

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# GEORGIA HISTORY | TODAY



# 175<sup>th</sup>

**ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

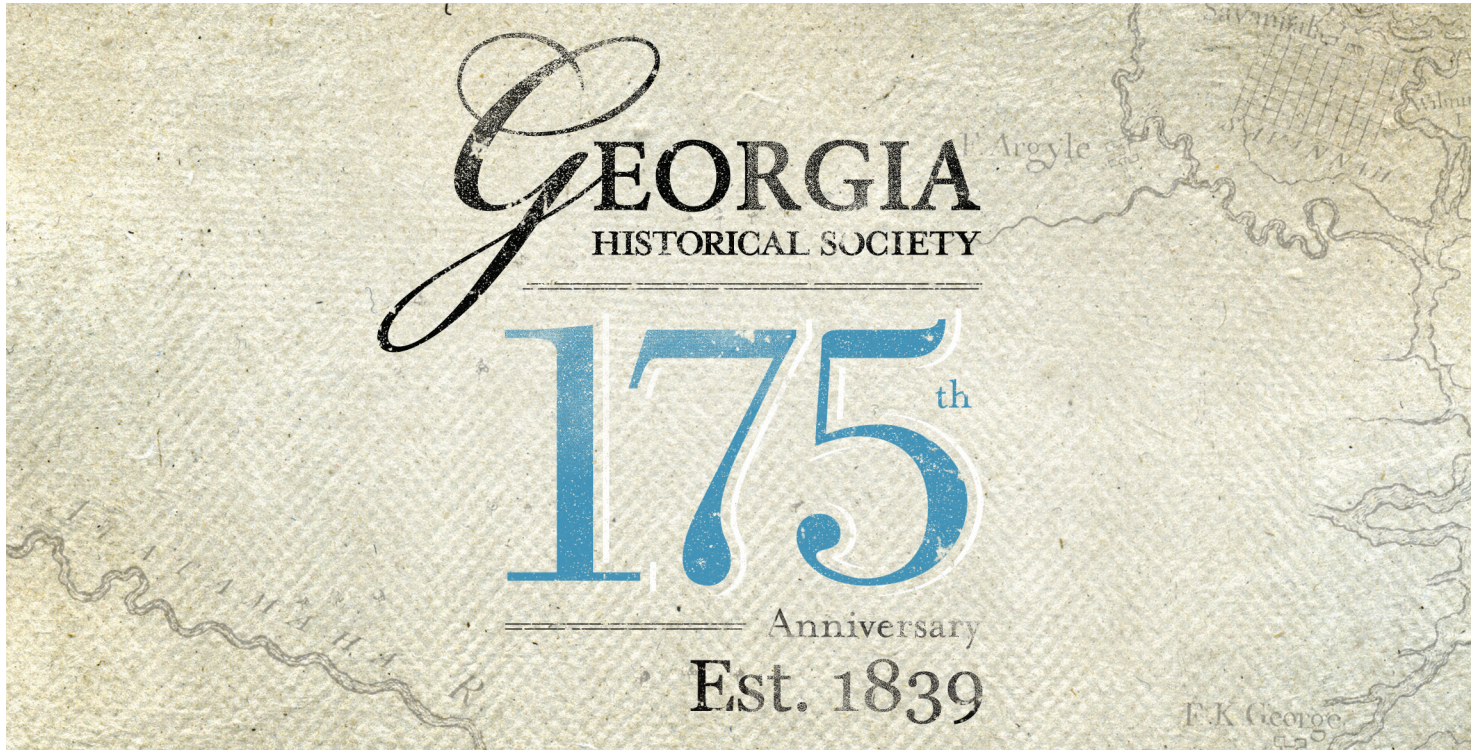
1839-2014





ON THE COVER

Photograph of Hodgson Hall  
by Russ Bryant



Feature Story Page 2 – The World of 1839 and 2014

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PERSPECTIVES

The World of 1839 and 2014

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

There is a common misconception that historical organizations are a refuge for those disillusioned with the present, a bastion for old fogies who prefer looking backward rather than forward. Any organization whose mission is the study of history must be enamored with the past, right?

In fact, just the opposite is true. The study of history is not about celebrating the past. It’s about understanding the present. History explains how and why the world we live in today was created. Armed with that knowledge and insight, we can make well-informed decisions about the future. Knowing where we’ve been gives us a road map for going forward.

It takes success, courage, and a strong dose of confidence in the future to study history and confront the past in an open and honest way, warts and all. Conversely, defeat, fear, and a sense of decline usually prevent us from facing up to reality and lead us to construct a mythic past where the world was a better place (the post-Civil War myth of the Lost Cause comes to mind).

One need only look at the founding of the Georgia Historical Society for evidence of this connection between history (as opposed to myth) and faith in the future.

In the spring of 1839, three Savannahians—Episcopal divine William Bacon Stevens, renowned autograph collector Israel K. Tefft, and educator, scientist, and American Medical Association founder Dr. Richard D. Arnold—hatched the idea of an organization whose mission would be to “collect, preserve, and diffuse the history of the State of Georgia in particular, and of America generally.” In May of that year they held the first meeting of what was christened the “Georgia Historical Society,” the tenth state society founded in America (Massachusetts was first) and today the oldest continuously operated historical institution in the South.

Within a few months, membership had spread down the coast and as far west and north as Macon. The eighty-five charter members, who in December 1839 petitioned the Georgia General Assembly for articles of incorporation, read like a “who’s who” of Georgia society and included some of the most



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distinguished and progressive (for that time) leaders in the state. In addition to the original triumvirate of Stevens, Tefft, and Arnold, there were politicians like Congressman Eugene A. Nesbit and future U. S. Supreme Court Justice James Moore Wayne; Sea Island planters Thomas Butler King and James Hamilton Couper; and intellectuals like Augustus A. Smets, George White, and William A. Caruthers. The first president was John Macpherson Berrien, U.S. Senator and Attorney General of the United States under President Andrew Jackson.

In addition to their love of history, the one characteristic these men shared was that they had benefited from the explosive economic growth of the past few decades. Like today, Georgia in the 1830s was among the country’s fastest growing states. In the half century since it joined the Union in 1788, Georgia’s economy had expanded from one of the weakest to one of the strongest in the nation. The charter members of GHS were men of wealth and power who looked optimistically to the future. They and their state had reached a level of maturity and financial security that allowed them to turn their attention to more refined pursuits, to improving the world through education and research.

In Georgia the decade of the 1830s witnessed a technological, transportation, and economic revolution unrivaled until the second half of the 20th century. The spread of the cotton kingdom, the coming of the railroad, the birth of the modern two-party political system, and the discovery of gold in the northern part of the state and the consequent removal of the Cherokee Indians transformed Georgia into an economic powerhouse and fostered a sense of stability unknown since its founding.

As the state’s economy boomed, so too did its population. By the end of the decade Georgia was the ninth most populous state in the Union, as we are today. As thousands of white settlers and

their slaves poured into the state and pushed the frontier (and Indians) westward, Georgia reached its modern boundaries, making it the second largest state in area east of the Mississippi River (today we are number one).

Clearly not everyone participated in or benefited from this prosperity. The invention of the cotton gin on a plantation outside Savannah forty years earlier only strengthened the institution of slavery and dimmed whatever slim hope there had been for its extinction and freedom for African Americans. The Cherokee suffered the same fate as the Creek before them, losing their land to the rapaciousness of a white society determined to exploit the state’s natural resources. Ironically the plight of Georgia’s African- and Native-Americans worsened as the prosperity of Georgia’s whites increased and contributed to the sense of optimism and stability shared by those who benefited from their oppression.

The rapid growth and accumulation of so much wealth earned Georgia a new nickname, first coined during this period: “The Empire State of the South.”

This decade of unprecedented expansion was capped by two events in 1839 that symbolized the state’s maturity and power: the building of a new governor’s mansion in Milledgeville and the founding of a state historical society in Savannah.

Why Savannah and not Milledgeville or Atlanta? Although the political capital of Georgia during the 1830s was in Milledgeville, the economic, social, and cultural capital was Savannah, the oldest and by far the largest city in the state—in fact, by modern standards it was the state’s only city. And it’s hard to believe, but in 1839 there was no Atlanta. Today, Georgia’s capital city is the center of power, money, and people, but 175 years ago that distinction belonged to Savannah. It was the only place that possessed the intellectual and financial

foundation strong enough to sustain something as rarified as a historical society.

The 1830s share another similarity with the present. Just as we, today, are witnessing the passing of the World War II generation and are memorializing their accomplishments and sacrifice, our predecessors in the 1830s were watching the nation’s founding generation pass away. They, too, wanted to honor and preserve the record of those who participated in the most significant event (up to that time) in American history, prompting the founding of historical organizations across the country. It is no coincidence that the first artifact in the Georgia Historical Society’s collection, donated the year after its founding, was a drum carried during the Revolutionary War.

As they did 175 years ago, Georgians today feel a sense of confidence in the future. We are excited about our state’s prospects and our growing status as one of the wealthiest and most populous states in the Union. We still bear the scars of Jim Crow and struggle with its legacy; prosperity is still not shared by all. But we are moving on from the widespread poverty, demagoguery, institutionalized segregation, and racial strife that characterized so much of the 20th century.

Like our forbearers in 1839, it is our optimism, not our fears, that prompts us to turn to history—and to use its wisdom to tackle the problems of today and tomorrow. Economic and

social progress is at last leading us to come to terms with our past and deconstruct the myths conjured by the post-Civil War generation. We no longer need to fashion a public memory that enables us to forget the uglier parts of the story. We have the self-confidence to take history in its totality, to look unblinkingly at those facets that make us uncomfortable. We strive to understand our failures as well as our successes in the hope that we can do better tomorrow. As it was once said, “how can the future be what it ought to be if we don’t tell the past like it really was?”

Over the last 175 years the fortune of the Georgia Historical Society has waxed and waned with the hopes and fears of the people it has served. Like the state we call home, the Georgia Historical Society of 2014 is stronger than ever. It has achieved a level of influence and affluence that its founders could only dream of. The ever expanding role GHS plays in pointing the way forward reflects the value Georgians place on their history—not as a nostalgic refuge from the modern world, but as a field of scholarly study and research that offers them context, perspective, wisdom, and hope to build a better future.

Georgia has changed deeply and radically since 1839. But the link between history and the future remains as strong today as it was 175 years ago.

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

*Image Credits  
Panorama of Savannah by Cerveau, 1837. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-623.*

*Revd. Wm. Bacon Stevens, M.D., D.D Rector of St. Andrews Church, Philadelphia/ Drawn and Engraved by Samuel Sartain, after photograph by Broadbent. Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine.*

*Portrait of Israel Keech Tefft by Nathaniel Jocelyn. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-343.*

*Portrait of Richard Dennis Arnold by Emma Cheves Wilkins. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-040.*

*Revolutionary War drum, circa 1780. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-107.*



Georgia Historical Society  
founded and incorporated

1839

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIMELINE



# Georgia’s Newest Home for History

By Patricia Meagher

This summer, the Georgia Historical Society will expand its Savannah footprint with the much anticipated completion of the Jepson House Education Center. Located across the street from Hodgson Hall, the 8,000 square foot historic structure named in honor of Savannah philanthropists Robert S. and Alice Jepson will be the new home of the GHS executive and administrative offices and become the location from which all future GHS educational programming will emanate. Originally built in 1856, 104 Gaston Street served as a home to several families over the years. Starting this summer it will assume a new role as the hub for history based education across the state.

The transformation from mid-nineteenth century mansion to modern commercial office space was approached with the greatest of care. Located in Savannah’s Historic Landmark District the structure’s architectural and historical integrity both inside and out were of great importance. At the same time

the interior space had to meet the demands of a twenty-first century business and meet the necessary requirements for the American’s with Disabilities Act. Lynch and Associates served as architects for the project while Martin + Zittrouer Construction served as contractors and Linn Gresham as interior designer. Shoring up the foundation and creating a second floor addition were top priority in the early days while later code upgrades to the building included new wiring and HVAC as well as abundant light, cabinetry, and storage to meet the needs of the ever-growing institution.

While the majority of the professional staff will occupy the second floor level with additional workstations, storage, and organizational spaces in the basement level, the crown jewel of the Jepson house will be the first floor and garden. The Jepson House garden is quintessential of the outdoor sanctuaries of Georgia’s first city and will offer beautiful spaces for covered



and open al fresco entertaining.

Upon entering the Jepson House, visitors will be greeted by an inspiring Scenic by internationally-renowned artist Bob Christian. The Scenic will reflect the diverse landscapes of Georgia – the rustic mountains of the north, the moss and marshes of the Lowcountry, the piney woods of the south, and the rolling hills of the Piedmont Plateau – the diversity of

the four corners of Georgia will be represented and make all Georgians feel welcomed.

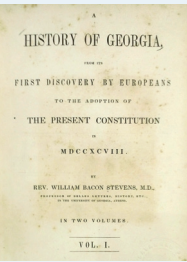
Beyond the Foyer overlooking Whitaker and Gaston Streets is the beautifully appointed Thomas Leverette McMullan Boardroom. Named for the late father of GHS Board Curator John F. McMullan of Atlanta, the room will feature subtle faux marble paneling in grisailles, enhancing the crown moldings and

*Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, first of over 100 books, is published by GHS. Today, researchers around the world have access to digitized versions of all twenty-one volumes of the *Collections* through a partnership with the Internet Archive.



GHS merges with the Savannah Library Society.

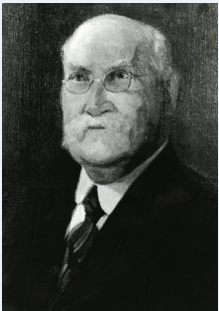
Property purchased on Bryan Street to build a new facility. GHS takes possession of the Bryan Street building in June 1849.



*History of Georgia* by William Bacon Stevens, the first scholarly history of the state, is published by GHS.



Sherman’s March to the Sea ends in Savannah with the city’s surrender on December 22nd.



William Harden (1844-1966), GHS’s first paid employee, begins his sixty-six year tenure functioning as librarian and executive director.

GHS outgrows its Bryan Street headquarters and moves to Armory Hall.

Hodgson Hall’s namesake, William B. Hodgson, dies.

1840

1847

1854

1864

1866

1871





Thirty-seven years after its founding, GHS had outgrown three buildings and needed a place to house its vast collection of Georgia materials and hold its meetings and programs. Margaret Telfair Hodgson offered to finance a new building for GHS to be named in honor of her late husband William B. Hodgson. A diplomat and Oriental scholar, Hodgson was a long-time supporter of GHS and a twenty-five year veteran of the Board of Curators. GHS commissioned the famed New York architect Detlef Lienau, one of the founders of the American Institute of Architects, to design the building. Construction began in 1873. Mary Telfair, famous benefactor of arts and humanities in Savannah, oversaw the building's completion after her sister Margaret's death.



Hodgson Hall dedicated on February 14th, 1876.



nine foot window casings that frame views of Savannah's lush Forsyth Park. A custom bookcase makes use of an existing pediment encasement, refined for the new use of the space, now fitted to house a commissioned painting of the room's namesake. This room will host future GHS board meetings, dignitary receptions, and select corporate events.

The Founders' Room is dedicated to the visionary leaders who not only established the GHS in 1839, but also to those who have guided the historic institution by serving in the role of President or Chairman of the Society into the present day. The Founders' Room is located beside the Thomas Leverette McMullan Boardroom and has the capacity to serve as an extension of the meeting room through the opening of generously scaled pocket doors, original to the 1856 parlor level. It will function as the venue for exclusive events, such as donor receptions, intimate dinner parties with visiting lecturers, and board functions.



On the West side of the parlor level, opposite the McMullan Boardroom and Founders Room will be the new office of the Georgia Historical Society President. Dr. W. Todd Groce will be the first occupant and so it was fitting that it reflects his leadership and style. This former grand dining room will now be an astounding private library and meeting place for the GHS President. Many of the furnishings are refurbished donations as well as lighting from the previous formal living space. Exquisite

etched glass pocket doors spill light into the space and open the room to the parlor overlooking Gaston Street. When opened, the president's parlor will serve as additional seating for meetings and when closed it will serve as the waiting area for GHS visitors.

Several pieces of furniture, rugs, and accessories have been donated by members and friends of the GHS but there is still need. Anyone wishing to donate items for the Jepson house can do so by contacting GHS.

GHS is grateful to Bob and Alice Jepson as principal benefactors and to everyone who contributed to the Jepson House Education center. Their combined efforts make it possible for GHS to reach an even broader worldwide audience as we foster educational programming and expand our collections and publications for years to come.

When asked about the Jepson House Education Center in a 2013 interview by Savannah TV station WTOG, Bob Jepson replied, "I think the Georgia Historical Society has its future all in front of it." We share your vision, Mr. Chairman, and we look forward to watching it unfold and honoring your gift with the opening of the Jepson House Education Center.

*Patricia Meagher is Director of Communications at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at pmeagher@georgiahistory.com.*

*Image Credits  
Jepson House Education Center. Photo by W. Todd Groce.  
Bob Christian painting and entryway Scenic. Photo by Elyse Butler.  
Early construction work on foundation. Photo by GHS staff.*

A new Georgia Constitution is adopted to replace the Reconstruction-era Constitution of 1868. The Constitution was revised sixty-eight years later in 1945.

Charles Colcock Jones, Jr. addresses the fifth year celebration of Hodgson Hall. In his address Jones declared, "Within the fair borders of this charming city there exists no more attractive edifice, no retreat more seductive, no more cultivated resort than Hodgson Hall." The Hall's three-story-high ceilings and vaulted arch windows continue to provide researchers from around the country a beautiful and historic atmosphere in which to study the oldest and most distinguished collection of material related to Georgia history in the nation.



Alexander Stephens, vice-president of the Confederacy, is elected Governor of Georgia.

★ 1876

1877

1881

1882



# Georgia GEMS

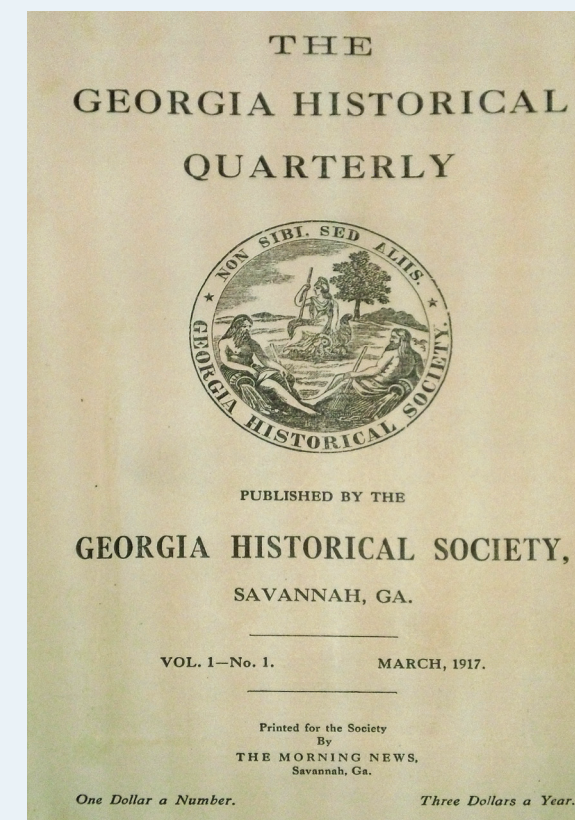
GHS's Archival  
Collection  
Finding Aids  
NOW ONLINE

by  
Lynette Stoudt



From the first typewritten finding aids written decades ago to the introduction of the first online public access catalog in 2006, the Georgia Historical Society has come a long way in providing broad access to the treasures in the nation's oldest and most comprehensive collection related to Georgia history. In its 175th year, GHS has taken another major step toward increased access with the introduction of the new GHS Finding Aids Database. Over 2,200 archival collection finding aids have moved out of the three-ring binders in our Research Center and are now available online from anywhere in a searchable database through the Digital Library of Georgia.

Finding aids are documents that provide detailed information about the contents of individual archival collections, resulting in better access to and understanding of our collections. The Finding Aids Database is different from the Research Center Catalog in that it provides more detailed information about the contents of archival collections, including item level inventories. This new database provides unprecedented access to GHS's rich archival collections and saves researchers a trip to our Research Center to search through cumbersome binders filled with printed finding aids. In addition, more than 10,000 digital images of collection originals are linked to inventories in the database, allowing researchers a new way to search for digital images.



Continually published by GHS since 1917 and considered one of the nation's premiere state historical journals, the *GHQ* publishes scholarly articles on Georgia history and book reviews dealing with all aspects of southern and Georgia history. Prior to publishing the *GHQ*, GHS's publications focused on the *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, a series of source material books based upon items in the collection. In part, the *GHQ* was meant to answer criticisms that GHS was too Savannah-centric. The successful launch of the *GHQ* hastened a merger between GHS and the rival Georgia Historical Association based in Athens. In 1999, the journal received the prestigious Governor's Award in the Humanities. Last year, 68,203 *GHQ* articles were accessed by researchers around the world through the online digital library JSTOR.

Editors of Note:  
William Harden (1917-1921)  
E. Merton Coulter (1923-1973)  
Phinizy Spalding (1974-1980)  
Thomas G. Dyer (1982-1989)  
John Inscoe (1989-2000)  
Anne J. Bailey (2000-2010)  
Glenn McNair (2010-present)



Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences established under the aegis of GHS.

John Pemberton invents Coca-Cola and the first Coca-Cola fountain drinks are sold in Atlanta.



The Spanish American War begins.



World War I begins in Europe. The United States enters the war in 1917.

*Georgia Historical Quarterly (GHQ)* founded with William Harden as the first editor.

1885

1886

1898

1914

★ 1917



The database is part of a larger, two-year project, Essentials for Online Access and Education: EAD as Foundation. This project was made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The project includes digitizing around 1,600 finding aids in Encoded Archival Description (EAD), linking digital images in our Digital Image Catalog to finding aids, creating a searchable database, and linking finding aids to online resources on the *Today in Georgia History* website and relevant articles in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.

The technology used to digitize the finding aids, Encoded Archival Description, is a non-proprietary standard for the encoding of archival finding aids for use in an online environment. The standardization of collection information within and across repositories allows GHS and other institutions around the world to share finding aid data. By using this standard, GHS is able to contribute finding aids to ArchiveGrid, a national union database of finding aids, and hopefully work with other partners in the future.

The beta release of the database is live and available on the GHS website: <http://georgiahistory.com/research-the-collection/search-our-collection/>. Everyone is encouraged to use the database and take the user survey. Feedback is invaluable as GHS continues to clean-up data and make revisions before the end of the project in September 2014. Soon, printable .pdf versions of each finding aid will also be available.

As GHS moves swiftly through its 175th year, the Research Center will continue to meet the needs of modern scholarship. The Finding Aids Database is yet another tool to enhance access to our rich collections. Looking ahead, GHS's continuing emphasis on digitization will ensure that researchers around the world can access Georgia's history online, wherever they may be.

Lynette Stoudt is Research Center Director at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [lstoudt@georgiahistory.com](mailto:lstoudt@georgiahistory.com).

Image credits  
Blue binders filled with archival collection finding aids at the GHS Research Center. Photo by Elyse Butler.



The NHPRC is a 15-member body established in 1934 and chaired by the Archivist of the United States. Affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) it supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States. For further information about NHPRC grant opportunities see: [www.archives.gov/nhprc/](http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/).

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

# AN ENDURING LEGACY

By Caroline Stevens

As the Georgia Historical Society celebrates and reflects on its 175th anniversary of collecting, examining, and teaching Georgia history, it is only natural to look forward to our next 175 years and imagine how the institution will evolve in the future.

To ensure that GHS is moving along the right course, our Board of Curators implemented a new Strategic Plan, a key component of which is sustainability. The

Board and staff of the Georgia Historical Society have identified the GHS Endowment as a critical path to sustainability and long-term financial strength.

The GHS Endowment is a protected fund that is held in perpetuity. Donors give to the principal of the fund, which is invested and grows over time. Each year, GHS receives a small percentage of the endowment's distribution to support operations. These funds ease pressure on the society's operating budget and allow GHS to pursue critical initiatives to benefit our mission. GHS's Endowment is governed by an independent Endowment Board which approves investments and distributions. Donors can give with confidence knowing that their funds will be responsibly managed to the highest standards.

To provide for our next 175 years, GHS is excited to launch an Endowment Campaign with a goal of adding \$12 million to the GHS Endowment. Several donors, including Dr. Victor Andrews, whose story of generosity and vision can be found in this issue (p. 18), have already committed to supporting the campaign. The GHS Endowment currently totals approximately \$8 million, so this is a tremendous opportunity to shepherd GHS into its next phase of growth and expansion.

Through the support and advocacy of GHS and others, Georgia Department of Archives and History created by the Georgia General Assembly.

Telfair Academy of the Arts and Sciences "spun-off" to form an independent institution.

Stock market crash marks beginnings of the Great Depression.

The Georgia Historical Quarterly publishes the first article in the series *Savannah River Plantations* written by members of the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project. GHS houses papers associated with the Georgia Writers' Project and other Works Progress Administration (WPA) programs throughout Georgia.



Japanese forces launch a surprise attack against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor.



Armstrong College moves its library to Hodgson Hall.

Lilla M. Hawes serves as GHS librarian and director from 1948 until 1976.

Historic *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling declares separate but equal unconstitutional.

## 1918 1920 1929 1939 1941 1948 1954





The Georgia Historical Society has chosen three areas of focus for the Endowment Campaign:

#### PROFESSIONAL POSITION, PROGRAM, OR FACILITY ENDOWMENTS

Donors who wish to directly support a certain facet of the Society's mission have the option of endowing a position, program, or facility at GHS. Examples of this include endowing the Research Center, the Historical Marker Program, or the Education Coordinator position, among others. For instance, with a substantial planned gift, Dr. Victor

Andrews has endowed "The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian" which will provide ongoing funding for the GHS Senior Historian position (currently held by Dr. Stan Deaton). Such restricted endowment gifts enable these important aspects of the institution to continue in perpetuity.

#### NAMED FUNDS

For a minimum gift of \$25,000, donors may honor or memorialize an individual, family, or entity by creating a named fund. Gifts of \$25,000 and above are recognized with engraved bronze plaques above the entrance to Hodgson Hall's Reading Room. Cast bronze plaques recognizing gifts of \$100,000 or larger are displayed prominently on the pilasters on the Reading Room mezzanine level.

#### LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society invites Georgia families who have helped shape our state's history to donate their personal collections of papers, photographs, portraits, and materials to be catalogued and preserved at GHS's Research Center. Participating families make an endowment gift (minimum of \$100,000) to ensure the family's story and records are processed, preserved, and made accessible to researchers for generations.

So why should you consider supporting this campaign? This is your opportunity to leave a legacy to an organization you care deeply about. Your support signifies your belief in GHS's enduring educational mission and your desire for the institution to have the financial security to take on challenges and seize new opportunities as they arise. An Endowment gift is also a wonderful way to permanently associate yourself or someone you love with the teaching and study of history. The impact of your gift will be felt for generations to come.

If you are interested in making a gift to the GHS Endowment, we encourage you to speak to your

financial and legal advisors to determine the best option for you and your family. There are many ways to support the GHS Endowment, including gifts of cash, bequests, and other types of planned gifts. Next, please let us know about your plans so we can express our gratitude, and you can begin to reap the benefits of your generosity now.

The Georgia Historical Society has thrived for 175 years thanks to leaders with a long-term vision for this institution. We invite you to join them in creating an enduring legacy that will benefit this institution, and all Georgians, for generations to come.

*Caroline Stevens is Development Officer at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [cstevens@georgiahistory.com](mailto:cstevens@georgiahistory.com), or 912.651.2125, ext. 116.*

*Image Credits*

*Photos of memorial plaques in the GHS Research Center by Elyse Butler.*



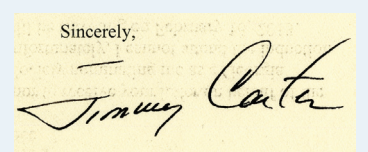
Armstrong College moves its library out of the GHS Research Center, leading to a drastic reduction in revenue. The GHS Research Center becomes a branch depository of the State Archives and receives financial assistance from the State to care for the collection.



Abrahams Archives Wing, GHS's first physical expansion in 90 years, completed.

A permanent endowment established using excess monies from Abrahams Archives Wing fundraising drive. In 1973, in anticipation of the fund's growth, the Board of Curators created an independent trust with a separate board of trustees to administer the assets transferred to the newly designated "Georgia Historical Society Endowment Trust."

*Footnotes*, a chatty, popular newsletter, begins publication.



Jimmy Carter of Georgia elected 39th President of the United States.

1966

1970

1971

1973

1976



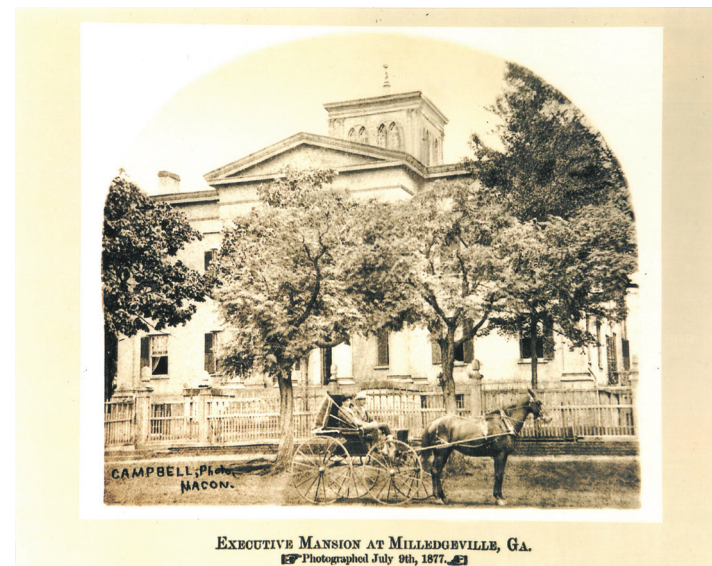
## Columns and Capitals: Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion

by Matthew S. Davis

In 1839, the State of Georgia completed work on its first Executive Mansion. Designed by noted architect Charles Clusky, an Irish immigrant, and built by Timothy Porter of Farmington, Connecticut, the Old Governor's Mansion looms over Milledgeville with its stately columns and imposing facade. Having served as the residence for Georgia's chief executives for over thirty years, the Mansion's history encompasses the antebellum, Civil War, and early Reconstruction eras during which Georgia proudly proclaimed itself as the "Empire State of the South." Such noted state leaders as George Crawford, Howell Cobb, and Joseph E. Brown resided in the building and used it as a stage for speeches and also to introduce guests of national standing.

During the Civil War, the Mansion was claimed as a "prize" during the "March to the Sea," when General William T. Sherman headquartered in the building on November 23, 1864. Following the war, Georgia's seat of government was relocated to Atlanta. In 1889, the structure was transferred

to Georgia Normal & Industrial College (currently known as Georgia College). The Mansion served as the founding building of the institution and is the campus's most treasured structure.



Dr. W. Todd Groce hired as the first professional historian to be GHS's Executive Director. GHS launches "Initiative 2000," a major outreach project designed to transform GHS into a truly statewide institution. The initiative includes a new Affiliate Chapter Program.

Lisa Lacey White elected as the first female president of the GHS Board of Curators.

The Old Governor's Mansion was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973 and in the late 1990s, efforts began to restore the building to its antebellum appearance. Following five years of intensive historical, structural, and material research, the Old Governor's Mansion began its historic restoration in November of 2001. Funded through the Georgia General Assembly and a generous grant from the Woodruff Foundation, over three years of painstaking work restored the original layout, colorations, lighting, and appearance of the building.

The Old Governor's Mansion now serves as an historic house museum whose mission is to care for, collect, and interpret the history of the site and its inhabitants during the years the Mansion was the official residence of Georgia's governors (1839-1868). In 2012, the site was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Today, the Old Governor's Mansion is considered to be one of the nation's finest examples of High Greek Revival architecture and one of our state's most important historic sites. Visitors experience fully guided tours of the structure that focus on the history of the building, its occupants both free and enslaved, and the myriad complexities of antebellum society in Georgia and its history.

Currently, the Mansion hosts a diverse selection of public programs including The Mansion Series, a lecture series that focuses on topics germane to the history of our state and region, teas, a concert series, educational programming including reenactments, school programs, a traveling trunk program, and an online educator's

The Georgia General Assembly and Gov. Zell Miller authorize the privatization of the Savannah Branch of the Department of Archives and History, the Research Center function of GHS.

GHS takes over management of the annual Georgia Heritage Celebration from the Historic Savannah Foundation.



Under the new terms, the Research Center retained its status as a branch repository but its management was transferred from the Secretary of State to GHS. This bold change proved a watershed event in the history of GHS. No longer a house divided, GHS streamlined operations to provide better services at a lower cost, ushering in an era of growth and financial stability. The operating budget has grown from \$250,000 in 1997 to around \$2.5 million today. In that same time, the GHS endowment has grown from \$1 million to almost \$8 million with a goal of adding \$12 million more during the current campaign.

Under the leadership of GHS the Georgia Heritage Celebration evolved into the *Georgia History Festival* (GHF). Held annually around the anniversary of the founding of the colony of Georgia on February 12, 1733, this commemoration brings history to life for students of all ages through a variety of programs including a series of school events and curriculum, Super Museum Sunday, the three-day Colonial Faire and Muster living-history program held at Wormsloe State Historic Site, and the colorful Georgia Day parade. GHF culminates at the Trustees Gala, where the Governor inducts two Georgians whose accomplishments and community service reflect the highest ideals of the founding body of Trustees.

1995

1996

★ 1997





★ GHS established an independent marker review committee that meets once per year to evaluate marker applications from around the state. From the beginning the marker committee made it a goal to present a more complete history of Georgia by erecting markers featuring a diversity of topic and locations and by placing local stories in the greater context of our shared state and national history. To date, GHS has erected over two hundred markers in nearly half of Georgia's 159 counties. Through the Civil War 150 Historical Marker project, begun in 2008, GHS completed a survey of over 900 existing Civil War Markers in Georgia, replaced seven missing markers detailing Sherman's March to the Sea, and erected fifteen new historical markers that interpret previously unrepresented historical elements of the conflict. A searchable index of over 2,000 markers now gives users the ability to find markers based on their interests and create a custom driving route. Smartphone users can download the free Georgia Historical Marker Program app. As part of the new Georgia Civil Rights Trail project, GHS has once again partnered with Georgia Department of Economic Development to not only erect new historical markers telling the stories of the struggle for equality, but also to enhance online historical marker resources.



resource page. Throughout the next year, the site will feature a series of special programs in observance of the sesquicentennial of Sherman's "March to the Sea." The site also hosts a chapter of the Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees. For information on this and other Mansion programming, please visit our website at [www.gcsu.edu/mansion](http://www.gcsu.edu/mansion) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OldGovernorsMansion](http://www.facebook.com/OldGovernorsMansion).

The Old Governor's Mansion is an Affiliate Chapter of the Georgia Historical Society. If you would like to learn more about the Affiliate Chapter program visit our website [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) or call our Membership and Outreach Associate Elyse Butler at 912.651.2125, ext. 119

*Image Credits*  
*Governor's Mansion, 1877. Courtesy of the Old Governor's Mansion.*  
*Old Governor's Mansion. Photo by Stephen Matthew Milligan.*

## PROFILES

# ENDOWING THE FUTURE: VICTOR L. ANDREWS AND THE DR. ELAINE B. ANDREWS HISTORIAN

BY STAN DEATON, PH.D.

Victor L. Andrews is more comfortable around numbers and the language of accounting than most people you will meet. It's what one might expect from the man who served as the Mills B. Lane Professor of Banking and Finance at Georgia State University in Atlanta and the chair of the Department of Finance there for twenty-five years. He was in fact hired to create the Finance Department at GSU, and finance remains one of his passions.

But more particularly now, it's a labor of love.

As part of the Georgia Historical Society's upcoming 175th Endowment Campaign, the Victor L. Andrews Charitable Remainder Unitrust is a \$1 million planned gift that will

create a new endowed position at GHS: the Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian, to which Senior Historian Stan Deaton will be appointed. The position honors Victor's late wife, Dr. Elaine Bernasek Andrews.

His is the first gift in a \$12 million campaign aimed at bringing the Society's endowment up to \$20 million over the next three years.

The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian will ensure the sustainability of high-quality, scholarly-based educational programming at GHS. It is a fitting tribute to Dr. Elaine B. Andrews, whose professional life was committed to the same high level of academic quality that GHS strives to achieve every day.



GHS assumes operation of the State's Historical Marker Program under a privatization agreement.



GHS partners with Savannah-Chatham County Public School System on the first of five Teaching American History grants providing training for K-12 teachers.

GHS collaborates with historian Buddy Sullivan to produce *Georgia: A State History*, the first state history published in a generation.

GHS launches its first Online Public Access Catalog with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

★ 1998

2002

2003

2006





In creating this new position, Victor has painstakingly made sure the numbers tally up. His wife would have had it no other way. “Elaine’s passion,” Victor says, “was the application of her gift. She was a perfectionist in all pursuits.”

For Victor Andrews and Elaine Bernasek, their sense of giving back can be traced to their midwestern roots. Victor, born in Huntington, West Virginia, moved to northwest Ohio at age nine and met Elaine in her native city of Lorain, Ohio, in high school in 1945 when they were both fifteen. They began dating in grad school and married on July 9, 1954.

Their marriage lasted --Victor says with the kind of precision you come to expect --for 54 years and 360 days, until Elaine’s death on July 5, 2009, days shy of their 55th anniversary.

As a prodigious and omnivorous reader from boyhood, Victor was a liberal arts major at the University of Chicago and planned to earn a master’s degree in American literature after graduating in 1951. It was then that he

encountered the great American economist Frank Knight, one of the founders of the “Chicago School” who counted among his students Nobel laureates Milton Friedman, George Stigler, James M. Buchanan, and Paul Samuelson.

After meeting Knight, Victor’s life’s course was set. He switched fields, earning an M.A. in economics and an M.B.A. (both from the University of Chicago), and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT in 1958.

Elaine took a different path. After receiving a B.A. in Russian history from Stanford in 1952, she worked for the National Security Agency in Washington D.C. Victor served in the Army Reserves during the Korean War, in a Strategic Intelligence Detachment and worked at the Pentagon in the summers. He and Elaine began dating and married while Vic was at the University of Chicago.



The young couple moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, while Victor worked on his Ph.D. at MIT. Elaine eventually earned a Master of Arts, a Masters in Law and Diplomacy,

and a Ph.D. in international economics, all from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Incidentally, Elaine maintained her interest in the Russian language all of her life. After her death, Victor found a reference work of *501 Russian Verbs* on her desk, with notes scattered throughout.

As Victor worked his way up in academia—teaching at MIT, the Harvard Business School, then Georgia State—Elaine taught economics at Boston University and Simmons College. She left the academic world for new ventures after they made the move to Atlanta in 1968.

It was after moving to Atlanta that the Andrews began to “bury the acorns,” as Victor says, that led to the establishment of the Charitable Remainder Trust.

First, Elaine began doing corporate work and then became an early consultant on computer administration and computer applications for corporations. In addition to his academic work, Victor taught in-house financial programs at banks all over the South. They also collaborated together, consulting on real estate investment trust salvage programs and out-of-court bankruptcies that proved to be quite lucrative.

While the financial acorns grew, the Andrews lived in the Buckhead section of Atlanta, traveled, and indulged their passion of golfing together. After twenty-five years Victor retired as chair of Georgia State’s Department of Finance in 1993, and four years later they moved to Savannah—to a



golf course, naturally.

The Andrews lived life to its fullest in their retirement, until Elaine was diagnosed with cancer in January 2008. She fought the disease valiantly until her death eighteen months later.

The Victor L. Andrews Charitable Remainder Unitrust represents the kind of generosity and warmth of spirit that one comes to expect from Victor after spending even just a few minutes with him.

Why GHS? As an expert in finance and accounting, Victor has been impressed with the Georgia Historical Society’s five-star rating with Charity Navigator. He has



Civil War 150 Historical Marker Project launched.  
  
GHS hosts first of six successful National Endowment for the Humanities funded GHS teacher-training projects.

The Georgia Trustees reestablished by GHS and the Governor’s office. Philanthropist Marguerite Neel Williams and Home Depot founder Bernard Marcus inducted as Georgia Trustees.  
  
GHS launches its first Digital Image Database with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Baseball Legend Hank Aaron and media mogul Ted Turner inducted as Georgia Trustees.



Emmy-Award winning *Today in Georgia History*, a joint collaboration with Georgia Public Broadcasting, airs on television and radio.  
  
Legendary UGA Football Coach Vince Dooley and Former U.S. Senator Samuel A. Nunn Jr. inducted as Georgia Trustees.

# 2008

# 2009

# 2010

# 2011





complimented the Society's financial managers on the way GHS utilizes charitable dollars and tightly manages its finances.

"We had always given to nationally known not-for-profits," Victor explains. "I've now lived in Georgia for 45 years, and after moving to Savannah in 1997, we wanted to concentrate our giving on Savannah and Georgia organizations that might not have the fund-raising advantages of national organizations."

The Georgia Historical Society was a natural fit. "We both love history," Victor says. "And the Society's 175th Endowment Campaign offered an opportunity to create a position that would recognize and honor the donor.

Ultimately, we were both impressed with the intellectual character of everything the Georgia Historical Society does."

Victor and Elaine Andrews' generous gift to the Georgia Historical Society will both honor her memory and sustain the institution well into the next 175 years. By creating this endowed position, their gift ensures that Georgians will be able to build a better future by gaining a better understanding of our past.

*To become a part of the Georgia Historical Society's 175th Endowment Campaign, please contact us at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) or call 912-651-2125.*

#### Image captions

*Photo of Victor and Elaine taken in 1968.*

*Photo of Elaine at a friend's wedding.*

*Victor and Elaine on their 50th wedding anniversary.*

*Victor receiving a Presidential Citation from GHS President and CEO W.*

*Todd Groce at GHS's 175th Annual Meeting.*

## IN MY WORDS

BY DR. VICTOR L. ANDREWS

A friend of mine once wrote "Among men of affairs I am known as a theoretician (in economics) but among theoreticians I am known as a man of affairs." Notwithstanding allegations otherwise, this fits me. Truth about me, however, is only tangential here because the honoree of GHS mentioned elsewhere is Dr. Elaine B. Andrews. This note concerns her life.

She was graduated as a Russian history major from Stanford University in 1952. After several master's degrees, she received a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1961. At the time Fletcher was jointly parented by Tufts University and Harvard University. Her concentration was international economics.

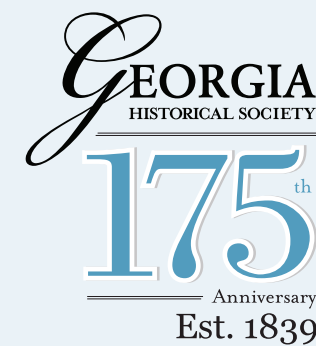
Elaine was blessed with the talent to have several careers, all of them successful. She worked in government, taught at the college and university levels, managed in computer

administration, led in some information systems design and installations, and consulted widely in a number of contexts.

In later years of life Elaine turned to the pursuit of our philanthropy. Her work in its research and implementations was tireless. Essentially, she and I decided in early going on the designation of some national charities as donees but arrived later at concentration on local and state-level charities. This was partly on their merits but also in recognition of the brute force marketing realities they face. The truth is they are sorely limited. The Georgia Historical Society is an early example of our later focus. It is a pleasure to be its benefactor in Elaine's name.

Atlanta real estate developer and sports franchise mogul Tom Cousins and former UN Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young inducted as Georgia Trustees.

Founder of Chick-fil-A Truett Cathy and businessman and Civil Rights leader Herman Russell inducted as Georgia Trustees.



GHS celebrates 175 years of continuous operation.

2012

2013

2014 & BEYOND!



## MILESTONES

### 2014 Georgia History Festival

The Georgia Historical Society observed the anniversary of the founding of Georgia with its annual *Georgia History Festival*, held throughout the month of February. Events included a book event on Flannery O'Connor's *Prayer Journal*, a screening of John Huston's film adaptation of O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, the Colonial Faire and Muster at Wormsloe Historic Site, Super Museum Sunday, in-school visits, the annual Georgia Day Parade, and the induction of the 2014 Georgia Trustees, Arthur Blank and Billy Payne at the Trustees Gala in Savannah. In addition to these events, GHS developed online and print educational materials focusing on the 2014 Featured Historical Figure Flannery O'Connor. Under the leadership of 2014 Festival Co-Chairs Ellen Bolch and Vince Dooley, GHS raised a record \$826,000 for history education.



PICTURED FROM LEFT: Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe portrayed by Scott Hodges, 2014 Festival Co-Chairs Vince Dooley and Ellen Bolch, and GHS President & CEO W. Todd Groce. Photo by Russ Bryant.

### Georgia Historical Society Blogs

The Georgia Historical Society has expanded its outreach in new directions through the launch of two new blogs, *Off the Deaton Path* and *Sophia's Schoolhouse*. Written by GHS Senior Historian Dr. Stan Deaton, *Off the Deaton Path* offers a discussion of new books and history's relevancy to current events. *Sophia's Schoolhouse* is a video blog developed by GHS Education Coordinator Sophia Sineath aimed at school-age children. Using primary sources from the GHS archival collection, *Sophia's Schoolhouse* uncovers fascinating stories that demonstrate how the past has shaped the present. It is available to educators not only on our website, but also via SchoolTube.com, a free K-12 video sharing community.

### 175<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Garden Party

The Georgia Historical Society held its 175th Annual Meeting and Garden Party in Savannah on April 30, 2014. The annual meeting, held at the First Baptist Church of Savannah, included a keynote address delivered by Civil War Scholar Dr. Edward Ayers, President of the University of Richmond. Howard J. Morrison, Jr. of Savannah was presented with the John Macpherson Berrien Lifetime Achievement Award; Vincent J. Dooley received the Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the year Award, and WSAV in Savannah received the History in Media Award. The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation won Affiliate Chapter of the Year for promoting Flannery O'Connor's legacy on the 50th anniversary of her passing through creative and educational programming and for support in the development and implementation of the 2014 *Georgia History Festival*. The Garden Party was held at the historic Harper Fowlkes House.



PICTURED: Dr. W. Todd Groce presenting Howard J. Morrison with the John Macpherson Berrien Lifetime Achievement Award at the 175th Annual Meeting. Photo by Jim Holmes.

### Board of Curator Elections



PICTURED: Clay Boardman III

GHS welcomes Clay Boardman III as the newest member of the Board of Curators. He is a native Augustan and a Principal and Senior Vice-President of Development for Hull Storey Gibson Companies, LLC. Prior to joining the firm, he was CEO of Boardman Petroleum, Inc., Charter-Triad Terminals, LLC and other affiliated companies. He is involved with many and varied civic causes.

Savannah businessman and philanthropist Robert S. Jepson, Jr. was elected to Chair the Board of Curators at the 175th annual meeting. Vincent J. Dooley of Athens was elected the new Board Vice Chair. John Helmken, II of Savannah will remain Treasurer, Jackie E. Montag of Atlanta will remain Secretary.

### Roger K. Warlick Local History Achievement Awards

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION:** Georgia College & State University and Old Governor's Mansion for the restoration of the Sallie Ellis Davis House.

**PROGRAMS:** The Bulloch County Historical Society for their educational program, "The Ole' Scarecrow Statesboro Medicine Show."



MILESTONES

Continued...

2014 Publication Awards

**THE MALCOM BELL JR. AND MURIEL BARROW BELL AWARD:** Dr. Glenn Eskew , *Johnny Mercer: Southern Songwriter for the World* (University of Georgia Press) & Dr. Paul Pressley, *On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World* (University of Georgia Press).

**THE E. MERTON COULTER AWARD:** Lester Stephens, "John Ruggles Cotting and the First State Geological Survey of Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* (Fall 2013).

Distinguished Fellows Program

GHS named Dr. Edward L. Ayers as the inaugural Georgia Historical Society Distinguished Fellows. The GHS Distinguished Fellow Program is an honorary membership bestowed for exceptional achievement in the field of scholarly historical research and in recognition of signal service to GHS. Selection as a Distinguished Fellow is based entirely on merit and is therefore the highest level of membership offered by the GHS. Distinguished Fellows of the Georgia Historical Society are selected by the Society’s Board of Curators on the recommendation of the President and the staff and are inducted at the Society’s annual meeting.



PICTURED: GHS Distinguished Fellow Dr. Edward L. Ayers with GHS President & CEO Dr. W. Todd Groce and Board Chairman Robert S. Jepson, Jr. at the 175th Annual Meeting. Photo by Jim Holmes.

Thank You

GHS would like to thank all the individuals and institutions who contributed to the purchase and renovation of the Jepson House Education Center. Without your support, it would not have been possible.



A special thank you to the Jepson House Education Center major donors:

Robert S. and Alice Jepson, Jr.

Robert W. Woodruff Foundation  
John F. and Marilyn McMullan  
John Edward "Ted" McMullan  
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Don and Kaye Kole  
Don and Cindy Waters  
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Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation  
Georgia Power Foundation  
Southern Company Foundation

TIMELINE IMAGE CREDITS  
Unless otherwise noted, timeline images are from the GHS Administration Archives, MS 1361AD.

1847 GHS’s Bryan Street Building; 1864 General Sherman’s Christmas Dinner [Sketched by Theodore R. Davis]. GHS Print Collection, MS 1360; 1866 Portrait of William Harden; 1876 letter from Margaret Telfair Hodgson requesting permission to erect Hodgson Hall. June 26th, 1873 / Hodgson Hall Reading Room, 1876; 1882 Alexander Hamilton Stephens photograph, MS 2060; 1885 Telfair Academy of Arts and Science. GHS Photograph Collection, MS 1361PH; 1898 Spanish American War Military Camp, GHS Photograph Collection, MS 1360PH; 1914 Right Way Magazine, January 1922. Central of Georgia Collection, MS 1362; 1929 Savannah River Plantations Pictorial Map. Federal Writers’ Project, WPA of Georgia. GHQ, 1938; 1941 Bond Promotional at Lucas Theatre, 1942. Foltz Collection, MS 1360; 1948 Students studying at GHS Research Center, 1960; 1970 L to R: Abrahams’s widow Mildred Abrahams Kuhr, Abrahams’s daughter Marion Abrahams Levy Mendel, GHS President Alexander Lawrence, and Savannah attorney John Bouhan; 1976 President Jimmy Carter Signature; 1997 GHS Board of Curators President Lisa White accepting Governor Zell Miller’s membership check to kick-off first membership drive after privatization; 1998 Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas at the Pin Point Community historical marker dedication, November 20th, 2011 / Co-founders Tom Forkner and Joe Rogers, Sr. unveiling Waffle House historical marker, September 8th, 2012. Also pictured on left Robert L. Brown, GHS Board of Curators Chairman Emeriti and on right Mayor Ed Reiker, Avondale Estates. Photo by David Seibert; 2002 Teaching American History grantees at GHS moderated panel; 2008 Ambassador Andrew Young and GHS President & CEO W. Todd Groce at the African American Soldiers in Combat historical marker dedication, October 5th 2010; 2009 Georgia Trustees Award; 2011 Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Senior Historian Stan Deaton holding Emmy

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Gifts  
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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 [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com)

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## HAPPENINGS

### CIVIL WAR TRUST TEACHER INSTITUTE

Keynote Speaker: W. Todd Groce, Ph. D.

*July 19, 2014 – Atlanta*

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

### GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATIONS

The Old Governor's Mansion

*September 24, 2014 – Milledgeville*

Georgia Civil Rights Trail: The Atlanta Student Movement

*October 16, 2014 – Atlanta*



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*Georgia Historical Society (GHS) is the premier independent statewide institution responsible for collecting, examining, and teaching Georgia history.*