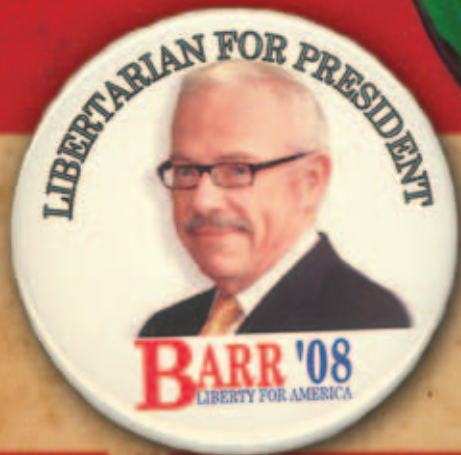


GEORGIA HISTORY | TODAY

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2009 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1



Perspectives

If Not Us, Then Who?

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is beginning to feel the pinch of the current economic crisis. I say pinch, because so far it is only in our state government funding that we have seen any dramatic reduction.

Fortunately individual and corporate donors still value history education. Our 2008 annual giving and corporate campaigns under the leadership of Vince Dooley and Howard Morrison have been a success. Membership is still on track. Ticket sales for the gala are brisk. And our endowment, while down 22 percent, has fared better than most.

Our State support, however, has been deeply slashed. We've been hit with an immediate 10 percent reduction in historical marker funding, and the Secretary of State has abruptly eliminated nearly \$75,000 for our library and archives. And the worst is yet to come: the Governor has recommended the elimination of our entire appropriation from the State, \$300,000, 15 percent of our current budget, in the next budget cycle.

What does this mean for you? It means limited access to history: severely curtailed research hours; no more historical markers will be erected; the end of any hope Georgia had to participate in the national 150th anniversary of the Civil War; the loss of billions of tourist dollars which might have helped to improve our economy and create jobs. It means a citizenry less educated, less informed about its past, less prepared for the future.

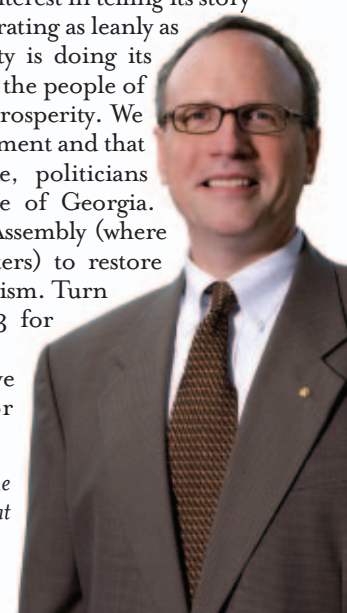
To cut history is a monumental mistake. It robs our state of billions of dollars visitors spend exploring the past. The \$1.2 billion pumped into Savannah alone by tourists eager to experience the city's history is evidence enough of history's economic power.

Moreover, to cut history is to rob future generations of the tools needed to compete in the global market place and the education needed to function as citizens of our republic. History develops and hones writing and analytical skills, instills an understanding of our own and other cultures, offers great leaders to emulate, puts events in context, and teaches us what it means to be an American. (If people expect "to be their own governors," observed James Madison, then they must "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.")

The State of Georgia has a vested interest in telling its story to its citizens and visitors, alike. By operating as leanly as possible the Georgia Historical Society is doing its part to grow our economy and educate the people of Georgia. But we can't cut our way to prosperity. We need your continued financial commitment and that of the State. And make no mistake, politicians respond to pressure from the people of Georgia. Please join us in urging the General Assembly (where we still have many allies and supporters) to restore funding for history education and tourism. Turn to Stan Deaton's column on page 13 for more information.

Because if those of us who love and value history don't advocate for it, no one else will. *W. Todd Groce*

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



GEORGIA HISTORY TODAY

Volume 3, Numbers 1 Winter 2009

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

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On the cover:
Campaign buttons from
presidential contenders with
Georgia ties. To read more,
turn the page. Buttons courtesy of
Edwin L. Jackson.

CONTENTS

Perspectives
If Not Us, Then Who?
by W. Todd Groce

Page
left



Feature
Hail to the Would-be Chiefs: Presidential Contenders with Georgia Ties
by Edwin L. Jackson

2

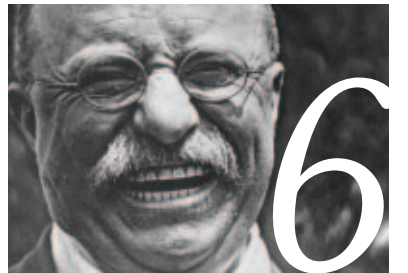


Inside GHS
Celebrating Georgia Days 2009: Honoring Johnny Mercer
by Jim Battin

4

Georgia Gems
by Bill Markley

6



Profiles
The New Georgia Trustees: Making New Georgia History
by Jim Battin

8

The State of History
A Friend In Need: Friends of Cockspar Island Lighthouse
by Charles E. Fenwick

10



**Giving
Contributions**

11

Milestones
GHS News

12

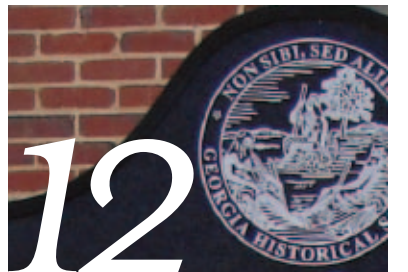


Footnotes
A Message from the Editor
by Stan Deaton

13

Happenings
Upcoming Events and Activities

Back
cover



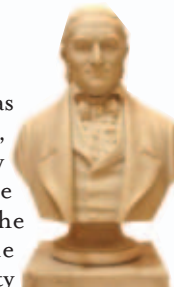


FEATURE
Hail to the
Would-be Chiefs:
Presidential Contenders
with Georgia Ties
 by Edwin L. Jackson

JANUARY BROUGHT THE EXCITEMENT OF AN historic presidential inauguration. If you're as smart as a fifth-grader, you know that Jimmy Carter is the only native Georgian to have been elected President. If you're smarter than a fifth-grader, you should know that there were two other presidents with strong Georgia ties—Franklin D. Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. However, you might have to be as smart as Georgia's state superintendent of schools to know that there have been many additional presidential contenders with Georgia ties.

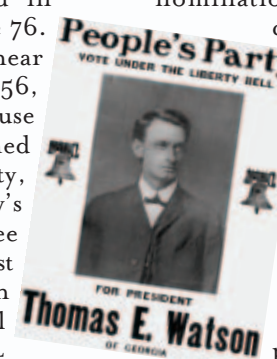


The first Georgian to seek the presidency was **William Crawford**. Born in Virginia in 1772, Crawford moved to Georgia in 1783, subsequently serving in the U.S. Senate, as Ambassador to France (1813), Secretary of War (1815), and Secretary of the Treasury (1816). In 1824 he accepted the nomination of the Democratic-Republican party and was the likely winner till a major stroke left him incapacitated, fatally damaging his chances in the election bid. Crawford returned to Georgia and died in 1834.



John C. Frémont, known as "the Pathfinder" for his exploits in the West, was born in Savannah in 1813. He became the first presidential candidate of the new Republican party in 1856 and carried eleven states but lost the election. Fremont served as a United States army officer during the Civil War and later as governor of the Arizona Territory. He died in 1890 in New York City at age 76.

Tom Watson, born near Thomson, Georgia, in 1856, was elected to the U.S. House in 1890 and in 1891 joined the new Populist party, nominated as that party's vice presidential nominee in 1896. The Populist party nominated Watson as its presidential candidate in 1904 and again in 1908, although he was never able to mount a serious campaign. Watson died in 1922.



James M. Cox, born in Ohio in 1870, became a well-known journalist and served two terms in Congress before winning election three times (1912, 1914, and 1918) as governor of Ohio. Cox won the Democratic nomination for president in 1920 (with FDR as his running mate) and ran unsuccessfully against Warren G. Harding. Cox returned to the newspaper business and in 1939, still living in Dayton, became owner and publisher of the *Atlanta Journal*. He started WSB-TV and WSB-FM in 1948. Cox purchased the *Atlanta Constitution* in 1950 and died in 1957.

William Gibbs McAdoo, born in 1863 near Marietta, Georgia, moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1877, and eventually became an investment attorney in New York City. There, he accepted the challenge to construct a tunnel under the Hudson. McAdoo served as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (1913-1918) and in 1920 launched an unsuccessful bid for the presidency. In 1924, he again sought his party's nomination but lost to John W. Davis. He served as a U.S. Senator from California from 1933 to 1938 and died at age 77 in 1941.

William D. Upshaw was born in Newnan, Georgia, in 1866. At age 18 he fractured his spine in an accident and was partially paralyzed for the rest of his life. He was elected as a Democrat to four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (1919-1927). Although most widely known for his ardent Prohibitionist stance, Upshaw was the only Georgia congressman to vote for the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Upshaw joined the Prohibition party and in 1932 accepted the party's presidential nomination and received over 82,000 votes in the general election. Upshaw died in 1952 at age 86.

Richard B. Russell Jr. was born in Winder, Georgia, in 1897, and represented Georgia in the U.S. Senate from 1933 until his death at 73 in 1971. Unhappy with Truman's civil rights position, a number of southern delegates at the 1948 Democratic convention convinced Russell to launch an unsuccessful bid for the party's nomination for the presidency. In 1952, Russell actively campaigned for president but failed to receive his party's nomination.

Lester Maddox was born in Atlanta in 1915 and won the governorship in 1966 as a Democrat, despite no political experience other than unsuccessful campaigns for the office of mayor of Atlanta (1957 and 1961) and Lt. governor (1962). Prevented by the state constitution from succeeding himself as governor, Maddox won the lieutenant governorship in 1970. In 1974, he unsuccessfully sought the governor's office. In 1976, Maddox ran for president as the nominee of the American Independent party, the same year Carter won the presidency, and received 170,000 votes. Maddox died in 2003 at age 87.



Phil Gramm was born in 1942 in Columbus, Georgia, where his father was stationed at Fort Benning. Gramm attended the University of Georgia and received a BBA in 1964 and a PhD in 1967. He subsequently taught economics at Texas A&M University and became active in Texas politics. In 1978, Gramm was elected to the U.S. House as a Democrat, switched to the Republican party in 1983 and ran for the U.S. Senate, and served there from 1985 to 2002. In 1996, Gramm unsuccessfully sought the Republican presidential nomination, which went to Bob Dole.

Cynthia McKinney was born in Atlanta in 1955 and served as a Democrat in the Georgia House of Representatives (1989-1993) and became the first African-American woman to represent Georgia in the U.S. House (1993-2003, 2005-2007). She left the Democratic party after her last congressional term and ran for president as the Green party nominee in the 2008 election, receiving over 159,000 votes.

Bob Barr, born in Iowa in 1948, worked for the CIA until 1978, when he moved to Georgia to practice law. He became active in Republican politics, and in 1986 President Ronald Reagan appointed Barr U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. In 1994, Barr won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms (1995-2003). In May 2008, Barr accepted the presidential nomination of the Libertarian party and received over 511,000 votes in the general election.

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

Celebrating Georgia Days 2009: Honoring Johnny Mercer

by Jim Battin



TAKING A PAGE FROM MODERN HISTORY, THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS NAMED SAVANNAH native and American popular music giant Johnny Mercer as its historic Honoree for Georgia Days 2009. Georgia Days, the Society's annual commemoration of the founding of the Georgia colony, will be celebrated February 3-14, 2009, with events and educational activities across the state.

"2009 is the centennial of Johnny Mercer's birth," says GHS President and CEO, Dr. Todd Groce, "and it is exciting and entirely fitting for Georgia Days to play an important role in the year-long, statewide celebration of his distinguished career."

Deeply influenced by his Georgia roots--he grew up in downtown Savannah, and as a young man worked at the historic Pin Point Oyster Company on the Back River, later renamed Moon River-- Mercer was a lyricist, composer, performer, and businessman whose career spanned nearly five decades.

He wrote nearly 1,500 songs, the first at age 15. From the 1930s to the 70s, and without formal musical training, he wrote for Broadway shows and Hollywood musicals--winning four Oscars®--performed on records and radio; helped found the Capitol Records label that launched the careers of Nat "King" Cole, Stan Kenton, and Peggy Lee; and collaborated on hits with the likes of Hoagy Carmichael, Harold Arlen, Bernard Hanighen, Matty Malnick, Marvin Hamlisch, Bobby Darin, and André Previn.

"Johnny Mercer was a great Georgian whose artistic gifts to the world are infused with a rich regional sensibility," says Dr. Groce. "We are pleased and proud to honor him during Georgia Days. His music, his Savannah and Georgia influences, and his elegant southern sophistication will be reflected throughout our Georgia Days events."

Gala To Combine Valentine Romance and Historic Firsts

Elegance and sophistication will highlight "Magic in the Moonlight," GHS's romantic, not-to-be-missed Georgia Days Birthday Bash and Annual Awards Gala to be held Valentine's Day, February 14, at the Hyatt Regency-Savannah.

Sponsored by Southern LNG/El Paso, "Magic in the Moonlight" will feature fine dining and dancing with the music of Johnny Mercer, a raffle of elegant Tiffany & Co. merchandise and, with Valentine's Day synonymous with couples in love, what is sure to be a timely and spirited keynote address entitled "All's Fair in Love, War and Politics" by Washington's most captivating couple, the indomitable James Carville and Mary Matalin, making their first-ever joint public appearance in Savannah.

In another first, GHS, in partnership with Governor Sonny Perdue and the State of Georgia, will recognize two of our state's great citizens--Bernie Marcus and Marguerite Neel Williams--as the first Georgians since 1749 to be named Georgia Trustees.

"Last year's inaugural Gala was wonderfully well received," says Laura García-Culler, GHS executive vice president and chief operating officer, "and with Johnny Mercer's music, Mary Matalin and James Carville, and the announcement of new Georgia Trustees, we think 'Magic in the Moonlight' will be a romantic, educational, and entertaining evening, and a Valentine's night to remember. We suggest our members and friends get their tickets early." *g*

Complete information about Georgia Days 2009 can be found at www.georgiahistory.com. For information about or tickets to the Georgia Days Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala, call 912-651-2125, ext. 20.

Georgia Gems

By Bill Markley

AS THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MISSION SINCE 1839 HAS BEEN TO COLLECT MATERIALS ON Georgia and American history, it has acquired several very interesting presidential documents that touch on many key issues in American history. One is a letter from President Theodore Roosevelt to former Georgia governor William J. Northen, in the Northen Family Papers (MS 1298).

In 1908, railroads could segregate passengers by race but were supposed to provide equal services. After learning about a southern railway that provided inferior accommodations to African Americans, Roosevelt ordered the company to treat its passengers equally. In response to a letter from Northen, Roosevelt explained why the federal government should take such action.

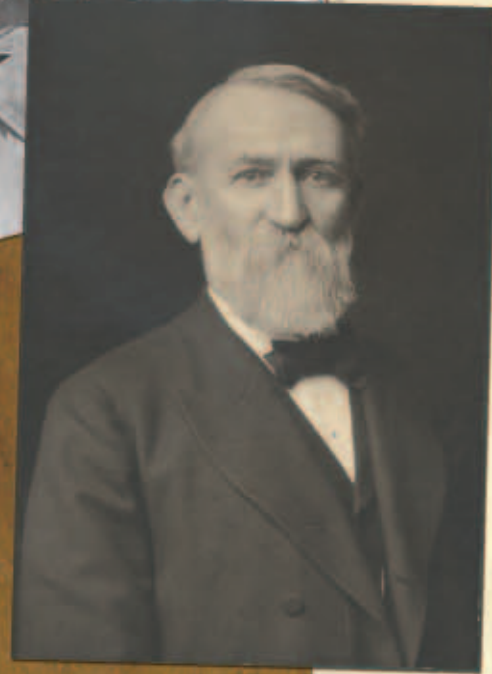
Northen was a white southerner who consistently acted in support of African Americans. He also believed that state governments should fix injustices without federal intervention. In 1899 he told a Boston audience that racial problems in the South "will not be settled in a day. What is needed now is, at least, toleration and non-interference, if the South is to become responsible for results. Under God we will work out the problem in righteous settlement for both races, if we are left alone."

Neither man was afraid to express his opinion. Roosevelt scolded Northen for not recognizing that the railroad issue affected more than one state: "[I]nasmuch as no one [took] the initiative... before the state authorities, it was certain that it would be taken by someone else in the way of an appeal to me or to the Federal courts. The railroads dealing in interstate commerce...are not engaged in a 'purely local matter.'"

During his presidency Roosevelt appointed African Americans to government posts, and he often sought the advice of black leader Booker T. Washington. Although Roosevelt wanted to increase opportunities for non-whites, he believed that he had to move slowly. He disappointed progressives by seeming to accept the status quo in the South, which included Jim Crow laws. He was also criticized for his decision in the Brownsville, Texas case, when he punished a unit of African-American soldiers based on evidence that was considered inadequate by some contemporaries. In his letter to Northen, Roosevelt defended that decision: "I had visited upon Negro soldiers, who had been guilty of misconduct, the same punishment that I would have inflicted had the offenders been white."

Northen believed that education could uplift all people from poverty and distress. As governor (1890-1894) he helped start a college for African Americans and pushed hard for anti-lynching legislation. After his terms in office he traveled widely to urge whites and blacks to adhere to the rule of law. Following the 1906 Atlanta race riot, he tried to get educated blacks and whites to work together constructively. The black Baptist Ministers' Union stated that Northen "invariably preached the gospel of friendship, co-operation and brotherhood."

Within eleven years both Northen and Roosevelt had died, and the goal of racial justice still seemed far away. While the two men disagreed on how to make progress in that area, it seems that both this unusual Georgia governor and this charismatic president would heartily approve of the increased opportunities available today to people of all races. *g*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1908.

My dear Governor Northen:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, with enclosures. If you will simply read the interstate commerce law, read the decisions of the courts, and read the opinion of the Interstate Commerce Commission itself - one of the members, by the way, being a Georgian - you will see that your letter is completely answered. What you say about the separation of the races has no bearing whatever upon anything that I have said of any kind or sort. I am almost inclined to think that you did not read what I wrote before writing your letter or you would have seen that I quoted the law of Alabama, which contains the same provisions as the Georgia law in reference to equal accommodations for the same money. You ask me if it did not occur to me that the initiative should be taken before your State Commission or your State courts. A little reflection, my dear Governor, would show you that your question should be asked of someone whose duty it was to take the initiative, and not of me. I did not take the initiative. If you or someone else had taken the initiative before your own Commission or in your own court, then very possibly no one would have felt it necessary to take the initiative in appealing to me or to the Interstate Com-



Profiles

THE NEW GEORGIA TRUSTEES:

Making New Georgia History

By Jim Battin

BETWEEN 1732 AND 1749, SEVENTY-ONE DISTINGUISHED Englishmen served as Georgia Trustees. Appointed by King George II, the group literally created what has become the great state of Georgia.

On February 14, 2009, Governor Sonny Perdue will induct the first new Georgia Trustees in 260 years, Marguerite Neel Williams and Bernard "Bernie" Marcus, in a ceremony during the Georgia Historical Society's Georgia Days Birthday Bash and Annual Award Gala. The event is sponsored by Southern LNG/El Paso.



Chartered in 1732, the original Trustees founded and then ruled the colony from England between February 12, 1733 and October 31, 1754, making Georgia unique among Britain's North American colonies. Active administrators, the Trustees created laws, interviewed applications from new colony aspirants, petitioned the crown for crucial annual financial subsidies, and appointed James Oglethorpe as their representative in the new world.

James Vernon, the Earl of Egmont, and the longest serving Trustee, attended 712 council, corporation, and committee meetings during his service, and was Georgia's champion in Parliament. Anthony Ashley Cooper, fourth earl of Shaftesbury, attended 266 meetings.

But why more Georgia Trustees now?

To recognize and honor those "whose accomplishments and leadership in their fields communities, and state, and whose character and commitment to service reflects and carries on the highest ideals of the distinguished body known as the Georgia Trustees," agree Governor Perdue and Georgia Historical Society President and CEO Dr. Todd Groce, partners in creating the new Georgia Trustees program.

"Induction as a new Trustee will be the highest honor Georgia can bestow upon a citizen," says Dr. Groce, "and its promulgation by gubernatorial executive order ensures that the effort will continue in perpetuity. The intent is for the Governor to induct two or three new Trustees each year during GHS's annual celebration of the founding of the colony."

It was an idea born out of the success of the 2008 Gala.

"Bob Jepson and I were discussing how difficult it is to top a great annual event. He challenged GHS to create a truly noteworthy statewide award or recognition, something that would embody the state pride and personal stature of The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, for example," Groce explains.

"Our staff came up with naming new Georgia Trustees, prepared a detailed proposal, and Bob and I presented it to the Governor. Governor Perdue enthusiastically endorsed it and helped to refine the idea. The Governor is so supportive that he is looking into creating an Executive Order to ensure the continuation of this honor."

A selection committee comprised of Georgia Historical Society executive committee members compiled and reviewed a list of prospective honorees, selecting Marguerite Neel Williams and Bernie Marcus as inductees for 2009.

To be selected as a new Georgia Trustee an individual must have made a history-making contribution in their field or profession, and to their community, state, and nation. But most importantly, they must reflect in their accomplishments and life a commitment to service embodied in the motto of the original Georgia Trustees: *Non Sibi, Sed Aliis* – Not for Self, but For Others.

"The new Trustees are not receiving an award," Groce explains. "Instead, they are being recognized for their life's work and asked to become a trustee of an idea as old as Georgia itself—of service and philanthropy that inspired the founding of our state."

GEORGIA TRUSTEE SELECTIONS 2009

BERNARD MARCUS

Bernard Marcus is co-founder of The Home Depot, Inc., an innovative Georgia company that revolutionized the home improvement business. He served as chairman of the board until his retirement in 2002. He remains director emeritus, and is Chairman of The Marcus Foundation. While perhaps best known for his generous support for the Georgia Aquarium and Georgia Tech's nanotechnology center, Marcus and his wife Billi, through The Marcus Institute at Emory University, have championed the cause for children and adolescents with neurological disorders including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delay, behavioral disorders, and fetal alcohol syndrome. Recently, Marcus created Project Share in conjunction with Atlanta's famed Shepherd Center under which he has pledged to underwrite the costs of treatment, housing, and transportation for any U.S. soldier who has incurred brain and spinal injuries in Iraq or Afghanistan, a humanitarian act for which he received the USO's 2008 Patriot Award. In September 2008, The Marcus Institute joined forces with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to create the Marcus Autism Center, which will offer expanded services for children with autism.

MARGUERITE NEEL WILLIAMS

Marguerite Neel Williams (1917 – 1999) was a tireless, lifetime supporter of history, historic preservation, and education in Georgia. She was a member of Thomasville Landmarks and founded several groups dedicated to preservation, including the Thomasville Genealogical History and Fine Arts Library, the Thomasville Cultural Center, and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. She was a member of the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society and was active in helping that institution to grow its capacity. In her hometown of Thomasville, she was instrumental in the restoration and preservation of the Thomasville Cultural Center, the Neel House, and All Saints Episcopal Church. A passionate advocate for education and the arts, Mrs. Williams served as a member of the University of Georgia President's Club and as an advisor for the Georgia Business Committee for the Arts, the Georgia Fine Arts Academy, and the Fine Arts Committee for the U.S. State Department. Her civic activism further included the founding of the Community Foundation of Southwest Georgia and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Thomas County, which bears her name. *g*



THE STATE OF HISTORY

A Friend In Need: Friends of Cockspur Island Lighthouse

By Charles E. Fenwick

CLINGING TO THE TIP OF COCKSPUR ISLAND, THE COCKSPUR ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE HAS WITHSTOOD crashing waves, the roar of cannons, and the wrath of time. For more than 150 years it has defiantly stood guard over the mouth of the Savannah River.

The Lighthouse survived the Battle of Fort Pulaski in 1862 but now faces the battle against time and nature. There are two principle issues affecting the Cockspur Island Lighthouse: island erosion and infestation of the wooden foundation of the lighthouse by shipworms. A shipworm is a mollusk that bores itself into wood. While living in its burrow, the shipworm eats the wood and lays approximately 100 million eggs. The shipworm infestation can compromise and eventually destroy the wooden foundation of the Lighthouse. If the foundation fails, the historic lighthouse would fall into the water and be lost. The National Park Service is seeking funding of more than a million dollars to stabilize the Lighthouse and preserve it for future generations.

Starting on June 14, 2008, park staff began emergency repairs to the base of the Lighthouse. The fill material around the lighthouse was removed, exposing the wooden base. A close inspection of the timbers revealed that there was some shipworm damage to the upper sections of the timbers but that the timbers themselves were structurally sound. The timbers were then covered with the polyvinyl, followed by a layer of bagged dry mix cement and topped off by a layer of rock. This action should create an anaerobic environment that will kill off the current shipworm infestation and buy some time-- hopefully enough time until funding can be obtained for long-term stabilization.

This lighthouse in peril has some new friends coming to the rescue. In late 2007, a group of local residents and lighthouse enthusiasts came together to form the "Friends of Cockspur Island Lighthouse, Inc." with a mission "to raise funds and other resources for the preservation, restoration and perpetual maintenance and repair, as necessary, of the historic Cockspur Island Lighthouse." The friends group is a Georgia non-profit corporation and is applying with the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c) 3 Federal Non-Profit Status. As Superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument, I believe that the new group will greatly benefit the Lighthouse. This is a great way for the community to come together and work to save this threatened Georgia landmark and silent witness to the Battle of Fort Pulaski.

The lighthouse group has elected a Board of Directors and officers and is ready to fulfill their mission. Harvey Ferrelle of Tybee Island currently serves as President, and he wants visitors to know that they can make a difference to save this piece of their heritage by contributing their time and money. Donations can be sent to the Savannah Community Foundation and the memo line should say "Cockspur Lighthouse Fund."

The address is: Savannah Community Foundation, 7393 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Suite 204, Savannah GA 31406. For more information contact Fort Pulaski on 912-786-5787 or visit www.nps.gov/fopu.

Charles E. Fenwick is Superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument. He can be reached at Charlie_Fenwick@nps.gov.

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SPACE PROHIBITS LISTING ALL OF THE DONORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THIS LIST CONSISTS OF MEMBERSHIPS, GIFTS, AND REQUESTS VALUED AT \$250 OR MORE RECEIVED AUGUST 16 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2008. EVERY EFFORT IS GIVEN TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THIS CONTRIBUTIONS LIST. TO REPORT AN ERROR, PLEASE CONTACT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR BECCA WALTON EVANS AT BEVANS@GEORGIAHISTORY.COM OR CALL 912.651.2125.

MILESTONES



PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP: LINCOLN SCHOLARS HAROLD HOLZER (LEFT) AND DAVID BLIGHT (CENTER) SAT DOWN IN the studios of Georgia Public Broadcasting in Atlanta on October 10 with moderator Stan Deaton (right) to talk about "Abraham Lincoln: Leadership and Legacy for a New Generation," as part of GHS's annual *Profiles in Leadership* series. *Profiles* was produced in partnership with the Georgia Humanities Council, with additional support from the John and Mary Franklin Foundation, GPB, and was endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.



GHS Lecture: Award-winning historian Jacqueline Jones of the University of Texas lectured in Savannah about her new book, *Saving Savannah: The City and the Civil War* in October.



GHS Historical Markers: Historical Marker Survey Coordinator Will Hanley (far right) presided over the dedication of the new marker for St. Peter Claver Catholic Church and School in Macon in November. A marker for Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery in Athens was dedicated in October. Check out the complete texts for both markers at www.georgiahistory.com.

NHPRC Grant: GHS has been awarded a grant of \$75,189 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to assist in our efforts to reclaim Georgia's past by creating access to archival collections hidden within the GHS backlog. Grant funds will support the completion of a backlog survey as well as the basic processing of 500 cubic feet of collections, thereby making them available to researchers for the first time.

Significant historical collections are hidden in the backlogs of archives and repositories across the nation. GHS is actively working to overcome this common trend as we move forward in our goal to preserve and create access to 100 percent of our library and archival collections. In the past year, GHS has secured over \$190,000 in federal and foundation grant support to create access to collections that help to demonstrate the widespread commitment of the public and private sectors to the preservation and sharing of Georgia and American history.

For more information visit GHS online at www.georgiahistory.com.



FOOTNOTES

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
BY STAN DEATON

State Funding: As Todd Groce told you in his "Perspectives" column, we need your help in restoring state government support for the statewide educational initiatives of the Georgia Historical Society. To restore funding for the Library & Archives in the Secretary of State's budget, please contact Carl Rogers in the House (404-656-0220, carl.rogers@house.ga.gov) and John Wiles in the Senate (404-657-0406, john.wiles@senate.ga.gov). For funding for the Historical Marker Program in the budget of the Dept. of Economic Development, contact Butch Parrish (404-656-0298, larry.parrish@house.ga.gov) and Ron Stephens in the House (404-656-5122, quickrxrdrg@aol.com) and Chip Pearson in the Senate (404-656-9221, chip.pearson@senate.ga.gov). To ensure the success of the restoration of the funding, we need to get the House & Senate working together, so it is imperative that you contact members of the conference committee as well: Ben Harbin in the House (404-463-2247, bharbin@juno.com), Jack Hill in the Senate (404-657-7094, jack.hill@senate.ga.gov) and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle (404-656-5030). Please be courteous but make your voices heard.

GHS Lecture: Fresh off the heels of the *Profiles in Leadership* program in Atlanta that featured a roundtable discussion with Lincoln scholars David Blight and Harold Holzer—and with the Lincoln Bicentennial now in full swing—GHS is bringing provocative author Andrew Ferguson to Savannah on May 7. Ferguson, a passionate Lincoln buff, is the senior editor of *The Weekly Standard* and a columnist for Bloomberg News in Washington. He is the author of *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America*, a fresh look into how Americans have remembered the 16th president that is worthy of Tony Horwitz or Bill Bryson. *The New York Times* called it a "hilarious offbeat tour of Lincoln shrines." The program will

be held at St. John's Church on Madison Square at 1 West Macon Street in Savannah and is free & open to the public.

Savannah Book Festival: Make your plans now to attend the Second Annual Savannah Book Festival here in Georgia's First City the weekend of February 6-7. Executive & Creative Director Matt Prickett and the SBF are bringing another stellar cast of authors to Savannah, including these writers of history & biography: Douglas A. Blackmon (*Slavery by Another Name*), Donald L. Miller (*Masters of the Air*), Charles Bracelen Flood (*Grant and Sherman*), Stacy Cordery (*Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker*), Preston Russell (*The Lowcountry*), and Bob Zellner & Constance Curry (*The Wrong Side of Murder Creek*). The Festival is free & open to the public. For more details check out savannahbookfestival.org.

Stan Deaton is Senior Historian and the editor of Georgia History Today. He can be reached at sdeaton@georgiahistory.com.



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HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2009

GEORGIA DAYS 2009

February 3-14, 2009

Various Locations and events,

visit www.georgiahistory.com for full listing of events.

GEORGIA DAYS KICKOFF EVENT

Pardon My Southern Accent:

The Life and Legacy of Johnny Mercer in Word, Song, and Art

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church

429 Abercorn Street, Savannah

SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL

Friday and Saturday, February 6-8, 2009

For full listing of events visit www.savannahbookfestival.org

GEORGIA DAYS BIRTHDAY BASH AND ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Magic in the Moonlight

Keynote address by James Carville and Mary Matalin

Saturday, February 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Reservation required, visit www.georgiahistory.com for more information

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY WORKSHOPS

In partnership with the Savannah Chatham-County Public School System

19TH CENTURY AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

Dr. David Goldfield, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

February 27, 2009

RACE, INDUSTRY, AND THE GREAT MIGRATION

Dr. Charles Robinson, University of Arkansas

March 6, 2009

GIANT LEAPS FOR MANKIND

Dr. Carol Anderson, Emory University

March 27, 2009