





Annual Report for the Year 2013

# Annual Report of the Georgia Historical Society for the Year 2013

*W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.*  
*President and CEO*

For the Georgia Historical Society the year 2013 was perhaps the most successful in its 174-year history. Attendance at events, fund raising, and the number of people we served exceeded all previous records. In terms of education and research, the Society continued to expand. We enhanced the quality and quantity of our programs and services for teachers, students, and researchers and used technology on a greater scale to make history available to the public. The growth we experienced during the past twelve months positioned us, both financially and programmatically, to kick off the celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the year 2014.

Financially it was a highly-successful year. The institution met all its fund raising goals and net assets grew by nearly \$1.5 million. At the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2013, net assets were \$12,816,440 as opposed to \$11,380,793 in 2012, a growth rate of 12.5 percent. The endowment fund on June 30, 2013, stood at \$7,017,283 up from the previous year's total of \$6,445,732, an increase of over half a million dollars. For the fourth year in a row, GHS received Charity Navigator's coveted four-star rating, placing us among an elite group of national not-for-profits whose financial practices exceed industry standards. Overall, GHS raised nearly \$3 million last year for capital projects, endowment, and programming that furthered the educational and research mission of the institution.

You have heard me say before that the Georgia Historical Society stands in a special position between the academic community and the public. There is an amazing body of scholarship being produced every year in colleges and universities around the country but most of it is not reaching the public. And that is where we have a unique role to play. As a public history institution we serve as a bridge between the academy and the public, connecting the scholarship with a wider audience, thereby increasing access to history. Space does not permit me to review all of the many ways we served last year as a bridge between scholars and the public, but I would like to share a few highlights.

The 2013 *Georgia History Festival*, the Society's signature school-age education program, raised \$605,000 and served approximately fifty thousand students and teachers across the state, educating them about the story of Georgia's founding and the life and contributions of Georgia native and Civil War general John C. Fremont, the first Republican presidential candidate, on the bicentennial of his birth in Savannah. Over the last sixteen years, our educational programs have taught history to over one million K-12 students, and our teacher resources and training have improved



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The *Georgia History Festival* concluded with the Trustees Gala on February 16, 2013, in Savannah. Governor Nathan Deal inducted philanthropist and Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy (second from left) and Atlanta real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Civil Rights veteran Herman J. Russell (right) as the newest Georgia Trustees. They are pictured here with GHS President Todd Groce (left) and GHS senior historian Stan Deaton (second from right).

classroom instruction for twenty-five thousand Georgia teachers. The *Georgia History Festival* concluded with the Trustees Gala on February 16, 2013, in Savannah. Governor Nathan Deal inducted philanthropist and Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy and Atlanta real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Civil Rights veteran Herman J. Russell as the newest Georgia Trustees.

As part of the *Georgia History Festival*, GHS presented a February lecture by *Forrest Gump* author Winston Groom on John C. Fremont, the *GHF* featured character, based on Groom's book *Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-1847*. GHS also partnered with the Live Oak Public Libraries for a series of lectures, the first of which featured a discussion with John Ferling, one of the foremost authors on the American Revolution. Ferling talked about his new book, *Jefferson and Hamilton: The Rivalry that Forged a Nation*, with GHS senior historian Stan Deaton before a standing-room only crowd.

The *Georgia Historical Quarterly* continued to publish the latest in cutting-edge scholarship on Georgia and American history under the esteemed editorship of Dr. Glenn McNair. Last year, 68,203 full-text *GHQ* articles were accessed through JSTOR (the online digital library of academic journals, books, and primary



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sources) in the United States and one hundred foreign countries, broadening the reach of the *GHQ* far beyond the GHS membership.

In an effort to describe more accurately the vital work of the Society and the growing status of the institution as a national center for historical research, in 2013 the Board of Curators re-designated what was formerly called the “Library and Archives” as the “Research Center.” The Society’s library and archives and the buildings that house them—Hodgson Hall and the Abrahams Annex—continue to exist, but when referred to as a place, they are now known as the Research Center.

In 2013, the new GHS Research Center served a record eighty-four thousand researchers from forty-three states, the District of Columbia, and eleven foreign countries. This dramatic increase is due to various digitization projects, including two NHPRC-funded ventures: “America’s Turning Point: Documenting the Civil War Experience in Georgia,” a collaboration with the Atlanta History Center and the University of Georgia to digitize eighty-one thousand Civil War docu-



GHS hosted its seventh National Endowment for the Humanities teacher-training program for university and college faculty in June 2013, focusing once again on the history and culture of African Americans in the Lowcountry. Pictured on Ossabaw Island are professors Alex Byrd, Leslie Harris, Daina Ramey Berry, Emory Campbell, and Phil Morgan.

ments in our combined collections. Researchers can also access thousands of other important documents because of the NHPRC-funded “Essentials for Online Access and Education: EAD as Foundation” project, which will digitize approximately sixteen hundred archival collection finding aids, create a searchable online database hosted by the Digital Library of Georgia, link digital images to finding aid inventories, and create links to GHS finding aids in *New Georgia Encyclopedia* articles and *Today in Georgia History* resources. To date over ten thousand digital images have been linked to finding aids and over twenty-two hundred finding aids are searchable in our new online database: <http://ghs.galileo.usg.edu/ghs/search>.

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faculty, focusing once again on the history and culture of African Americans in the Lowcountry. Over a two-week period, twenty-five participants visited Sapelo and Ossabaw islands, attended lectures by nationally-distinguished scholars, and conducted research in the Society's extensive collection of African-American archival materials. Since our first NEH-funded workshop in 2008, GHS has received over \$1 million in federal funds to bring nearly four hundred university, college, and community college faculty from institutions of higher learning in forty-three states to study at our Research Center.

This past year a supplemental technology award allowed GHS to develop interactive online resources to expand the content of the NEH Institute to a much wider audience. In addition to the scholarly lectures, reading lists, and resource-sharing available to Institute participants, the new online portal features educational materials specifically designed for 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers (including interactive maps and quizzes) and an online exhibit featuring items from the GHS collection geared toward general audiences. The online resources represent the cumulative work of NEH faculty, staff, and participants over the last six years. Focusing on the Ossabaw Island and Torrey Family Papers in the collection of the Georgia Historical Society, these resources are available at <http://neh.ghslearn.com/interactive-case-study/>.

In 2013 planning began for the Georgia Civil Rights Trail, a public education program designed to increase tourism and an understanding of the role that Georgia played in the national Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s by taking visitors and students to the sites where the history of the movement happened in our state. Using a combination of historical markers, online tools such as Google maps for creating self-guided driving tours, and educational and research materials in our archival collection, the Georgia Civil Rights Trail will launch in 2014 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Trail is being developed in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Center for Civil and Human Rights. GHS erected six other historical markers in 2013 including one at the birthplace of John C. Fremont in Savannah (part of the Civil War 150 marker project); the S.S. *James Oglethorpe* and the Battle of the Atlantic in Savannah; Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Atlanta; and the nineteenth-century UGA Botanical Garden in Athens.





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In July renovation began on the Society's new administration building, the Jepson House Education Center. Originally built as a home for Savannah mayor Thomas Holcombe in 1856, Jepson House is located immediately north of the Research Center and includes a carriage house and surrounding gardens. The renovation, which primarily consists of transforming a private residence into commercial property, is projected to take at least a year to complete. The \$4.2 million project is the first expansion of our campus in over forty years and will provide nearly ten thousand square feet of additional space for planning educational programs and publications.

GHS expanded its outreach in new directions last year through the launch of two new blogs, *Off the Deaton Path* and



The Georgia Civil Rights Trail will launch in 2014 in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development on the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Trail is being developed. GHS erected six other historical markers in 2013 including one about the nineteenth-century UGA Botanical Garden in Athens. Pictured here (l to r) at the marker dedication is GHS Board member Vince Dooley, Hubert McAlexander, and GHS President Todd Groce.

*Sophia's School House*. Written by GHS senior historian Dr. Stan Deaton, *Off the Deaton Path* brings a different energy through the 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.

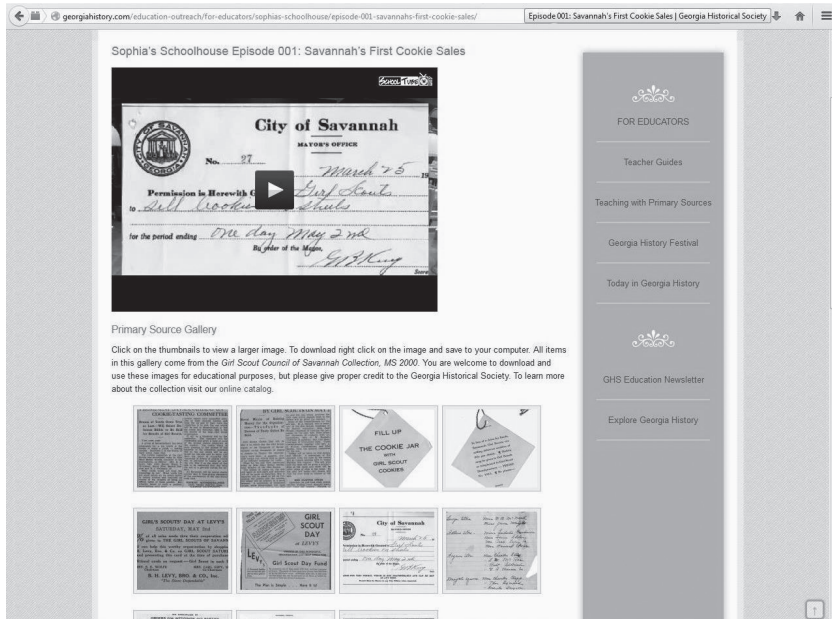
The work of the Society was recognized in 2013 with two prestigious national awards. In September our daily radio and television program, "Today in Georgia History," produced in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, received the Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local



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History. The highest accolade came from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences which bestowed on Dr. Stan Deaton, senior historian for the GHS, not one but two Emmy Awards for his role as writer and host of "Today in Georgia History," making him one of the few Emmy-Award winning professional historians in the country. When "Today in Georgia History" ended its two-year run on Georgia Public Broadcasting in September 2013, nearly six million Georgians had listened to or viewed the program, giving GHS a reach exceeded by few historical agencies across the nation.

These remarkable achievements were possible because of the support and hard work of many individuals and groups from across the state. I want to thank our educational partners, especially Georgia Public Broadcasting, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Battlefields Association, the Georgia Humanities Council, the Ossabaw Island Educational Alliance, and the Digital Library of Georgia, for their in-



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valuable assistance in helping us to reach our common mission to improve the lives of all Georgians. I also want to thank our individual donors, members, and corporate sponsors for their continued investment in history education. Our Board of Curators, especially Board chairman Robert Brown and Board vice chairman Robert Jepson, gave generously of their time, talents, and resources. And the GHS staff and employees, led by chief operating officer Laura Garcia-Culler, continued to amaze me with their energy, dedication, hard work, and drive to succeed. It is one of the great privileges of my life to work with such an amazing team of board and staff.

The year 2014 will mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Georgia Historical Society. In May of 1839, a small group of intellectuals gathered in Savannah (remember that Atlanta was only two years old at that time) to create an organization that would, in their



In September our daily radio and television program, “Today in Georgia History,” produced in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, received the Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History at the annual conference in Birmingham. Pictured L to R: Terry Davis, AASLH President and CEO; Maggie Brewer, former GHS membership and outreach coordinator; Sophia Sineath, GHS education coordinator; Christy Crisp, GHS director of programs; Lynne Ireland, AASLH chair.

words, “collect and diffuse the history of Georgia and the United States in general.” Seven months later, in December 1839, eighty-five charter members petitioned the Georgia General Assembly for articles of incorporation, forging a private-public partnership with the State of Georgia that continues to this day. Since that modest beginning 175 years ago, the Georgia Historical Society has grown into an institution with five thousand individual members, 150 affiliate chapters in seventy-five counties, a two-acre campus in downtown Savannah and an office in Atlanta, a \$2.5 million operating budget, an \$8 million endowment, the oldest history publishing program in the state, and the oldest and most comprehensive collection of Georgia history in the nation.

To celebrate and highlight our status as the South’s oldest continuously operated historical society, GHS has planned a number of special events, publications, and new initiatives. In addition to a special presentation at the annual meeting by Dr. Ed Ayers and the establishment of a new Distinguished Fellows program, the spring 2014 issue of our newsmagazine *Georgia History Today*



Dr. Edward Ayers, Civil War scholar and president of the University of Richmond, was appointed as the first GHS Distinguished Fellow at the 175th Annual Meeting in April 2014. The 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, national leaders in the field of history as both writers and educators whose research has enhanced or changed the way the public understands the past. In addition, Distinguished Fellows have served GHS as faculty in teacher-training seminars, as lecturers, consultants, or in a similar capacity. Making the presentation to Dr. Ayers (left) were Dr. Groce (center) and newly elected GHS board chairman Robert S. Jespson, Jr. (right).

will be dedicated to the history of the Society and the many extraordinary people who have played a role in helping us to reach this milestone. *Georgia Trend* magazine will recognize our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with two special features: a profile on the Georgia Historical Society as an example of sustainability in the May 2014 issue; and a special sixteen-page insert in the September 2014 issue that will tell Georgia's history through twenty-five objects from the GHS archival collection.

Our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not simply an occasion for looking backward and measuring how far we have come, as much fun as that may be. It is also an opportunity to measure how far we still have to go, a time to establish new goals, and the right moment to set our sights on new levels of achievement. The past twenty years



The past twenty years have witnessed the most explosive growth in the history of the institution. Under the board leadership of remarkable people from Howard Morrison to Robert Brown (pictured here, who will step down as Board chairman after two years in June 2014), during the last two decades GHS achieved its goal of creating a true statewide organization.

have witnessed the most explosive growth in the history of the institution. Under the board leadership of remarkable people from Howard Morrison to Robert Brown, during the last two decades we achieved our goal of creating a true statewide organization.

But that was only a prologue to what we are about to do. Now under the board leadership of Bob Jepson and Vince Dooley we are ready to build an institution with national influence and reach, to emulate our friends at the Virginia Historical Society and do in Georgia what they have done in the Old Dominion with their state's premier historical institution. To that end, the Board of Curators has approved a new strategic plan, chaired by Board member John McMullan, to guide us toward that goal.

A key element of the new plan is sustainability, creating the financial foundation and independence necessary to carry GHS into this new era of national influence. On April 30, 2014, the Board approved the launch of a \$12 million endowment cam-



On April 30, 2014, the Board approved the launch of a \$12 million endowment campaign designed to bring the endowment up to a total of \$20 million. As part of that campaign, Dr. Victor Andrews of Savannah (pictured here) will create the Society's first endowed position through a \$1 million planned gift that will establish the Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian, named in memory of his late wife. The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian will ensure the sustainability of high-quality, scholarly based educational programming at GHS.

paign designed to bring our endowment up to a total of \$20 million. And we have already received our first gift to the campaign: a \$1 million planned gift that will create the Society's first endowed position, the Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian.

Established by Dr. Victor Andrews of Savannah in memory of his late wife, the Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian will ensure the sustainability of high-quality, scholarly based educational programming at GHS. The position will be held by an outstanding public historian whose body of work will elevate the institution to national stature. I am pleased to announce that after a brief internal search I have appointed GHS senior historian Dr. Stan Deaton to the position. The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Historian will also



become a model for others seeking to memorialize an individual with a transformational gift to the Society. Other positions—archivists, educators, and public historians—as well as facilities like the Research Center and programs such as the historical markers and our lecture series, and the new Distinguished Fellows program, are also available as naming opportunities.

The Georgia Historical Society has come a long way in 175 years and we have much to celebrate. But there is much work still to be done, and our mission is never-ending. We hope that you will all continue to donate your family's papers, photographs and artifacts that collectively help us to tell the story of Georgia, and that you will continue to give of your time, talents, and treasure to make it possible for GHS to continue to educate the next generation of Georgia's leaders. In the end, we will succeed and continue to thrive for the next 175 because of the generosity of our supporters, our love for the history of this great state, and the recognition of the importance of the past in shaping the future we will create.

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This list represents cash donations of \$250 and above received between **July 1, 2012** and **June 30, 2013**. We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors. For correction requests, please contact Caroline Stevens at the Georgia Historical Society at 912.651.2125, ext. 116.

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- James Moody Photograph by Herman Leonard, 1951 (MS 2556, .28 cubic feet) Gift of James Battin, 2013.

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## PROGRAMS

### *Lectures*

- May 2, 2013 – Dr. Paul Pressly, *On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World*, 174<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Savannah.
- October 22, 2013 – Dr. John Ferling, *Jefferson and Hamilton: A Conversation*, public book discussion moderated by Stan Deaton, Savannah.

### *Teacher Training and Educational Outreach*

- Opening America's Archives: Using Primary Sources across Disciplines* workshops in the service of Georgia teachers: July 8, 2013 – hybrid online & face-to-face professional development course for K-12 educators, Savannah
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University faculty* June 9-21, 2013, "African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands." Twenty-three university, college, and community college teachers studied African-American history and culture in the Georgia Lowcountry from 1750-1950. Directed by Stan Deaton

### *Georgia History Festival*

- Kickoff at the Capitol* – February 2, 2014 – Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta

- Georgia History Festival* Keynote Lecture – February 5, 2013 – Author Winston Groom – Wesley Monumental UMC, Savannah
- Colonial Faire and Muster* – February 9-10, 2013 – Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah *Super Museum Sunday* – February 10, 2013 – locations throughout Coastal Georgia
- Georgia History Festival Dignitaries' Coffee* – February 12, 2013 – Georgia Historical Society, Savannah
- Georgia Day Parade* – February 12, 2013 – Georgia Historical Society, Savannah *Trustees Gala* – Eau de Vie- February 16, 2013 – Hyatt Regency, Savannah
- John C. Frémont Curriculum Guide* – available online and in print through the *Savannah Morning News'* Newspapers in Education
- John C. Frémont In-School Presentations for Students* – Held in elementary schools throughout coastal Georgia in February 2013
- Elementary School Banner Competition* – open to schools participating in the Georgia Day Parade
- Colonial Georgia Traveling Trunks* – containing primary source materials from the GHS archives. Twelve trunks distributed across the state

## AWARDS

### *Publication Awards*

- Malcolm Bell Jr., and Muriel Barrow Bell Award, for the best book in Georgia history: Drew Swanson *Remaking Wormsloe Plantation* (University of Georgia Press).
- Lilla M. Hawes Award, for the best book in local Georgia history: Ren & Helen Davis, *Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery* (University of Georgia Press).
- E. Merton Coulter Award, for the best article published in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*: Michael T. Bernath, for “Independent in Everything—Neutral in Nothing’: Joseph Addison Turner, The Countryman, and the Cultivation of Confederate Nationalism,” Spring 2012.

*Roger K. Warlick Local History Achievement Awards*

*Affiliate of the Year* - Georgia Battlefields Association, Atlanta

*Programs*: Cherokee County Historical Society

*Archival Excellence*: Thomaston-Upson Archives

*Preservation Projects*: Historic Augusta, Inc.

***Service Awards***

*John McPherson Berrien Lifetime Achievement Award* – Kenneth H. Thomas, Atlanta

*Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award* – Ellen B. Bolch, Savannah

*History in the Media Award* – Tom Barton, *Savannah Morning News*, Savannah

**GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS*****Markers Approved and Installed***

April 14, 2013 – The Lord’s Acre Movement (Clay County).

May 22, 2013 – S. S. James Oglethorpe and the Battle of the Atlantic (Chatham County).

October 29, 2013 – UGA Botanical Garden (Clarke County).

November 24, 2013 – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (Fulton County).

December 7, 2013 – Barney Colored Elementary School (Brooks County).

***Georgia Civil War 150 Historical Marker Project***

January 22, 2013 – Birthplace of John C. Frémont (Chatham County).

**TODAY IN GEORGIA HISTORY**

*Today in Georgia History*, a collaborative, multi-media history education project between GHS and Georgia Public Broadcasting premiered on September 1, 2011 and daily segments were broadcast through August 31, 2012. GPB re-broadcast the daily series for a second full year, ending August 31, 2013. Series episodes and ancillary educational resources are also accessible via the project website located at [www.todayingeorgiahistory.org](http://www.todayingeorgiahistory.org). The project was awarded two Emmy awards on June 8, 2013, by the southeast regional chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences—one for short form writing, one for overall excellence in historical and documentary programming. The project also received a 2013 Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards.



## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets:	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012
Cash	\$1,748,013	\$1,018,019
Investments	\$7,017,283	\$6,445,772
Receivables	\$497,506	\$430,578
Promises to give, net	\$1,465,584	\$1,640,442
Other Assets	\$52,070	\$64,112
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	\$3,524,338	\$3,455,522
	<hr/> \$14,304,794	<hr/> \$13,054,445
 Liabilities:		
Current Liabilities	<hr/> \$1,488,354	<hr/> \$1,673,652
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted - Endowment Trust Fund	\$6,242,283	\$5,670,772
Unrestricted - Undesignated	\$4,629,402	\$4,435,021
Temporarily restricted	\$1,169,755	\$500,000
Permanently restricted	\$775,000	\$775,000
Total Net Assets	<hr/> \$12,816,440	<hr/> \$11,380,793
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,304,794	\$13,054,445

