters of the Army on the night of the 2^d, and ask the question, "whether you favor the propositions and sentiments of that document in any form?"

In ~~answer~~^{reply} I have simply to say that I unqualifiedly disapprove every sentiment and proposition of that paper, which expresses discouragement at the prospect before us, a doubt of the ability of the free people of these Confederate States to carry this revolution through to a successful termination, or which favors the arming & emancipation of slaves and placing them in the ranks to fight for the independence of the South.

This last proposition, especially, which is the very gist of the entire document, is at war with my social, moral and political principles.

Very respy. General
Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Alex. P. Stewart.

Major Genl.

Major Genl. W. H. T. Walker

Comd. Div. A. of T.



Profiles

CRAIG BARROW:
Assuring History's Future
by Jim Battin

"I'M MORE OF A PRESERVATIONIST THAN A HISTORIAN," says Craig Barrow, the ninth generation of descendants of Noble Jones to occupy Wormsloe, 1,200 idyllic acres of lowcountry land south of Savannah granted in 1756 to Jones by King George II of England. "I look to the future."

Having served over time as a military stronghold, working plantation, historic site, tourist attraction, and family residence, Wormsloe, passed on by Jones to "his Heirs for ever" is, simply put, a national treasure.

Evidence of Native American presence on the site dates to 4,000 B.C. Its Isle of Hope location was strategically situated to defend Savannah from the Spanish and, later, invaders from the north, as well as for eighteenth- and nineteenth-century waterborne travel, commerce and communication. Its rich earth nurtured stands of mulberry trees to sustain silkworms, and produced crops of cotton, vegetables, fruits, and berries.

As a result, the oldest of Georgia's tidewater estates is much more than a popular and beguiling example of a particular southern place and time. It is an unmatched archeological and environmental setting for the study of ecology, cultural history and historical land use.

"Unlike Williamsburg or Jamestown or similar historic sites where cultured periods were buried one on top of another and must be dug," Barrow says, "period cultural evidence and artifacts at Wormsloe are spread more or less evenly across the property."

Remnants of Native American sites, colonial-era buildings, abandoned wells, Civil War batteries, stills, a plantation house, and yet-to-be-discovered artifacts present themselves side-by-side to be found, experienced and studied. Importantly, successive generations of Wormsloe residents have meticulously documented life on the plantation, an almost unprecedented achievement at a historical site.

"Wormsloe is the perfect place, the only place really, where early American and Georgian history can be experienced in one spot. Everything came through here," says Barrow, a man who has understandably made the property's preservation a driving ambition.

Wormsloe has had a long and positive relationship with the state of Georgia for decades, with much of the property a state historic site since 1979. But Barrow, with the involvement of the state and other parties, ultimately came to the conclusion that preserving Wormsloe in its entirety, and in perpetuity, required it to have a truly substantive, on-going mission—a mission that values, according to literature from the recently established Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History (WIEH), "research, education and interpretation of the property's unique ecological, historical, and cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Institute, partially funded by the long-established Wormsloe Foundation and headed by Sarah V. Ross, a former head of education of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is dedicated to conserving Wormsloe in its natural state while supporting on-site research and educational programming for today's scholars, and includes the

"It has been gratifying to see how what we're doing has caught the interest of scholars, historians, preservationists, and related organizations,"

Wormsloe Science Advisory Council (WSAC) to represent broad areas of research, policy, strategic planning, and science education. UGA's Center for Remote Sensing and Mapping Science is using GPS technology to thoroughly map the property's many significant locations.

In addition, the Wormsloe Foundation has opened a Conservation Field Laboratory for archival protection and conservation of artifacts collected on the property, and there are currently two Wormsloe Fellows, one each in archeology and environmental history, studying at UGA.

"It has been gratifying to see how what we're doing has caught the interest of scholars, historians, preservationists, and related organizations," Barrow says with justifiable pride, now confident that his family's legacy will remain forever unspoiled even as it grows in importance and impact. "Wormsloe is becoming the model for how historic properties are looked at and studied."

In fact, preserving value, growing precious assets and securing the future are recurring themes in many Barrow endeavors: as Wormsloe patriarch, in his career as a financial advisor, and in his leadership of the non-profit organizations he chooses to involve himself in.

A proven fundraiser and board-builder, talents essential to every successful non-profit, Barrow says he supports organizations with missions and managements—CEOs specifically—that he values and wants to see succeed. His long participation on the Georgia Historical Society's endowment trust is an example, as are his service as the first chairman of the board of advisors for the Center for Wildlife Education at Georgia Southern University as well as the first chairman of the board of the University of Georgia Libraries and the UGA Press.

GHS President and CEO, Dr. W. Todd Groce, values Barrow's many contributions to the Society.

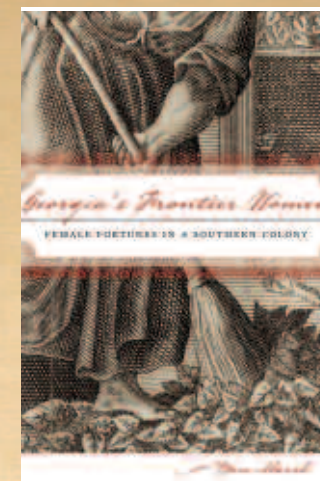
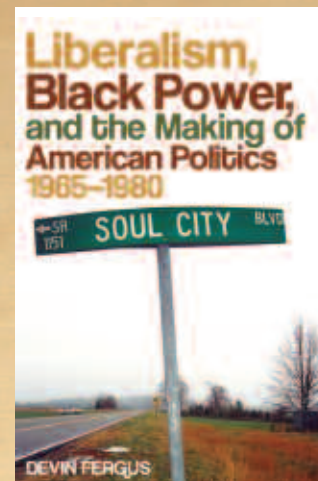
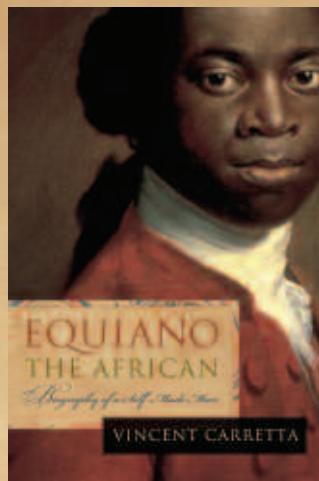
"The connection between the Barrow family and the Georgia Historical Society goes back more than a hundred years," says Dr. Groce, "and Craig was a significant presence on the endowment trust before I joined the Society fourteen years ago."

"Since then he has played a major role in our success and growth. His advice, strategies for building the endowment, and keen insights into human nature have been invaluable."

Barrow says his work with the GHS has been rewarding and fun and demonstrates the importance he places on quality leadership and continuity in achieving success.

"Great leadership makes people want to be part of something and to help it succeed. Over the years, the Georgia Historical Society has had the kind of senior management talent and board and mission continuity that virtually assures success."

For Barrow, that's how history's future is secured. *g*



THE STATE OF HISTORY

The University of Georgia Press

by Nicole Mitchell

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS IS THE OLDEST AND LARGEST PUBLISHING HOUSE IN THE STATE, AND THE ONLY member of the Association of American University Presses within the University System of Georgia. Its mission is to publish distinguished works that advance the intellectual, cultural, and environmental heritage of the state, region, and nation. The selection of its publications is governed by an Editorial Board composed of twelve senior UGA faculty and its publication program enjoys the generous support of a twenty-two-member Advisory Council chaired by Craig Barrow III of Savannah.

In 2008 the Press received the Governor's Award in the Humanities "for enriching the life of the humanities through a distinguished record of publications, for serving as an important resource to libraries and other community discussion groups, and for building partnerships that contribute to enlightened communities of readers in Georgia and the nation."

The subject areas in which the Press publishes have evolved through the years. In the scholarly realm the Press now publishes literary studies, ecocriticism, African American studies, geography, environmental studies, international affairs, and security studies. General-interest readers browsing in stores—or, increasingly, online—can find short fiction, poetry, cookbooks, nature writing, natural history guides, and a wide array of books about Georgia and the South. But there is one subject that the Press has focused on since it was founded in 1938: history.

The Press's history list originally focused on Georgia and the South, but its publications now include wider-ranging works on North America and the Atlantic world. Vincent Carretta's *Equiano, the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man*, for example, advances the study of slavery in new and exciting ways. Carretta masterfully portrays Equiano's life as it unfolds in Africa, North America, the Caribbean, and Britain, bringing the rich and complex transatlantic world vividly to life and breaking from traditional thinking about slavery only in terms of North American history. The book was hotly debated in academic circles, praised widely by critics, and won the Annibel Jenkins Prize given by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

The Civil Rights Movement in American Memory, edited by Renee Romano and Leigh Raiford, also offers a fresh take on a traditionally strong subject area for the Press. This book explores the struggle over the legacy of the civil rights movement—how it is remembered in American politics and culture today—and why it matters.

Press editors are always looking for emerging areas of scholarship that make us think about subjects in new and enlightening ways. Recently the Press launched "Environmental History and the American South," a pioneering book series edited by environmental historian Paul S. Sutter. Another series, "Politics and Culture in the Twentieth-Century South," includes Devin Fergus's *Liberalism, Black Power, and the Making of American Politics, 1965-1980*, which considers how the aftermath of the civil rights movement paved the way for the recent historic presidential election.

Ben Marsh's *Georgia Frontier Women: Female Fortunes in a Southern Colony*, winner of the Georgia Historical Society's 2008 Malcolm Bell Jr. and Muriel Barrow Bell Award, and the second edition of James C. Cobb's *Georgia Odyssey* are just two examples of books closely focused on the state. The Press's history list and other parts of its publishing program will continue to take new directions, but the Press will always remain committed to publishing books that add to our knowledge about its home state of Georgia.

For more information about the University of Georgia Press visit www.ugapress.org.

Nicole Mitchell is the Director of the University of Georgia Press. She can be reached at mitchell@ugapress.uga.edu.

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MILESTONES

THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTED FOUR OF GEORGIA'S TOP BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS to its Board at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Membership on April 16: Mr. S. Taylor Glover of Atlanta, Mr. William J. Todd of Atlanta, Mrs. Alston P. Watt of Thomasville, and Mr. Kenneth C. Stewart of Atlanta. "Our new board members are four of the state's most prominent leaders. They are joining one of Georgia's most influential and experienced boards and will undoubtedly contribute their notable expertise as the Society continues to grow its services, programs, and other offerings across this great state," said GHS President and CEO, Dr. Todd Groce.



Mr. S. Taylor Glover is president and chief executive officer of Turner Enterprises, Inc. (TEI). In this capacity, he has oversight of TEI's landholdings, financial investments, and business interests, including Ted's Montana Grill. Additionally, Glover works closely with Ted Turner's philanthropic and charitable organizations, which include the UN Foundation, Nuclear Threat Initiative, and the Turner Foundation. Prior to joining TEI, Glover was senior vice president of the Private Client Group at Merrill Lynch, where he retired after nearly 30 years.

Glover currently serves on the board of directors for Cox Enterprises, Inc., Cousins Properties, Inc. and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the board of trustees for Davidson College, the national board of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and is chairman of the board of overseers for the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. In addition, Glover is advisor to the board for the Turner Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.



Mr. William J. Todd has been President and CEO of the Georgia Cancer Coalition since 2003. Todd's 38-year career has focused on healthcare and technology management in Georgia. His career began at Emory University hospitals, clinics, and the medical school, where he held a variety of administrative posts over two decades, ultimately serving as Assistant Vice President for Medical Administration at the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Todd is Board Chairman of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and a Board member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the American Cancer Society, the Georgia Tech Foundation, and Georgia Tech Ireland. A fourth generation Atlantan, he has been named one of the "100 Most Powerful and Influential People in Georgia" by *Georgia Trend* for six years.



Mrs. Alston P. Watt is the Executive Director and a Trustee of the Williams Family Foundation of Georgia, a family foundation that supports programs in children's welfare, preservation, and conservation in southwest Georgia. Watt is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and received a Masters in Health Science from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Alston is a Trustee of W&L; has served as a Trustee of the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore; is a founding Board member of Hands on Thomas County; serves on the Board of Trustees for the Community Foundation of South Georgia, the MNW Boys & Girls Club of Thomas County and the Georgia Alliance Boys & Girls Club.



Kenneth C. Stewart, Commissioner of the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development, was appointed to the Board of Curators as an Ex-Officio member. Stewart was appointed to his post as Commissioner by Governor Sonny Perdue in January 2007. As chief marketing officer for the state of Georgia, he leads Georgia's efforts to recruit new businesses and expand existing ones, grow the state's tourism, international trade and entertainment industries, and support the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs.



FOOTNOTES

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
BY STAN DEATON

Historical Markers: Last year, GHS received funding from the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development to conduct a statewide survey of historical markers in advance of the Civil War 150, which begins in 2011. Historical Marker Survey Coordinator Will Hanley travelled over 10,000 miles through 99 counties across Georgia since August conducting a survey of Civil War historical markers (and any others that were in his path). Will photographed and documented the condition, location, accessibility, and plotted GPS coordinates for all 916 Civil War markers, including moss covered ones like this one about the Federal Right Wing, on W. Paces Ferry Road at Mt. Paran in Fulton County.



All of this info. will soon be available on the GHS website. With continued funding of this initiative, GHS will be able to identify potential subjects for up to fifty new markers exploring all aspects of life during the Civil War, from the home-front to the battlefield, including women's role and activities during the war, the lives of free and enslaved African Americans, southern industry, and the role of Unionists in Georgia politics—in short, topics not currently represented in state historical markers. This initiative will promote and facilitate tourism in the state during the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. You can give Will your feedback and comments by checking out his online blog at georgiamarkers.wordpress.com. For more information on GHS's Historical

Marker Program and to view the continually updated marker list, visit www.georgiahistory.com.

Profiles in Leadership: Circle Thursday, October 15, on your calendar and make plans to be at the Georgia Public Broadcasting studios in Atlanta for GHS's 2009 Profiles in Leadership program, *Leadership in Crisis: The Leo Frank Lynching*. PBS will air a new documentary on the Frank lynching this fall, "The People v. Leo Frank," and with the centennial of the events of 1913-1915 fast approaching, we've assembled a stellar panel for a timely and important discussion about one of the most controversial and darkest chapters in Georgia and American history.

We'll examine the key role of leadership—or lack thereof—played by publisher/politician Tom Watson, Georgia Governor John Slaton, and others involved in the case, as well as the ongoing legacy of the Frank lynching and the continuing controversy surrounding Frank's guilt and 1986 pardon. Our panel will feature former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, journalist Steve Oney, author of the award-winning *And The Dead Shall Rise: The Murder of Mary Phagan and the Lynching of Leo Frank*, and Matthew Bernstein of Emory University, author of *Screening a Lynching: The Leo Frank Case on Film and Television*. The program is free and open to the public and starts at 7 p.m.

Correction: The article on Johnny Mercer in the Winter 2009 issue of *Georgia History Today*, entitled "Celebrating Georgia Days 2009: Honoring Johnny Mercer," stated that Mercer worked as a young man at the PinPoint Oyster and Crab Packing Factory. This is incorrect. While Mercer did spend time at the oyster factory during the summers his family spent on Burnside Island, he did not work at that facility. *G*

Stan Deaton is Senior Historian at the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at sdeaton@georgiahistory.com.



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