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# GEORGIA HISTORY | TODAY

A detailed engraving of John C. Frémont, showing him from the chest up. He has dark, wavy hair, a full beard, and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. The background is a plain, light color.

JOHN C. FRÉMONT

*Pathfinder to the West*

2013 Georgia Trustees:

TRUETT CATHY AND HERMAN RUSSELL



PERSPECTIVES

# The Essence of Americanism

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

“The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.”

This question appears on the U.S. Naturalization Test administered to those seeking U.S. citizenship. Of the test’s three major subjects—Government, History, and Civics—there are more questions about American history than any other.

Why? Because the key to becoming an U.S. citizen lies in understanding our history.

The essence of what it means to be an American is contained in the story of our nation. Our unique political and economic systems have created and defined who we are as a people. Political liberty and free markets have arguably produced the wealthiest, happiest, and most secure people in the history of the world.

Finding a proper balance between unfettered freedom and regulated liberty has always been a problem. The balance between the liberty of the individual and the power of the state, and the rights of corporations and those of the people, has been, and continues to be, an ongoing struggle.

One could interpret the history of our nation as a quest—first by white men, then African Americans, followed by women and others—to gain freedom, political equality, and enhance their material wellbeing. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, American history has been about extending the promise of the Declaration of Independence—that all men are created equal and endowed by the Creator with a right to life, liberty, and happiness—to more and more people.

That promise is not only for the native-born. As we debate immigration in the 21st century, we should remind ourselves that the “huddled masses yearning to breathe free” have always been a part of America—and that a common past has been, and continues to be, so important to our common future. If we are to be one people, all citizens need to understand our country’s history. It is not religion, or race, or ethnicity that makes us a nation. It is our shared belief in certain ideas about liberty, equality, and opportunity, ideas whose definition can only be found in our history.

All of this underscores why the Georgia Historical Society is so important. Educating our citizens, especially students, about the history of our state and nation is at the core of our mission. We are actively engaged in the vital debate about what it means to be an American, applying the glue of history in our ongoing struggle to become one people “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Patriotism is more than flag waving, bumper stickers, and platitudes. It’s about studying our history in all its complexity to better understand the story of those who sacrificed and served before us.

Oh, and by the way, the answer to the question at the beginning of the column is Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison.

How many of you got it right?

W. Todd Groce, Ph.D., is President and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society.



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# GEORGIA HISTORY TODAY

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JOHN C. FRÉMONT IN 1856.  
Library of Congress



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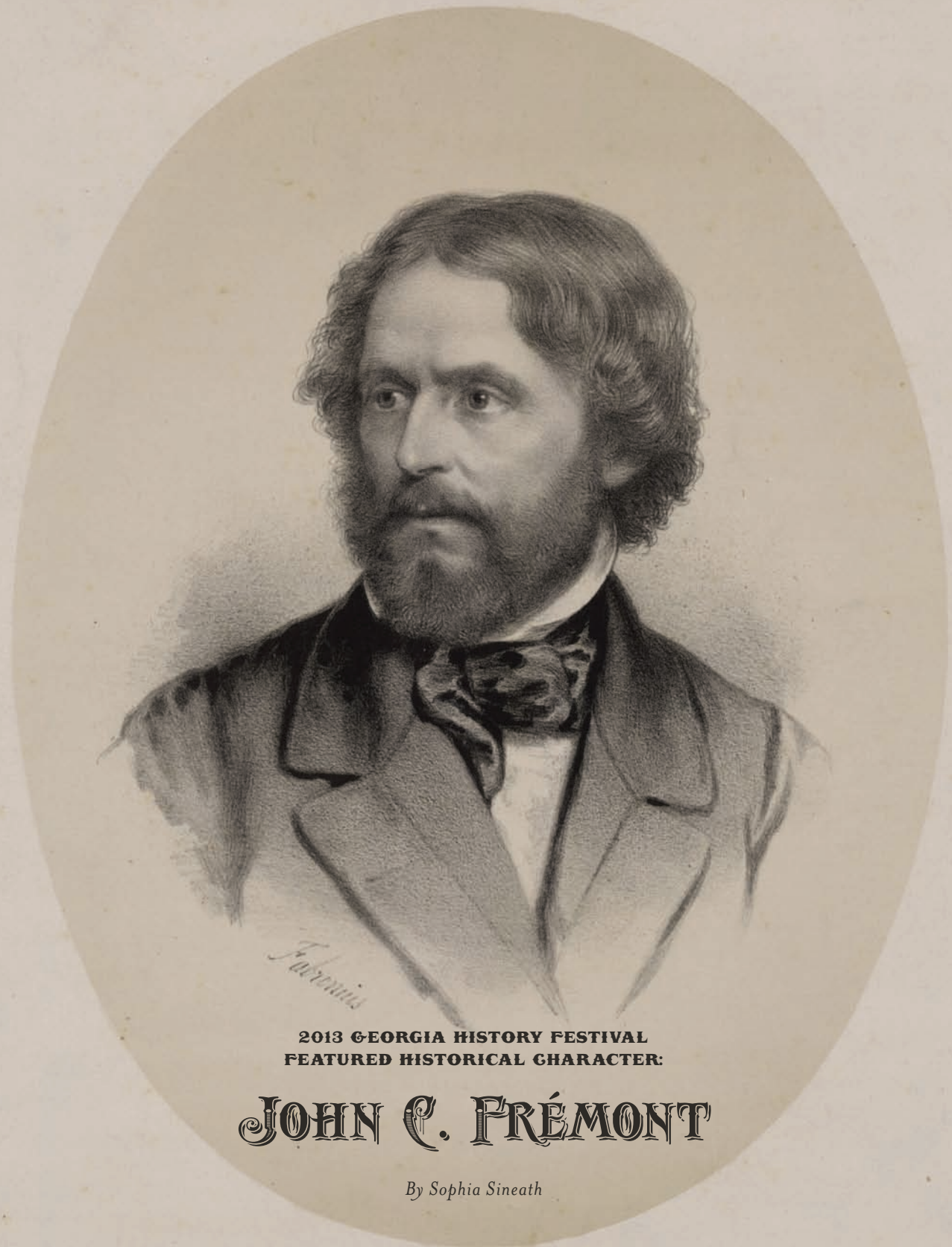
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2013 GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL  
FEATURED HISTORICAL CHARACTER:

**JOHN C. FRÉMONT**

*By Sophia Sineath*

In 1845, after his second successful expedition to the West, Georgia native John Charles Frémont received the title "the Pathfinder." It was this title that brought Frémont notoriety and success in his own lifetime, and it is this title that persists as his greatest legacy today. In addition to his accomplishments as explorer, surveyor, and map-maker, John Charles Frémont was also the first Republican presidential candidate, one of the first two California senators, a millionaire, U.S. Army general, and governor of the Arizona territories. Frémont's life closely follows the story of 19th century America, which, in no small part thanks to "the Pathfinder," came to a close stretching from sea to shining sea.

Frémont was born in Savannah, Georgia, on January 21, 1813, to French émigré Charles Fremont (Frémont changed the spelling in 1840) and Virginia native Anne Pryor. The circumstances of Frémont's birth and childhood do not read like the background of a typical prominent 19th-century American figure. Charles Fremont was hired as a French tutor by Anne Pryor's husband, Major John Pryor. When their affair was made public, the two left Virginia and headed south, eventually settling in Savannah.

While in Savannah, Frémont's father advertised his services as a French teacher and dance instructor in the local newspaper and the family opened a livery stable. Legend dictates that the Fremonts left Savannah to wander the South, observing Indian life during Frémont's early childhood. Anne gave birth to two more children before the death of Frémont's father in 1817, and in 1823 Anne took her three children to Charleston, South Carolina.

Throughout his life, several prominent male mentors would step into the void left by the death of his father and dramatically shape Frémont's worldview and destiny. Frémont remarked on this in his own memoirs: "Throughout, at different periods it has been my good fortune to be in familiar relations with men who were eminent, each in his own line, all of whom were individualized by character and some distinguished by achievement. Even if insensibly, such associations influence the course of life and give its coloring to it." The first of these men was prominent Charleston attorney John Mitchell, who paid for Frémont to attend a



local preparatory school where he became close with another positive role model, the school's proprietor John Robertson.

In 1829, Frémont was admitted to the College of Charleston, where he studied Greek, Latin, religion, mathematics, and science. Frémont's dedication to his studies eventually gave way to his fascination with the outdoors. He describes this time in his memoir: "In the summer we ranged about in the woods or on the now historic islands, gunning or picnicking, the girls sometimes with us; sometimes in a sailboat on the bay, oftener going over the bar to seaward and not infrequently when the breeze failed us getting dangerously near the breakers on the bar." Although this thirst for adventure would later benefit Frémont as an explorer, in this case it led to his expulsion from the college.

Frémont took a teaching job at a local private school and continued to explore his studies on his own. In particular, he developed a fascination with astronomy after coming across a Dutch work that included maps of the stars and examples of astronomical calculations. Later, Frémont would use this knowledge to create the first accurate map of the Oregon Trail. In 1830, Joel Poinsett, another important male figure, entered Frémont's life. Poinsett was a well-known physician, diplomat, and politician, but most importantly to Frémont's future career he would become the Secretary of



War under President Martin Van Buren. Not only would Poinsett use his connections to open doors for Frémont, but he would also shape Frémont's worldview. Frémont would later adopt Poinsett's distaste for slavery, his devotion to the Union, and desire to see the United States expand into the West.

At 22, Frémont won a civilian appointment as a mathematics teacher aboard a U.S. Navy vessel sailing to South America. Frémont's journeys transitioned from sea to land when Secretary Poinsett opened the door for Frémont to begin his career as a surveyor for the U.S. Army Corps Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Frémont served under Captain W.G. Williams in a survey for the planned railway between Charleston and Cincinnati and, shortly after, a survey of Cherokee territory in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia intended to prepare for the removal of the Cherokee Indians.

His next assignment with the Topographical Engineers brought yet another mentor into Frémont's life, French explorer and scientist Joseph Nicollet. Frémont assisted Nicollet on two expeditions of the Upper Mississippi basin. While Frémont was in Washington, D.C., assisting Nicollet in producing maps of their expeditions, he met and married Jessie Ann Benton, daughter of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Although Senator Benton was at first unhappy with the match, he later found Frémont useful in his political goals of promoting settlement of the Oregon territories.

In the spring of 1842, the young second lieutenant received orders from the Corps of Topographical Engineers to survey and map the emigrant route to Oregon known as the Oregon Trail. Soon after the completion of this first expedition, he led another to Oregon and northern California. With the help of his wife Jessie, Frémont composed an official report of both expeditions which Congress published in 1845 as *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842: And to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843-44*. The report was a mixture of scientific observations, maps, and a rousing narrative that read more like an adventure novel than a government report. It struck a chord with the American people and catapulted Frémont into the national spotlight as "the Pathfinder."



Frémont's first and second expeditions journeyed into territory unfamiliar to most Americans. His descriptions of the land, wildlife, Native Americans, and scenery shaped the nation's view of the West and contributed to the increased enthusiasm for expanding and settling the frontier. Settlers heading out west on the Oregon Trail used Frémont's *Report* as both a practical guidebook along the trail and a source of inspiration on their journey to start a new life in the Oregon Territories.

One American influenced by the reports was Brigham Young. By the 1840s, the Mormons (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) had already moved as far as Iowa and Illinois, but conflict with non-Mormons in the area led to their settlement in the Salt Lake Region of the Great Basin (modern-day Utah). Joseph Smith and other Mormon leaders had discussed the possibility of relocating to the Rocky Mountain region before Frémont's reports were published. It was Frémont's detailed maps and glowing descriptions of the region's agricultural potential, however, along with other reports from explorers and fur traders, that helped confirm the decision for Young. Frémont's reports not only helped fuel western settlement, but also contributed to the geographical and scientific understanding of the West. Most notably, Frémont was the first to accurately map and describe the Great Basin.

As Frémont prepared for his third expedition, tensions between Mexico and the United States were mounting, especially after Congress passed a joint resolution to admit Texas as a state in March of 1844. In a pattern begun with his first expedition, Frémont deterred from his given orders to survey watersheds and entered California where he attempted, often awkwardly, to be both explorer and soldier entangled in the Bear Flag revolt. On July 23, 1846, Frémont and his men were regularized into the U.S. Army under General Robert Stockton. On January 13, 1847, without official authorization, Frémont oversaw the end of the U.S. hostilities with the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga.

Stockton gave Frémont the order to act as Governor of the Territory of California in 1847, but his position was not secure and was quickly contested by General Stephen Watts Kearny who believed he held legitimate authority over the territory. Tensions continued between the two, and in May of 1847 Frémont disbanded the California Battalion, and led by Kearny's army, went back east to face investigation by court martial. Frémont was issued a devastating blow by the court martial, guilty on all charges and dismissed from the army. President Polk offered him a full reinstatement, but Frémont refused and would not rejoin the military until 1861, when he was made major general in charge of the Department of the West.



Frémont struck gold making millions during the California gold rush, and held a short tenure as a senator from California. His national celebrity, anti-slavery sentiments, and strong belief in Unionism led him to win the first Republican nomination for the presidency in 1856. He flirted briefly with a second run in 1864.

During the Civil War, Frémont had a strained relationship with President Lincoln, and his wartime generalship is generally considered a failure. After the war, Frémont stepped out of the limelight, working on railroad projects and eventually accepted an appointment as governor of the Arizona territories. Sadly, Frémont lost his fortune and died a poor man in New York City in 1890. He is buried in Rockland Cemetery in Sparkill, New York. Two hundred years after his birth in Georgia, Frémont's legacy remains drawn into the map of the United States of America.

Sophia Sineath is Education Coordinator at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [ssineath@georgiahistory.com](mailto:ssineath@georgiahistory.com).

*Pictured on previous page: John C Fremont by Fabronius, 1861 – Library of Congress*  
*Pictured left: (top) Fremont on the rapids of the Platte River – GHS collections. (below) The extraordinary ride of Col. Fremont and his party, 800 miles in eight days – GHS collections*  
*Pictured above: Fremont plants the American flag on the highest point of the Rocky Mountains – GHS collections*





INSIDE GHS

# Drawing Threads

By Alison Zielenbach

Robert Brown remembers watching his mother when he was very young.

"She was a seamstress. Very creative with clothes and outfits and garments, I would watch her sew and develop patterns," he recalled.

Watching his mother working with thread was an early learning experience that has stayed with him. "I don't

remember going to kindergarten, my kindergarten was observing my mother and father."

His father, a builder, provided that practical left-brain influence and from those early days came the pursuit of a career in architecture, which requires that delicate balance between the art and the technical. But always with an eye on history.

"Architects are often chosen for their ability to have vision of what *could be*," Brown said.

It is this keen eye that Brown brings to the chairmanship of the Georgia Historical Society Board of Curators. That and an acute sense of history and a desire to serve his community.

"Preserving your history helps us understand how we came to today," he said. "If we understand the past, we understand who we are today." In architecture and history both.

Growing up in a community where the architecture was traditional set the foundation and allowed him to have a vision of what could be.

When Brown left home for college he went to Tuskegee University, a private and historically black university located in Tuskegee, Alabama. Founded in 1881, many of the buildings dated back to the 1900s, and Brown was surrounded by history. He noticed the preservation ethos and that new buildings were built to echo those aesthetics.

"To go from a community that was not particularly architecturally defined to Tuskegee made an impact," he said. That philosophy further informed Brown's style, which is to look to the old and draw from it what is useful, what is still valid, and to repurpose for new uses without throwing the past away.

Early on, Brown saw that if you take care of your community, it will take care of you.



"I watched how people loved other people and were engaged in their lives. Today's reliance on social media has taken away from those times of looking people in the eye and getting to know and understand them," he said. "People would sit on their front porches and watch out for people in the neighborhood. Now we're all on our decks, you can't see your neighbor anymore."

Still, Brown is always looking for ways to reach out to his neighbors, his fellow Georgians.

Brown is excited about the shift the GHS Historical Marker program has taken on non-traditional topics like corporate history, cultural events, and specifically those that occurred in the last 100 years. A new marker program, The Georgia Civil Rights Trail, is in the development stage and will focus on key moments during the Civil Rights movement around the state.

"I think it's great," he said. "It's part of our heritage, and it allows us to tell a story. People like stories, and hearing them and experiencing them gives a better sense of history, a better perspective. I think it is refreshing. Sometimes you need to take another view, and relook at things, to build a shared vision of Georgia."

Brown sees many stories that need to be told, so many that have been left out in the past now urgently need to be told, to be shared, to be taught.

"I am delighted that Robert Brown agreed to serve as chairman. He is the right man for the job," said GHS President and CEO Todd Groce. "As an institution evolves and changes, so too must its board. You need a board that can help you to meet current challenges and seize current opportunities. Robert brings a sense of inclusiveness, extensive experience and connections, and a thoughtful, measured style of leadership that is perfect for what we are trying to achieve at this time. He is in great demand in both the corporate and nonprofit worlds. We are very fortunate to have his involvement."

For Brown, who was named Most Respected CEO for 2012 by *Georgia Trend*, being the "first African-American chairman" is simply a function of being in the right place at the right time. Where he does find meaning and significance is in mirroring the significant role African Americans have played in Georgia's history, and Brown's position as chairman of the board simply highlights that.

"It's very rewarding to be working together with GHS, cutting a new path for Georgia to continue to prosper and lead the way with inclusiveness where we all work together for the future of our state," he said. "My personal history is almost like that thread from my mother when she was sewing, through the turbulent years of Civil Rights to today. I've lived it and now I get to be a part of teaching it."

That is very satisfying to Brown.

Alison Zielenbach is Communications Manager at Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [azielenbach@georgiahistory.com](mailto:azielenbach@georgiahistory.com).

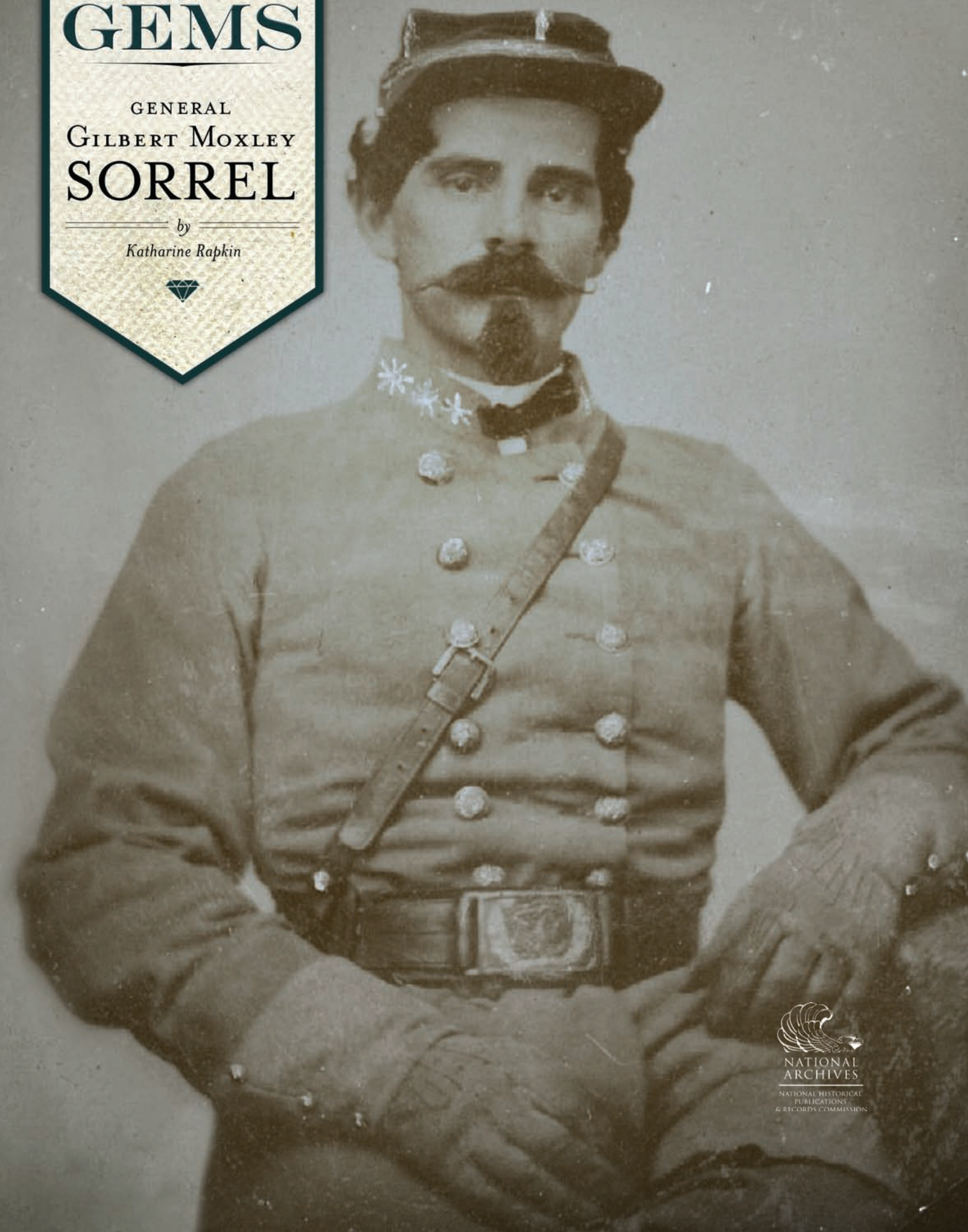
Pictured left: Robert Brown inside the reading room at Hodgson Hall, GHS's historic Savannah headquarters. Pictured above: Family portrait: Robert L. Brown, Jr. front and center, with his mother, Pearliner, and father, Robert Sr., and his three older sisters, from left, Olivia, Betty and Dorothy.



Georgia  
GEMS

GENERAL  
GILBERT MOXLEY  
SORREL

by  
Katharine Rapkin



IS HORSE KILLED  
BENEATH HIM AT  
GETTYSBURG,  
GILBERT MOXLEY  
SORREL SAVED

H

THE SADDLE AND WENT ON TO FIGHT IN  
OTHER MAJOR BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Moxley was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1838. He was the son of Francis and Matilda Sorrel, one of the wealthiest slaveholding families in the city. Sorrel's accounts of his family are imbued with warmth and affection. They enjoyed life in one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the United States, the Sorrel-Weed House.

Though comfortably ensconced in privilege and settled into a career with Central Railroad Bank, the venturesome Sorrel was eager to join the action at the start of the war. Already a member of the Georgia Hussars, a voluntary cavalry company, he could not wait for his unit to be officially accepted into the Confederate Army and headed to the front lines on his own in 1861. Family connections led to an opportunity to serve as aide-de-camp with Lieutenant General James Longstreet. His engaging countenance and skill in the field led to rapid advancement through the ranks. By 1862, he was a colonel serving as Longstreet's chief of staff. Two years later he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of his own brigade.

Sorrel participated in every major battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia, from First Manassas to the siege of Petersburg. In the winter of 1865, he was shot in the lung at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, and so imminent seemed his death that the *New York Herald* published his obituary. He recuperated from this injury only to surrender at Appomattox, effectively ending his military career.

He returned to Savannah and managed the Ocean Steamship Company, served on the city council from 1873-1875, and was acting vice president of the Georgia Historical Society. Upon falling ill later in life, and encouraged by his wife, Sorrel wrote *Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer*, published posthumously in 1905.

His candid accounts of camp life and the personalities of key figures in the Confederacy balance plainspoken observation with vivid description.

The Gilbert Moxley Sorrel cased photograph (MS 1717) was made sometime before Sorrel, at age 26, became one of the youngest generals of the Confederate Army. This rare, unpublished image of Sorrel as a senior officer under Lt. General Longstreet captures him as he was described by his peers – a dashing and keen military figure. His pose is typical of a portrait of an officer. Sorrel is wearing a colonel's double-breasted gray uniform coat with three stars on the collar and no braid on the sleeve. His regulation headgear with a braid and riding gauntlets was tinted bright yellow by the photographer, who also applied gold paint to the buttons and insignia on the image, a craft commonly applied to images at the time.

The photograph is a 1/6<sup>th</sup> plate melainotype (a variety of tintype) that was likely created between 1863 and 1864. Tintypes were produced by exposing a collodian negative on an iron backing coated with black paint, lacquer or enamel. The dark surface behind the negative creates contrast such that the negative produces a positive image. Tintypes were made immediately while the metal was still wet, making, in effect, very early 'instant photos.' They were relatively inexpensive and durable, and were not generally afforded the brass matting and octagonal gutta percha case housing which surrounds the Gilbert Moxley Sorrel image. Perhaps it is fitting that, like the man featured, we see in this artifact the coupling of durable matter and fine accoutrements.

Katharine Rapkin is Archivist at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [rapkin@georgiahistory.com](mailto:rapkin@georgiahistory.com).

Pictured left: Gilbert Moxley Sorrell cased photograph, circa 1863-64. From GHS collection MS 1717.

A digital image of the Gilbert Moxley Sorrel cased photograph will be made available as part of a collaborative project entitled, "America's Turning Point: Documenting the Civil War Experience in Georgia." In partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Digital Library of Georgia, and the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia, more than 81,000 documents related to the Civil War will be digitized and made available online. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission has awarded the collaborative a Documenting Democracy grant in support of the project.





PROFILES

*The 2013 Georgia Trustees:*

**TRUETT CATHY & HERMAN RUSSELL**

*By Stan Deaton, Ph.D.*

**H**ard work, faith, and family. The 2013 Georgia Trustees understand the value of all three on the road to success. For Truett Cathy and Herman Russell, they form the foundation upon which their lives and careers have been built.

In 2009, the Georgia Historical Society in partnership with the Office of the Governor established the Georgia Trustees to recognize those Georgians whose accomplishments emulate the leadership and commitment to service of the original Trustees. Previous Georgia Trustees include: Tom Cousins, Andrew Young, Vince Dooley, Sam Nunn, Hank Aaron, Ted Turner, Marguerite Neel Williams (honored posthumously), and Bernie Marcus.

On February 16, 2013, Mr. Cathy and Mr. Russell will be inducted as the newest Georgia Trustees by Governor Nathan Deal at the GHS Trustees Gala in Savannah. For both of these men, the honor recognizes a lifetime of service and philanthropy and their extraordinary entrepreneurial achievements that made it all possible.

"The Georgia Trustees are the embodiment of the noble principle upon which Georgia was founded, 'not for self but for others,'" said Todd Groce, GHS President and CEO. "The lifetime of service of Mr. Cathy and Mr. Russell reflects the highest ideals of the original Trustees and merits their inclusion in this distinguished group of Georgians. Their leadership and selflessness have shaped the destiny of our state and nation."

Truett Cathy is of course best known as the founder of Chick-fil-A and for introducing the pressure-cooked chicken sandwich to the fast-food industry. But his legacy will be far more than something good to eat.

Born in Atlanta in 1921, Cathy came up during the Great Depression. With a deep spirituality and a determined work ethic, he opened the Dwarf Grill, a Hapeville restaurant, in 1946.

Fifteen years later, he created a moneymaking morsel: a pressure-cooked boneless chicken breast sandwich. The first Chick-Fil-A opened in Atlanta's Greenbriar Shopping Center in 1967; sales and locations have increased every year since.

Cathy pioneered restaurants in shopping malls; Chick-Fil-A opened its first freestanding store in 1986. From the beginning, his family has been involved in running the business, which is now one of the largest privately held restaurant chains in the country.

His business philosophy emphasizes people, not profits: stores close on Sundays, and the company spends millions on college aid for employees. Cathy's philanthropic giving focuses largely on disadvantaged children, and he and his

wife have been foster parents through WinShape Homes foster care program to more than 150 children. For Truett Cathy, success is about character. "I believe no amount of business school training or work experience can teach what is ultimately a matter of personal character," he says. "Businesses are not dishonest or greedy, people are. Thus, a business, successful or not, is merely a reflection of the character of its leadership."

To date, the WinShape Foundation College Program has awarded scholarships to 1,018 students and through its Leadership Scholarship Program, Chick-fil-A has contributed more than \$20 million in college aid to restaurant employees.

"Nearly every moment of every day we have the opportunity to give something to someone else—our time, our love, our resources," Cathy says. "I have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return."

For Herman Russell, the path to success was different, but no less distinguished.

Atlanta-based H. J. Russell & Company's roots lie deep in family soil as well. The youngest of 8 children,



Herman Russell was an accomplished tradesmen by the age of 12, having learned the plastering business from his father, Rogers.

At 16, young Herman bought and developed his first piece of land and used the profits to pay his tuition to Tuskegee Institute, where he earned a degree in building construction.

Over the course of 50 years, Russell turned his father's small plastering company into H. J. Russell & Company, the single largest Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) real estate firm in the United States.

In 1963, the company won the coveted assignment of plastering the new Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, future home of both the Falcons and Braves. It was the first in what became an impressive portfolio of clients.

Some of Russell's better-known projects include many Atlanta landmarks, among them the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Georgia Dome, Philips Arena, and Turner Field.

But he's most proud of the affordable housing he built all over the South: "You never get greater satisfaction than building affordable living quarters for people who have never had that."

Along the way, Herman Russell blazed a few trails of his own. He was the first African-American member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and its second black president.

He was also a close ally and good friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Civil Rights Movement and worked quietly behind the scenes to provide counsel and funding. Russell also helped Maynard Jackson win election as Atlanta's first African-American mayor.

Like Truett Cathy, Herman Russell's family has been intimately involved in the family business. In 2004, he turned the company over to his two sons and daughter, though he remains chairman of the board.

Nationally known for his philanthropy, Russell has lived his motto that success in life comes from giving back to your community and that business has a responsibility to the environment in which it operates.

"What turns me on is to get to the office every morning, think outside the box, make new deals and particularly improve the lives of people," Russell says. "Entrepreneurship means the ability to control my own destiny."

Over the course of their careers both men have received many awards, but being inducted into the Georgia Trustees—the state's highest honor—is fitting capstone to two remarkable lives that have touched so many Georgians. As Herman Russell says, "It's very unique. Being recognized in your home state—nothing compares to that."

GHS will honor the 2013 Georgia Trustees at the Trustees Gala on Saturday, February 16, 2013, featuring the theme "Eau de Vie," a grand evening of old world charm, including lively conversation with the inductees. The Trustees Gala is the culmination of the *Georgia History Festival*, the signature K-12 educational program of the Georgia Historical Society.

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*Photography provided by Chick-fil-A and H. J. Russell & Co.*

#### FORMER GEORGIA TRUSTEES

##### 2012

Tom Cousins  
Andrew Young

##### 2011

Vincent J. Dooley  
Samuel A. Nunn

##### 2010

Hank Aaron  
Ted Turner

##### 2009

Marguerite Neel Williams  
Bernard Marcus

The poster features a background of horizontal wood grain. At the top center is the Georgia state flower logo, a five-petaled flower with a star in the center. Below it, the text reads "GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL Presents". The main title "2013 TRUSTEES GALA" is written in a bold, serif font, with "Eau de Vie" in a much larger, elegant serif font below it. A central illustration shows a town with a church steeple, surrounded by trees, with a path leading towards it. Below the illustration, the date "February 16" is written in a large, flowing cursive script. Underneath the date, it says "Featuring the induction by Governor Nathan Deal of the 2013 Georgia Trustees:". Two names are listed: "S. Truett Cathy" and "Herman J. Russell", with their respective titles: "philanthropist and founder of Chick-fil-A" and "real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist". At the bottom, there are logos for "GEORGIA POWER A SOUTHERN COMPANY", "The Coca-Cola Company", "DELTA", "Gulfstream", "JEPSON", and "Savannah Morning News".



# HISTORY EDUCATION in Georgia's Public Schools

by Sophia Sineath

The state of history education in Georgia's public schools has undergone some dramatic changes in the 2012-2013 school year, and the Georgia Historical Society is working to provide relevant and timely resources to promote success in our state's classrooms. One of the biggest changes for Social Studies teachers is the implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The standards have a heavy focus on improving literacy skills to prepare 21st century students for college and career. In the Social Studies classroom, students will be expected to learn, think, and write like young scholars as they analyze and write about primary sources.

In addition to CCSS, Georgia schools will also be implementing their waiver from No Child Left Behind this school year. Under the waiver, all subjects will count equally; meaning student performance on standardized tests for social studies will count just as much as their performance in math, English, and science when it comes to school assessment. In short, schools will now have to answer for student performance in history, government, and economics, just as they have been answering for student performance in reading and math under No Child Left Behind.

In an effort to help educators face these new changes, the Georgia Historical Society has launched a new teacher-training initiative entitled *Opening America's Archives: Using Primary Sources Across Disciplines*. The project is sponsored in part by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region Program, coordinated by Waynesburg University. For this initiative, GHS will deliver six state-wide teacher-training workshops for 8th grade Georgia Studies and ELA teachers.

The workshops are designed to introduce teachers to the library and archival collections of the Library of Congress, the Georgia Historical Society, as well as other relevant repositories across Georgia and the nation. During

the workshops, participants also discuss tips, tools, and techniques for engaging students in exploration and study of primary sources to meet CCGPS.

GHS has also created a WordPress site to house educational resources associated with the workshops ([georgiahistorytps.wordpress.com](http://georgiahistorytps.wordpress.com)). The site includes five primary source sets that follow the 8th grade Georgia Studies standards each with a teacher guide, historical background, a bibliography of the primary sources, and suggested activities and projects aligned to CCGPS. The site will also house classroom activities created by workshop participants.

Why the emphasis on primary sources? Primary sources are the raw materials of history created by eyewitnesses to historical events. Primary sources are engaging, complex, and range across subject areas. In the classroom, primary sources offer a chance to teach both content and literacy, exactly what teachers are expected to do under the new Common Core State Standards.

Where can teachers find primary sources? Digitization has been a top priority for libraries and archives across the nation. The Library of Congress alone has over 19 million digitized items available on their website. The Georgia Historical Society offer access to primary source materials and other educational materials through our online exhibits, *Georgia History Festival* curriculum, *Today in Georgia History*, and image catalog. Visit [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) to find out more and see how you can host a workshop at your institution.

*Sophia Sineath is Education Coordinator at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [ssineath@georgiahistory.com](mailto:ssineath@georgiahistory.com).*

## Civil War 150 Historical Marker Project Wins Tourism Award



GHS has received the Tourism Champion Partnership Award from the Governor's Tourism Conference held August 26-29, 2012, in Atlanta. The award is given to an alliance that collaborates to increase visitation and tourism dollars in Georgia.

In partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and agencies across the state, GHS completed a survey of Georgia's existing Civil War roadside markers and developed and installed a series of 15 new markers to interpret previously unrepresented elements of the war. An online Historical Marker Tour and related smartphone application were created to allow users to locate historical markers and design customized driving routes. The website and app also include information on other travel resources along those routes. These

tools, together with seven tourism training workshops supported by the Georgia Department of Labor, promote tourism statewide by giving communities valuable information to develop local heritage tourism.

*PICTURED: Speaker David Ralston gave the keynote address at the CW150 Historical Marker Dedication for William Clayton Fain: Georgia Unionist in Blue Ridge, Ga., on October 11, 2012.*

## GHS Awarded Grant to Digitize Finding Aids



GHS will digitize around 1,600 archival collection finding aids over the next two years, creating a searchable online database to be hosted by the Digital Library of Georgia. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a \$68,488 grant in support of the project.

## GHS Wins Award for Excellence from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board

The award recognizes GHS's excellent use of historical resources in the development of online educator materials for *Today in Georgia History* - a collaborative, daily history initiative created in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting (available at [www.todayingeorgiahistory.org](http://www.todayingeorgiahistory.org)). The digital resources integrate primary source materials from the GHS archives as well as 250 additional sources and include vocabulary lists, writing prompts, daily activities, and "Learn More" resource lists that include suggested readings and detailed image credits for each daily segment. All educator resources for the series are correlated to current Georgia Performance Standards as well as the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies to ensure relevancy and to promote wide use in the classroom.



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[www.TodayInGeorgiaHistory.org](http://www.TodayInGeorgiaHistory.org)

Today in Georgia History is a joint collaboration of the  
 Georgia Historical Society and Georgia Public Broadcasting.



**HAPPENINGS**

**HOLIDAY RESEARCH ACCESS**

The Georgia Historical Society Library and Archives will be closed  
 Wednesday, December 26th – Friday, December 28th, 2012.  
 The Library and Archives will re-open at noon on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

**174<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & GARDEN PARTY**

May 2, 2013

More details to come

**NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE**

African-American History & Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry:  
 Savannah & The Coastal Islands  
 June 9-21, 2013, Savannah, Ga.

**HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATIONS**

*Glenwood Elementary and High School*  
 June 16, 2012 – Winder, Ga.

*Marion Bayard Folsom*  
 June 30, 2012 – McRae, Ga.

*Nuclear Ship Savannah*  
 August 22, 2012 – Savannah, Ga.

*The Waffle House*  
 September 8, 2012 – Avondale Estates, Ga.

*Second Atlanta International Pop Festival*  
 September 15, 2012 – Byron, Ga.

*William Clayton Fain: Georgia Unionist*  
 October 11, 2012 – Blue Ridge, Ga.



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†Contact GHS for Benefits

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GHS memberships make wonderful gifts! Members are  
 encouraged to share the benefits of membership with others.  
 For information call 912-651-2125 or visit  
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## 2013 GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL

### GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

Birthplace of John C. Frémont  
January 22, 2013, Savannah, GA

### KICKOFF AT THE CAPITOL

February 4, 2013, 10 a.m., Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta

### GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL KEYNOTE

February 5, 2013, 6 p.m.  
Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, Savannah

Winston Groom, best-selling author of *Forrest Gump* and *Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-1847*, will discuss the 2013 *Georgia History Festival* Featured Historical Character John C. Frémont, the "Pathfinder of the West."

### COLONIAL FAIRE AND MUSTER

February 9-10, 2013, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah

### SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY

February 10, 2013, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Over 40 cultural institutions around the state.  
*Free and open to the public.*

### GEORGIA DAY PARADE

February 12, 2013, 10:30 a.m., Forsyth Park, Savannah

### TRUSTEES GALA

Honoring Truett Cathy and Herman Russell  
February 16, 2013, 7 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Savannah  
*\*Reservations required*