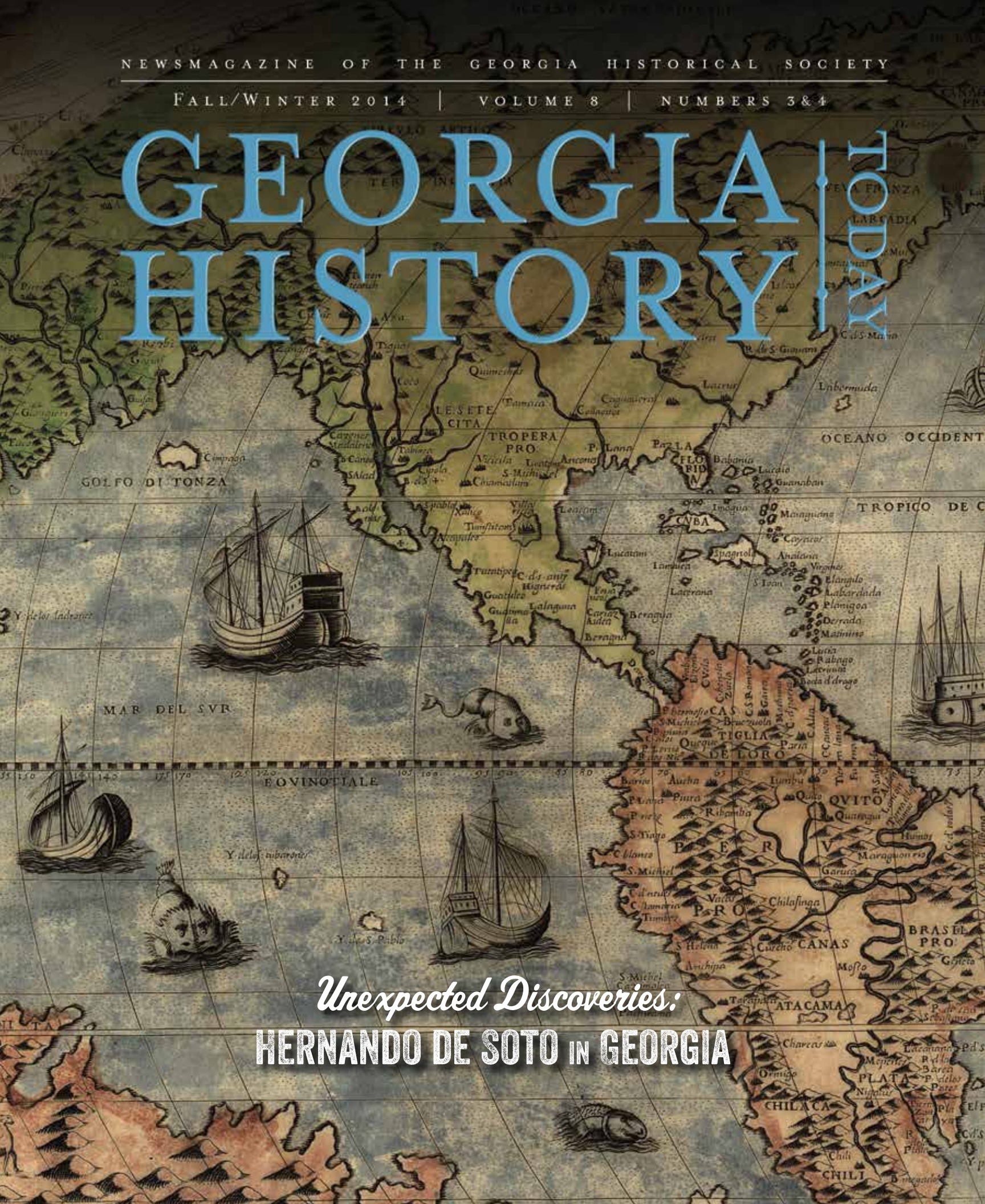


GEORGIA HISTORY JOURNAL



Unexpected Discoveries:
HERNANDO DE SOTO IN GEORGIA



ON THE COVER

Landing of De Soto in Florida / Warren. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-3031.



Landing of De Soto in Florida / Warren. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-3031.

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HAPPENINGS

GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATIONS

March to the Sea
November 12, 2014
Atlanta, GA

Colored Library Association of Savannah
November 13, 2014
Savannah, GA

March to the Sea
December 11, 2014
Savannah, GA

C.S.S. Georgia: The Ladies Gunboat
December 12, 2014
Savannah, GA

Vienna High and Industrial School: A Georgia Equalization School
April 9, 2015
Vienna, GA

Sumter County Movement
April 11, 2015
Americus, GA

HOLIDAY RESEARCH ACCESS

The GHS Research Center will be closed November 27-28, 2014; December 24-December 26, 2014; December 31, 2014 - January 2, 2015.
The Research Center will reopen on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at noon.

2015 GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL

February, 2015

Visit www.georgiahistory.com for more details.

176th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & GARDEN PARTY

May 28, 2015

More details to come.



Follow the Georgia Historical Society on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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

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The Right Leaders for the Job

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

There's an old saying that an organization is only as good as the people who lead it. That's why the Georgia Historical Society has been so successful. Over the last twenty years we have been blessed with amazing board leadership—the right people at the right time to get the job done.

In the fall of 1994 when I was hired with the original title of executive director, GHS was led by Howard Morrison, who served

as president until 1995. Through his charisma and vision, Howard convinced the Board of Curators that GHS could rise above its then-current status as a sleepy Savannah institution and become truly statewide in mission, scope, and presence. The enthusiasm he generated set the stage for the incredible growth of the past two decades.

A significant aspect of that growth, one that laid the path to the future, was regaining management over the most important elements of the Society's mission—the Research Center (then known as the Library and Archives). As president, Lisa White (1995-1999) and Laurie Abbot (2001-2002) possessed the courage, resolve, and knowledge of state government that it took to

privatize the library and then add the Historical Marker Program to the list of services GHS performs for the people of Georgia.

Kay Hightower (1999-2001), Gracie Phillips (2002-2004), and Robert Brown (2012-2014) opened Atlanta's doors, diversified our membership and donor base, won new friends for GHS, and helped forge relationships that would become crucial to our future, including those with organizations like Georgia Public Broadcasting and individuals like Herman Russell, Tom Cousins, and Andrew Young.

As the first chairman of the board, a new position created with the bylaws revision of 2006, Don Kole (2006-2008) rallied the board around the need for additional administrative and programmatic office space that would allow significant growth and expansion as GHS continued its statewide outreach. Bill Jones III (2008-2012) then revolutionized the board by bringing in extraordinary new leaders with powerful connections and influence, making possible a successful \$7 million capacity building campaign that has taken GHS to the next level.

Once again GHS has the right person at the right time for the job ahead. Bob Jepson, as a highly successful entrepreneur and experienced fundraiser, brings the right combination of skills, experience, and influence to the position of chairman. He has already been a transformational figure in the history of GHS. The Jepson House Education Center, of which he and his wife Alice are the principal benefactors, is the first expansion of our campus in forty years. The Jepson House exemplifies the broad vision and unbounded generosity that make Bob an ideal board chairman as we charge forward with new programs like our Business History Initiative and a \$12 million endowment campaign. Victory follows wherever he puts his time and effort, and we are fortunate indeed to have his guidance and involvement.

The men and women who have served as president and chairman of GHS over the past twenty years are among the finest our state has to offer, and they have taught me a great deal about the importance of community service and the power of effective leadership. GHS is now a national leader in the field of public history because of them. We are immensely grateful for all they have done and continue to do.

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



Members of the GHS Board of Curators at the 175th Annual Meeting. Front row (L-R): John Helmken II, Kay T. Hightower, W. Todd Groce, Robert L. Brown, Jr., Robert S. Jepson, Jr., Ellen B. Bolch, W. Paul Bowers. Second row (L-R): Vincent J. Dooley, Bill Jones III, Dolly Chisholm, Howard J. Morrison, Jr., Reed Dulany III, Thomas D. Hills. Third row (L-R): Clayton Boardman III, John F. McMullan, Phil Jacobs.



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Unexpected Discoveries:
HERNANDO DE SOTO IN GEORGIA

By Sophia Sineath

during his conquest of Peru in 1531. After earning great wealth from trading slaves and amassing spoils of conquest, de Soto set out to lead his own *entrada* in La Florida (now the southeastern United States).

Known best as the first Europeans to reach and cross the Mississippi River, de Soto and his men were also the first Europeans to explore the interior of what is now Georgia. Landing in Tampa Bay in May 1539, de Soto's *entrada* covered approximately 4,000 miles throughout the southeastern United States, first entering present-day Georgia in March 1540.

De Soto's conquering army engaged in frequent violent encounters with native populations during their expedition, resulting in high casualty counts among both the natives and among de Soto's men. But it was a fever that ultimately led to de Soto's death in May 1542. Under the leadership of his successor, Luis de Moscoso, what remained of the original *entrada* floated on rafts down the Mississippi River and reached Mexico in 1543.

Tracing Hernando de Soto's Route

The story of Hernando de Soto's failed conquest of what is now the southeastern United States has fascinated students of history for many years. The clues left by de Soto and his men reveal little in the way of detail and specifics. Four accounts written by or based on interviews of surviving members of the expedition make up the main documentary evidence available to researchers. These accounts, however, do not paint the whole picture as Blanton explains: "We have inherited an interesting trove of records relating to de Soto that are painfully sparse when it comes to detail. Our only recourse is archaeology."

Indeed, tracing de Soto's route is a puzzle requiring minds from multiple disciplines to solve: historians, archaeologists, linguists, sociologists, and even literary critics. In 1935, Congress authorized a comprehensive study of de Soto's route through the American southeast. Led by anthropologist John Swanton, the United States De Soto Expedition Commission used the narratives, modern maps, and existing archeological evidence to trace the route. The commission's map, published in 1939 during the 400th anniversary commemoration of the expedition, remained largely unchanged until the late 1970s when University of Georgia anthropologist Charles Hudson took up work on the route in earnest.

Journeys often end in unexpected ways and lead to unexpected discoveries. When conquistador Hernando de Soto landed on the coast of Florida in 1539, he expected to find gold and glory awaiting him in the unexplored North American interior; instead, he found a watery grave. Archeologist Dr. Dennis Blanton set out on his own journey of exploration in Telfair County, Georgia, in 2006, expecting to find the elusive Spanish mission Santa Isabel de Utinahica. Instead, he found evidence of Hernando de Soto's expedition in a place no one expected he should. There is still much to be discovered about the first Europeans to explore Georgia's interior and the expedition's long-lasting impact on our state 475 years after Hernando de Soto and his men entered what is now Georgia.

Why continue to study Hernando de Soto's North American expedition 475 years later? Blanton argues that if scholars agree that the era of Spanish exploration is critical to understanding everything that followed, then "the story is worth getting right." Recognizing that we may never get de Soto's route exactly right, thoughtful study of new archeological discoveries and reconsideration of available documentary evidence can help us to build a clearer picture of the so-called "forgotten" centuries of Georgia history.

Hernando de Soto and the North American Expedition

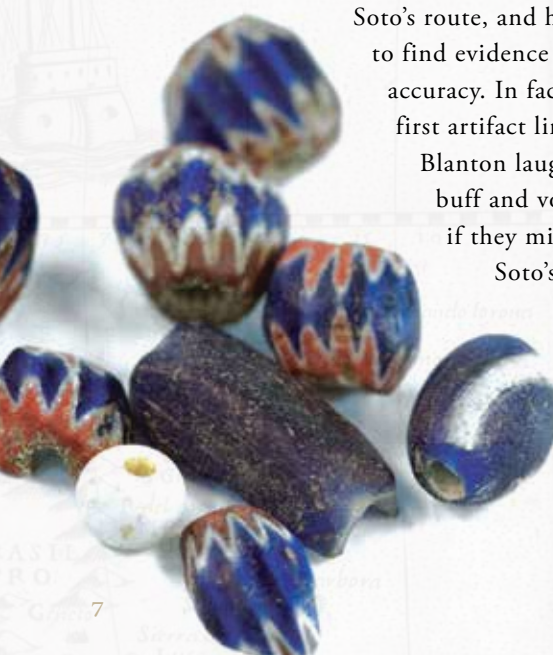
Hernando de Soto was born c. 1496/97 in Extramadura, Spain. As a young man, de Soto got his earliest experiences as a conquistador in the West Indies with Pedro Arias Dávila in 1514 and then as chief lieutenant to Francisco Pizarro

Hudson, along with graduate assistants Marvin Smith and Chester DePratter, took a fresh look at the narratives and took advantage of recent archaeological data on Native American sites to publish a new reconstruction of the de Soto route. In 1984, the trio published “The Hernando de Soto Expedition: From Apalachee to Chiaha” in *Southeastern Archaeology*. The article outlined their argument for a new methodology of research on de Soto and refined de Soto’s path between Tallahassee and Tennessee. Public acceptance of the route was not easily won, as many communities included in the 1939 route were unhappy to lose their connection to the mythical de Soto expedition. For example, Hudson’s route bypassed DeSoto Falls in Lumpkin County where local legend tells that a 16th-century plate of armor was discovered intact at the base of the falls in the 1880s.

An Unexpected Discovery in Telfair County

When he arrived as Curator of Archaeology at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Dennis Blanton was asked to start a field archaeology program. Growing up in southeast Georgia, Blanton had always heard stories about Spanish mission sites, and the new field archaeology program provided an opportunity to find the location of the lost mysterious Santa Isabel de Utinahica. After narrowing down the location to several possibilities with input from local informants like Frankie Snow at South Georgia State College, Blanton and his team made an initial visit to the Glass Site, a known prehistoric Native American community near the Ocmulgee River in Telfair County.

As Blanton set out to Telfair County, he had no reason to doubt his mentor Charles Hudson’s assessment of de Soto’s route, and he certainly had no plans to find evidence questioning the route’s accuracy. In fact, just days before the first artifact link to de Soto was found, Blanton laughed when a local history buff and volunteer at the site asked if they might find evidence of de Soto’s expedition. He gave a full explanation why that would be impossible. After all, the Glass Site is ninety miles southeast of where Hudson believed de Soto and his men journeyed.



A few days later, Blanton would eat his words: “A high school student called me over to her sifter screen, her hand all balled up, and asked ‘is this anything?’ In the palm of her hand was an exquisite glass bead.” This small glass bead was a shocking find because it was too old for a Spanish mission site but just right to be a trade item used by de Soto and members of his expedition.

That glass bead was just the start. Glass beads, iron tools, and other items found at the site now make up the largest archaeologically-recovered collection of pre-1550 artifacts from the interior Southeast. The collection is currently on display for visitors at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Blanton explains where he believes the weight of evidence is pointing: “Every single time we go to the Glass Site we find more and more evidence of early 16th-century exploration. I have to believe they are a result of a direct encounter between Native Americans and the de Soto party”

Specifically, Blanton suggests the Glass Site is the Ichisi village visited by the de Soto expedition between March 30 and April 2, 1540, as described in the accounts. While many are comfortable with Blanton’s conclusions based on the archaeological evidence of the Glass Site, not everyone agrees. Blanton explains, “I will never be able to say with 100 percent confidence that what we are finding at the Glass Site was brought there by de Soto and neither will anyone else ... Until I find the monogrammed cufflinks, the best I will be able to do is make well-reasoned judgments about the evidence at hand.”

Continued Discovery

Work continues on the Glass Site eight years after the first glass bead was discovered. Blanton hoped to bring some conclusion to the project this year, but another unexpected discovery got in the way. In another section of the site, Blanton discovered a completely different type of bead indicative of later 16th-century French contact. Based on this find it is possible that more than one episode of contact between Native Americans and the first Europeans in North America occurred at the Glass Site.

In addition to tracking down the new lead on French contact, Blanton is working with a colleague to do a chemical analysis of beads from the Glass Site using laser technology. They will be able to compare the chemical fingerprint of the beads to beads from Venice, Italy, where historians believe the Spanish acquired them. This high-tech sleuthing will allow archeologists to compare beads found at other supposed de Soto sites in North America to determine if they share the same source.

The process of discovery is long and arduous for both conquistadors and archeologists. Although Blanton feels confident he has found traces of de Soto in Telfair County, he has come to prepare for the unexpected. “If we go back and recover evidence that suggests de Soto wasn’t at the Glass Site, we will revise the story. The worst mistake a scholar could make is to become too attached to one explanation and not be willing to reconsider.”

In observance of the 475th anniversary of Hernando de Soto’s journeys in Georgia, GHS has selected de Soto and the impact of Spanish exploration in Georgia as the focus of study for the 2015 *Georgia History Festival* (GHF). Throughout the *Festival*, GHS will invite Georgians of all ages to discover this fascinating chapter of our state’s past through the development of educational events and classroom resources. Dr. Dennis Blanton will give the *Georgia History Festival* Keynote Address in Savannah on February 5, 2015. See the back cover of this edition for a schedule of *Georgia History Festival* events and visit the Georgia Historical Society website www.georgiahistory.com.

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

*Left: 16th Century Glass Beads. Photo courtesy of Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta ([fernbankmuseum.org](http://fernbankmuseum.org)). Photo by Dan Schultz.*

*Right top: Excavation of Indian Pottery on House Floor. Photo courtesy of Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta ([fernbankmuseum.org](http://fernbankmuseum.org)). Photo by Dennis Blanton.*

*Right middle: Excavation of Iron Axe Blade. Photo courtesy of Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta ([fernbankmuseum.org](http://fernbankmuseum.org)). Photo by Dennis Blanton.*

*Right bottom: Brass “Clarksdale” Bell. Photo courtesy of Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta ([fernbankmuseum.org](http://fernbankmuseum.org)). Photo by Dennis Blanton.*





INSIDE GHS

# Historical Markers: Discovering New Ways of Thinking about an Old Resource

By Christy Crisp

Admittedly, for many people, roadside historical markers are considered old-fashioned antiquated metal relics out of step with a digital age. However, as the managers of the Georgia Historical Marker Program, GHS sees the potential for using markers to tell the stories of Georgia's past in ways that textbooks, pamphlets, lectures, and even film cannot and, today, doing so with the help of digital technology.

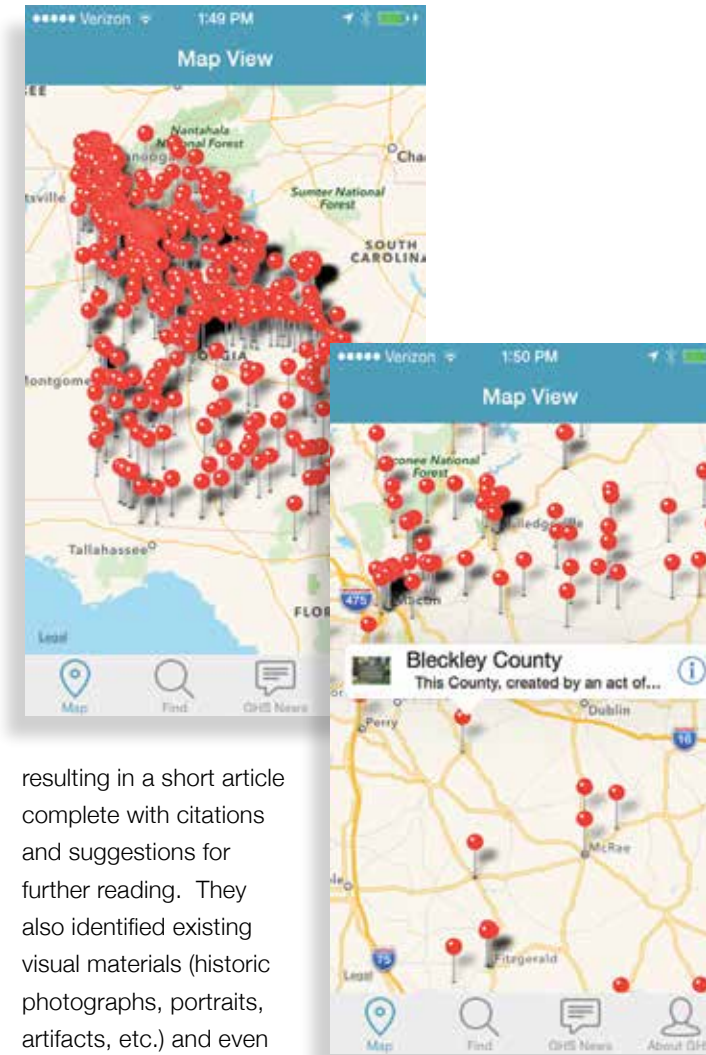
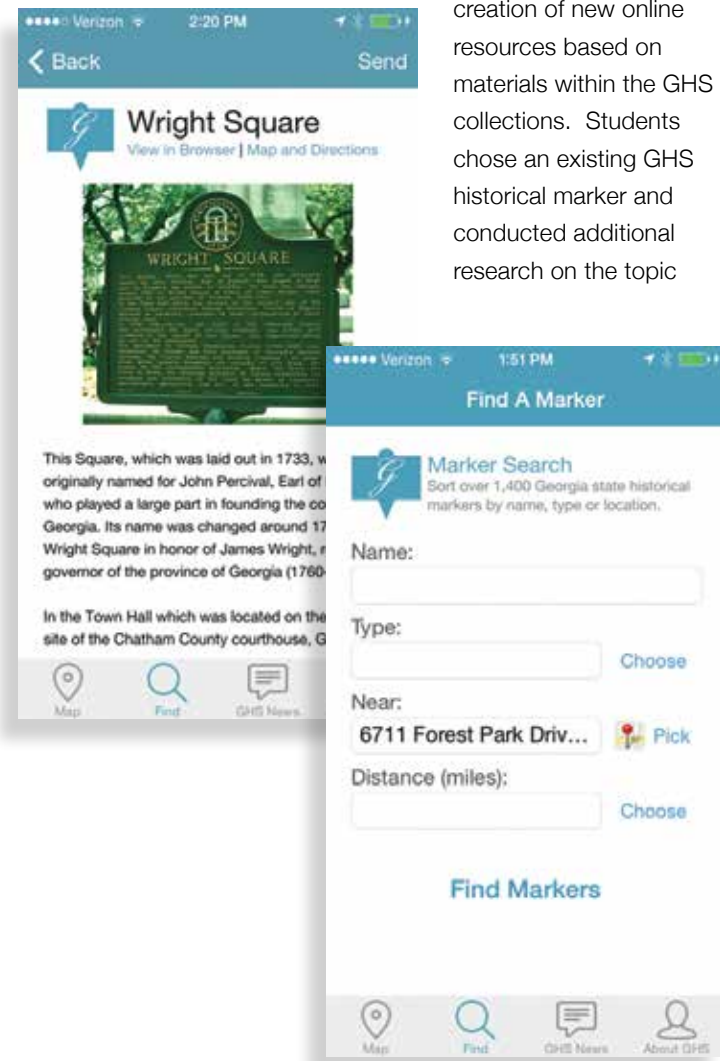
While markers are often associated with more traditional history, such as a military engagement or the birthplace of a famous Georgian, historical markers provide opportunities to explore non-traditional topics in a way that is accessible and understandable to residents and visitors alike. By letting you experience the places where history happened, historical markers encourage you to stand, very literally, on new ground and consider how the events of the past shaped the world in which we live.

Markers use the power of place to help readers make these connections. Standing on the lonely stretch of Madison County highway where Lt. Col. Lemuel Penn was shot by Klansmen in 1964 provides an understanding of that event that you cannot get from a book. Or consider the insight that a marker about the first Waffle House, opened in 1955, provides into the development

of the post-World War II automobile culture and the growth of the interstate highway system. It's not just the perfect place for midnight hash browns, but a glimpse into the making of modern America.

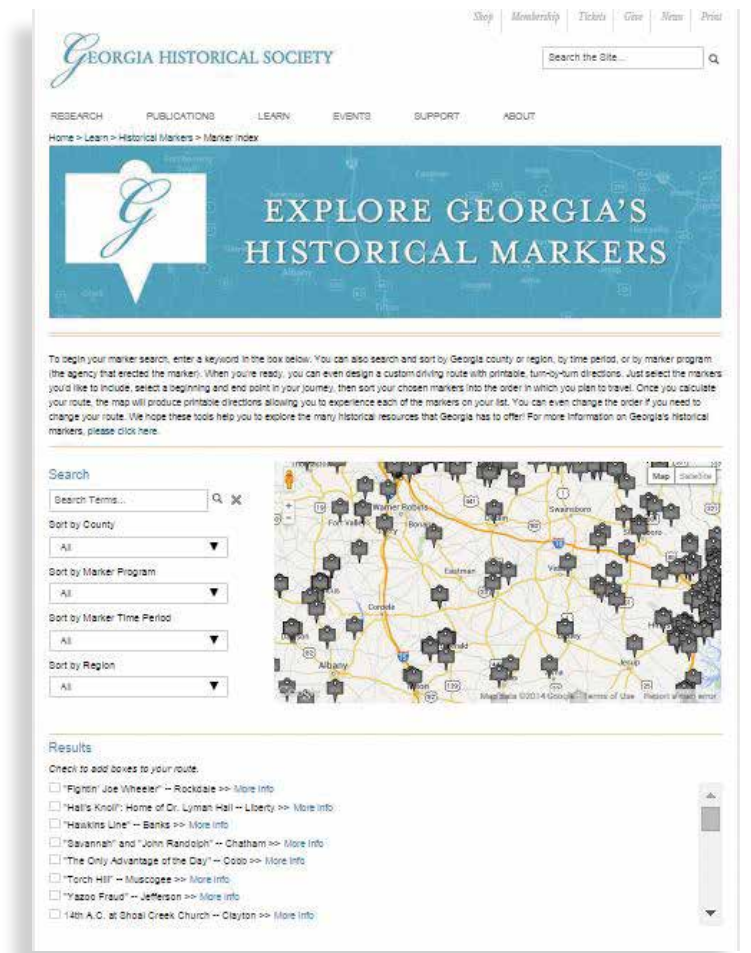
Since taking over administration of the marker program, we have expanded the story of Georgia history as told through historical markers by erecting new markers on topics like business history, Civil War life on the home front, race relations, and popular culture. Of course even new stories told through traditional historical markers have limitations – specifically, space. No matter how well-crafted the text, there is only so much to be done with 130 words. Fortunately, technology provides the means to expand these stories through both text and imagery.

A recent project with art history students from the Savannah College of Art and Design under the direction of Professor Holly Goldstein led to the creation of new online resources based on materials within the GHS collections. Students chose an existing GHS historical marker and conducted additional research on the topic



resulting in a short article complete with citations and suggestions for further reading. They also identified existing visual materials (historic photographs, portraits, artifacts, etc.) and even created their own original works inspired by the markers. The results of this project are now being added to the GHS website with hopes of more to come.

This project was designed with the dual goal of introducing the students to historical research and encouraging them to explore the history of their community. In fact, historical markers are a great way to learn more about a community – whether it's a place you have lived all of your life or just a spot where you stopped for gas. Markers are vehicles for economic development, encouraging the exploration of Georgia history and the communities in which that history occurred. Thanks to support from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, markers are the basis for user-generated driving tours across our state. By visiting the updated GHS website, travelers can search not only for Georgia markers on a variety of topics, but they can also design a custom route to visit those markers with printable turn-by-turn directions. There is also an "app for that." The GHS marker app allows you to explore the historical markers near your location, or near a location you plan to visit.



As projects like these continue, our ability to use markers as the basis for the development of educational and tourism resources is nearly limitless. Engaging students and professionals outside the field of history also helps us to see the value (and the possibilities) in discovering new ways to use the extensive historical resource of Georgia's roadside markers. While the markers themselves will continue to allow us to explore the rich and diverse history of our state, we will continue to use technology to expand those stories – old and new – and encourage Georgians young and old to ask new questions about the places that they encounter every day.

*Christy Crisp is Director of Programs at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at ccrisp@georgiahistory.com.*

# Georgia GEMS

## H.N. Torrey LANTERN SLIDES

by  
Lindsay Sheldon



*Photo Credit: Katharine Rapkin, Archivist, processing lantern slides from the Ossabaw Island and Torrey Family Papers, MS 1326. Photo by Lindsay Sheldon.*

## WORLD WAR I WAS A GLOBAL CATAclysm THAT RE-SHAPED THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND COST 37 MILLION CASUALTIES.

**T**his year marks the centennial of that conflict, and the Georgia Historical Society recently received a remarkable donation that sheds new light on the role that Georgians played in the war. The exciting new donation is a set of lantern slides with images captured by H.N. Torrey while serving as a medic during the First World War. The slides are now a part of the Ossabaw Island and Torrey Family Papers, MS 1326.

Lantern slides were created in 1849, just ten years after the invention of photography. Lantern slide shows were popular into the 20th century. Presenters traveled the country with sets of slides, introducing audiences to exotic sites in faraway cities or the wonders on show at the Columbian Exhibition—places and things the average American would never see in person.

Lantern slides consist of a positive image on a sheet of glass with another thin sheet of glass placed on top; the edges are sealed with black tape. Images were created either in camera or, as photographic processes evolved, made by contact printing a negative onto glass. People often hand colored the images. With audiences able to view beautiful full color images of locations and scenes from around the world projected onto a large screen, it is easy to see why they are often called “magic” lantern slides.

GHS will ensure that the Torrey family lantern slides are preserved and the images made accessible to researchers. To do this we first examine the condition of the slide. With any photographic image on glass there is always

the possibility of breakage. If a set had a sturdy box with individual slots for the slides, then there are usually only a few preservation issues. Although the original boxes have kept them safe, the materials used to construct them are acidic and harmful. Any information the boxes contained are recorded before they are discarded.

Once we have determined if any additional conservation steps are needed, we record all the information about the slide and see if a corresponding print has already been made. GHS is fortunate that the Torrey family previously donated prints made from the glass slides. If a print is not available a digital scan of the slide will be made. This allows patrons to view the digital surrogates so wear and tear of the slide is kept to a minimum. All information gathered during the preservation process, along with a GHS identification number, is written on an archival enclosure and the slide is placed into a cushioned box.

GHS is committed to sharing the wonderful images captured in these lantern slides—and the insight they give us into one of the most tragic conflicts in history—while keeping these fragile objects safe and secure for generations to come.

*Lindsay Sheldon is Archives Assistant at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [lsheldon@georgiahistory.com](mailto:lsheldon@georgiahistory.com).*



*The Georgia Historical Society recently received a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Documenting Democracy grant to support digitization of 1,600 archival collection finding aids and creation of a searchable online database to be hosted by the Digital Library of Georgia.*

THE *////////////////////*  
**2015**  
**Georgia**  
**Trustees**

In 1732, King George II of England created The Georgia Trustees. Their motto, *Non Sibi, Sed Aliis*, "Not for Self but for Others," would become the clarion call that drove them to create England's final settlement in the New World. The original trustees were men of vision who did not just dream of a place called Georgia but worked together, under the direction of General James Oglethorpe, to make it a reality.

On February 14, 2015, two modern-day women of vision will be added to the roll and become the latest to bear the title Georgia Trustee: Alana Smith Shepherd and Paula S. Wallace.

PROFILES Georgia Trustee **Alana Shepherd** | By Patricia Meagher



.S. Lewis once said, "Hardship often prepares an ordinary person for an extraordinary destiny." Truer words could not be found to describe Alana

Shepherd and what she and her family have accomplished by founding Shepherd Center in Atlanta, a world-renowned rehabilitation hospital for people with acute spinal cord injury or brain injury.

The turning point in her life came in 1973 when her then-22-year-old son, James Shepherd, was taking a backpacking trip around the world after graduating from the University of Georgia. While body surfing off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, James sustained a paralyzing spinal cord injury that would alter the trajectory of his entire family and set in motion the events that led his family, championed by his mother, to establish and open Shepherd Center in 1975.

Nearly 40 years later, Shepherd Center's aggressive brand of rehabilitation attracts people from across the nation. It has grown to a 152-bed facility and is ranked among the top ten rehabilitation hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. At its core stands Alana Shepherd, the wife, mother, and volunteer who helped turn her family's experience into an extraordinary destiny that has impacted the lives of thousands of people with a catastrophic spine or brain injury, as well as MS and chronic pain and who the Georgia Historical Society and the Governor will induct in 2015 as a Georgia Trustee.

Alana's early life was just as interesting. Her father, a veterinarian, moved the family from Sioux City, Iowa to Georgia in the 1930s when she was thirteen. Active in Girl Scouts and sports, including the long jump and high jump, Alana lived in Atlanta with her family until she left to attend Stephens College in Missouri. Still very much an athlete, Alana played golf and tennis, and it was not uncommon for her to get in a quick nine holes before her first class each morning.

Following college, Alana married Harold Shepherd and the two soon moved to North Carolina where her dedication to volunteerism began as a Brownie and Girl Scout troop leader and a volunteer in her children's schools. It was valuable

training that served her well when she helped galvanize the Atlanta community—including a young physician named Dr. David Apple—to help finance, build, and staff a state of the art rehabilitation hospital in her adopted home of Atlanta, Georgia.

She speaks of the hospital as a family affair. "In the early years we did everything but the medicine, and we left that to Dr. Apple," says Alana. "I bought the stamps for fundraising letters that we sent mostly to our contacts and friends to raise the seed money for the hospital." Today the family is still involved, and Alana remains at the forefront of fundraising efforts to which she laughingly remarks, "I think I've gotten quite good at it." And indeed she has.

Alana will tell you that the best thing about Shepherd Center is "The Hope" that it gives people who have sustained a catastrophic injury. "We give them their lives back," she says with great conviction. "When someone suffers a catastrophic injury they think, and their families think, that their life is over. But depending on their level of injury, people who use wheelchairs or have a brain injury can still do many things, albeit in a different way than they used to do. Our goal is to see each patient return to a meaningful life and be part of their community. It is one of the most fulfilling things for everyone who works at Shepherd Center."

Alana and son James—who serves as Chairman of the Board—try to personally meet every patient and family that comes to Shepherd Center. "It's important to us," she says. "They want to talk to somebody who has been through what they're going through and know that there's hope. I tell them there will be ups and downs; it's like walking into the surf; the waves knock you down and you get back up and keep going. If you keep getting up you will get where you are going but it takes time."

Alana Shepherd believes that the hospital will stand as her legacy. "People are going to have accidents and illnesses and need care."

But when it comes to Alana Shepherd the woman, she hopes people will remember that she didn't look back but only ahead and in the end she says, "I was pleased with what I was able to do and be part of."

*Patricia Meagher is Communications Director at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at [pmeagher@georgiahistory.com](mailto:pmeagher@georgiahistory.com)*





# M

oving from student to student, Paula Wallace warmly greets incoming freshmen as they find their way to new residence halls and begin university life. Wallace assures anxious parents and presents a small welcoming gift to each student she meets. This student-centered focus is how Wallace founded the Savannah College of Art and Design and grew SCAD into the finest in the land . . . one student at a time.

An Atlanta native, Wallace earned her B.A. degree from Furman University, as well as M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees from Georgia State University. She began her career as an elementary school teacher in her hometown, writing new curricula that incorporated layered learning and emphasized individualized student attention. Based on her research and experience, Wallace recognized a pivotal need in higher education for the creation of a university modeled on student success and on professionalism, a university for creative careers.

With its distinctive architecture and abundant verdant squares, Savannah in 1978 was an idyllic though underdeveloped environment for students of art and design. Wallace and her family contributed the funds and scraped, painted, and restored the unloved 1892 Savannah Volunteer Guards Armory, transforming it into the flagship building for SCAD. Along the way, she created the university curriculum, exhibited art, delivered public lectures, interviewed and hired faculty, and in 1979, admitted the university's initial 71 students—the first cohort of SCAD's current network of 40,000 students and alumni worldwide.

As a designer, educator, and entrepreneur, Wallace possesses an innate ability to identify potential—in a person, in a building, in an idea—and envision its positive future. She is devoted to creating ever-improving educational environments that engage, inspire, and guide students to their goals. Over the past 35 years, Wallace and her husband Glenn have preserved and revitalized more than 100 historic structures across three continents: a 19th-century synagogue, an abandoned turn-of-the-century hospital, an antebellum railroad depot, the midcentury Hong Kong Magistracy building, and medieval

structures in Lacoste, France. Beyond structurally reviving each building, Wallace curates functional and delightful interiors with memorable art and decorative elements that immerse students in creative spaces—spaces that model good design and professionalism and that evoke teaching and learning.

Wallace's commitment to her students extends beyond the classroom experience. She has envisioned and created the publicly inclusive opportunities of SCADstyle, deFINE ART, aTVfest, and Savannah Film Festival to celebrate performing and visual arts, architecture, and design—opportunities that pair students with design icons Diane von Furstenberg, Tom Ford, and Marc Jacobs, or film legends Lee Daniels, Michael Douglas and Liam Neeson. She has pioneered industry sponsored collaborative projects for students to work alongside creative executives at Coca-Cola, Microsoft, NASA, and others.

For her service as an educator, historic preservationist, author, designer and creator, Wallace has been recognized by numerous organizations. She was appointed a member of England's Royal Society of the Arts and was the recipient of the Elle Décor Vision Award, the W.W. Law Legacy Award, and the French *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques*. Under her leadership, SCAD has received awards for architecture, design, and sustainability from the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and UNESCO. Wallace has authored several interior design and children's books including *Perfect Porches* and *Remember This*.

Wallace divides her time among SCAD's locations in Savannah, Atlanta, Lacoste, France, and Hong Kong, ensuring that students are receiving the best education, in the best facilities, with the best faculty. Whether she is working in classrooms, introducing professional leaders to SCAD, or corresponding with alumni and parents, Wallace takes time to listen, to share advice, and to help . . . one student at a time.

*Elizabeth Kaiser, Writer, SCAD.*

STATE OF HISTORY

# Thomas County Historical Society, Inc.

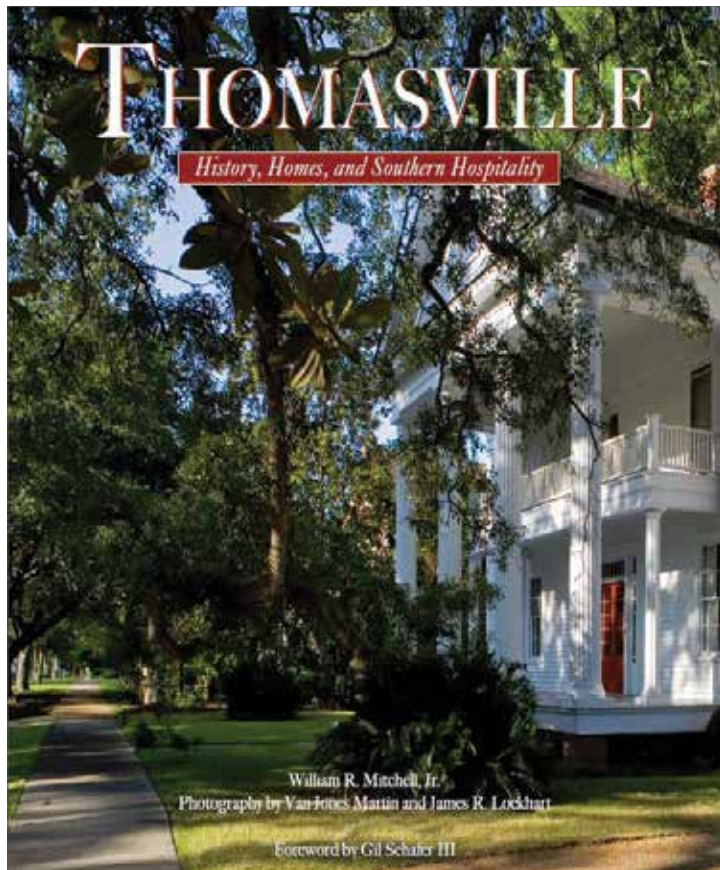
By Ann R. Harrison



The Thomas County Historical Society was founded in 1952 for the purpose of producing a written history of Thomas County. This diverse history includes settlement in the 1820s by planters in search of new land, New England entrepreneurs, European immigrants and yeoman farmers; a population that sent more than 1,600 men to fight in the Civil War and a decade later built a luxury hotel to attract affluent Northerners; international renown as a Victorian resort; the transformation of antebellum cotton plantations into magnificent quail-hunting preserves; and great 20th century business successes.

To tell these stories, the Historical Society has published four scholarly volumes tracing the county's history from 1825 to 1920, a pictorial history, a coloring book history, and collected interviews with WWII veterans. In October 2014 the Historical Society unveiled its most recent publication, in collaboration with Thomasville Landmarks, *Thomasville: History, Homes and Southern Hospitality*, which celebrates this community's fascinating history and rich architectural heritage. Written by William R. Mitchell, Jr., the book features more than 250 contemporary color photographs by award-winning photographers Van Jones Martin and James R. Lockhart and nearly one hundred archival images.

To further its mission of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of Thomas County, the Historical Society opened the Thomas County Museum of History in 1972 in the former Flowers-Roberts residence. The museum complex has grown to include eight historic structures on an expansive site in the heart of the Dawson Street Historic District. In 2010 the Historical Society assumed the conservation and management of the nearby 1885 Lapham-Patterson House after budget cuts led to the closing of this National Historic Landmark by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Through the Historical Society's partnership with DNR and the Williams Family Foundation



of Georgia, and community support, the Lapham-Patterson House is open for weekend tours and as a unique venue for special events.

Visit the Thomas County Museum of History in June and you may find lively campers playing the Native American game of stickball on the grounds, cooking biscuits on the hearth in an 1870 log house, launching hot air balloons at the 1885 Lapham-Patterson House, or rolling duckpin balls in the 1896 bowling alley. The *Time Travelers* history camp, now in its 17th year, is only one of many ways the Historical Society connects the past, present and future of Thomas County.

The Historical Society engages local students through classroom presentations, a travel trunk program, support of National History Day participants, and free tours of the Museum and the Lapham-Patterson House. It encourages families to *Make History at the Museum!* with Saturday activities, provides research assistance and programs of historical interest, and shares images from its vast collections with more than 3,000 followers on *Facebook* and *Twitter*. For additional information on the Thomas County Museum of History or the Lapham-Patterson House, visit our website at [www.thomascountyhistory.org](http://www.thomascountyhistory.org)

**The Thomas County Historical Society is one of the early members of the Georgia Historical Society's Affiliate Chapter program and received the 2007 Affiliate of the Year Award. 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.**



Ann R. Harrison is Executive Director at the Thomas County Historical Society. She can be reached at [history@rose.net](mailto:history@rose.net).

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Thomasville book cover, Courtesy of Thomas County Historical Society  
Patterson House, Photo by Van Jones Martin

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## MILESTONES

### Research Center Renovations

The GHS Research Center was closed to the public several weeks this summer while we completed some necessary maintenance tasks. Included in this was the replacement of the Hodgson Hall Reading Room carpet, now over 25 years old. The installation of new carpet not only beautifies Hodgson Hall, but it also increases the safety and comfort of our patrons and staff.

We would like to thank all of the donors who made this renovation possible; the new carpet was supported by generous gifts from: Mrs. Ann Carter B. Boardman, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Hightower, Ms. Ann Lytle, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Roberts, Dr. Lloyd B. Schnuck, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tisch. Special thanks to Interface for their work and support and for making it possible for us to reopen on time! We chose Interface, a Georgia business, for this project because of its commitment to providing environmentally friendly and sustainable products.

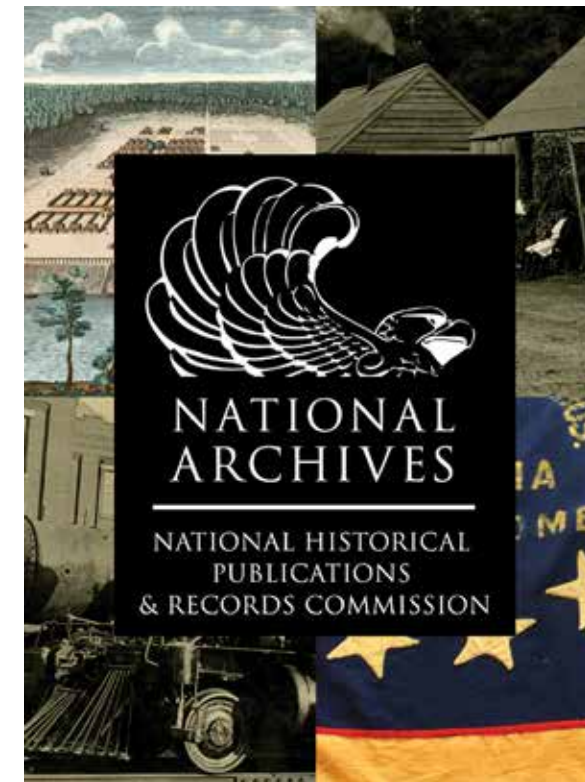


### GHS Increases Accessibility to Archival Collections

The Georgia Historical Society has recently completed a two-year National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant to digitize archival collection finding aids in Encoded Archival Description (EAD), link digital items to corresponding finding aid inventories, and create a searchable database of finding aids hosted by the Digital Library of Georgia.

Archival collection finding aids are documents that provide detailed information about the contents of individual collections which in turn allow researchers better access to, and understanding of the materials. At the start of the project, most of GHS's finding aids were only available in paper format, in our Research Center. Now over 2,300 collection finding aids are available online to researchers from anywhere through our website. The digitized finding aids are also linked to relevant articles in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* and on the *Today in Georgia History*\* website.

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





The Georgia Historical Society would like to thank our current 2015 Georgia History Festival sponsors. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Georgia Historical Society at 912.651.2125, ext. 116.



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## 2015 GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL

### KICKOFF AT THE CAPITOL

Monday, February 2, 2015, 11:00 a.m.  
Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta  
Sponsored by Delta. Free and open to the public.

### GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Hernando de Soto's Legacy in Georgia, From Capachequi to Coosa"  
Dr. Dennis Blanton, James Madison University  
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 6:30 p.m.  
Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah  
Sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company. Free and open to the public.

### COLONIAL FAIRE AND MUSTER

Saturday and Sunday, February 7-8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah  
Sponsored by Gulfstream. Free and open to the public.

### SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8, 2015, Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Multiple sites throughout Georgia  
Sponsored by Synovus & Savannah Morning News. Free and open to the public.

### SHUMAN CUP CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Thursday, February 12, 2015, 9:30 a.m.  
Shuman Elementary School, Savannah  
Call Shuman Elementary School at 912.395.4500 for more information  
Sponsored by AT&T and Great Dane. Free and open to the public.

### TRUSTEES GALA

Honoring Alana Shepherd and Paula Wallace  
Saturday, February 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Hyatt Regency, Savannah  
VIP Reception sponsored by South State Bank. Reservations required.

### GEORGIA DAY PARADE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, beginning at 10:30 a.m.  
Along Bull Street from Forsyth Park to City Hall, Savannah  
Sponsored by Georgia Power. Free and open to the public.



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†Contact GHS for Benefits

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Your corporation or business may participate in a cultural matching gifts program. Contact your personnel department for details.

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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