## Ensuring a future for Georgia’s past...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Funds and Organizations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,000,000+</td>
<td>The Georgia Historical Society General Endowment Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000,000+</td>
<td>Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Fund</td>
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<td>General John Floyd Fund</td>
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<td>$500,000+</td>
<td>Lougenia and William Gabard Fund</td>
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<td>Watson-Brown Foundation Fund</td>
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<td>Vinson-Mitchell Fund</td>
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<td>$100,000+</td>
<td>May P. and Francis L. Abreu Fund</td>
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<td>Ray C. Anderson Collection Fund</td>
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<td>Barbara and Jack Cay Fund</td>
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<td>Robert Houston Deméré Fund</td>
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<td>A.W. Jones, Jr. Fund</td>
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<td>Ben J. Tarbutton Fund</td>
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<td>Marguerite Neel Williams Fund</td>
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<td>Albert H. Stoddard Fund</td>
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<td>$25,000+</td>
<td>Laurie K. Abbott Fund</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Adler II Fund</td>
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<td>Don and Cindy Waters Fund</td>
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<td>Frances Wood Wilson Fund</td>
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*Legacy Society denoted in Italics*
Laurie K. Abbott Fund

Laurie Kimball Abbott was born on August 26, 1928, in Hamlet, North Carolina. He moved with his family to Savannah in 1936. Laurie graduated from Savannah High School in 1946, from Armstrong Junior College in 1948, and from the University of Georgia Law School in 1951.


He began his legal career as a sole practitioner before joining the firm of Stephens and Gignilliat in 1954. It later became Stephens, Gignilliat, and Abbott; then Abbott, Talley, and Abbott; and finally Abbott and Abbott.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Abbott served in a variety of civic and statewide leadership positions, including the Savannah-Chatham County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. He co-founded the Georgia Southern Area Planning and Development Commission.

His service as chairman of the Ocean Science Center of the Atlantic Commission was instrumental in the creation of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and the Georgia Marine Extension Program (both units of the University System of Georgia), and the creation of a center of continuing education in Savannah jointly operated by Armstrong State University and Savannah State University. Mr. Abbott co-chaired the Bridge for Progress Committee that sponsored and passed the Chatham County referendum to build a bridge to Skidaway Island. He founded the Skidaway Marine Science Foundation, and, with Dr. J.W. Fanning, co-founded the Georgia Marine Science Extension Programs in Savannah and Brunswick.

Mr. Abbott also served 29 years, from 1977 until his death, as a board member of the State Property Commission of Georgia, serving under five governors. He was also on the Board of Visitors at the University of Georgia and the UGA Research Foundation.

Mr. Abbott was a longtime supporter of the Georgia Historical Society, serving on the GHS Board of Curators and as president from 2002 to 2004.

Because of his lifelong dedication to the people of Georgia, Mr. Abbott was honored by the Georgia General Assembly for outstanding service in organizing the Marine Science Complex on Skidaway Island. He received the Oglethorpe Trophy for outstanding citizens in Savannah, and was also honored by the US Corps of Engineers for public service.

Mr. Abbott died November 17, 2006, age 78, and is buried in Savannah’s Catholic Cemetery.

In 2010, Mrs. Jane Abbott established the Laurie K. Abbott Endowment Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring that their shared dedication to Georgia history education will continue in perpetuity.
May P. and Francis L. Abreu Fund

Francis Abreu was born in 1896 to Diego and Marie Jova Abreu, the owners of a Cuban sugar plantation. Francis became a renowned architect known in Florida and Georgia for his distinctive designs that blend Spanish and Mediterranean influences. He enrolled at Cornell University in 1916 to study architecture, enlisted in the Navy during World War I, then graduated from Cornell in 1920.

Francis moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, before ultimately joining his parents in Fort Lauderdale to continue his architectural career. Known for his unique brand of Cuban-influenced Spanish-revival style, he was a prolific designer during Fort Lauderdale’s land and real estate boom of the 1920s and several of his homes and commercial buildings survive to this day, including the Fort Lauderdale Country Club and St. Anthony’s School.

Abreu moved to Sea Island in 1928 and began a long and productive career designing homes and other developments in Georgia. In addition to numerous cottages on the island, including that of playwright Eugene O’Neill, Abreu designed multiple additions to Addison Mizner’s original hotel, including the River House and Administration Building.

On April 14, 1938, Francis married May Elizabeth Patterson on Sea Island. May was born in 1891, the daughter of William and Mollie Patterson of Atlanta. She was the widow of James J. Goodrum, a prominent Atlanta investment banker who had been instrumental in the initial public offering of The Coca-Cola Company. Francis and May had one child, Peter Michael, born in 1942.

Francis and May were both involved in community and society life on the coast and in the city of Atlanta. With the war effort in full swing, and May at the helm of the Red Cross Blood Donor Services, she was selected from among thousands of nominees to be Atlanta’s first “Woman of the Year” in 1943. May was known for her generosity to many organizations, particularly the Humane Societies of Atlanta and South Coastal Georgia, Saint Joseph’s Infirmary in Atlanta, the American Red Cross, and to individuals who needed help getting back on their feet following the Great Depression.

Francis died in 1969, and May followed in 1976. Upon her death she established the Francis L. Abreu Charitable Trust to honor her late husband and continue their legacy of giving. In 2002 in honor of May’s own philanthropic efforts the family chose to add her name to the Trust title, creating The May P. and Francis L. Charitable Trust.

Peter Michael Abreu died on August 12, 2013. Today the foundation is maintained by Peter’s children and continues to model the legacy of May and Francis by carrying on their tradition of giving back to Atlanta-area arts and cultural programs, education, health associations, human services, children, and youth services.

In 2012, the Trust established the May P. and Francis L. Abreu Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring that the Society’s mission to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history will continue far into the future.
Leopold “Lee” Adler II was born April 18, 1923, the son of Sam Guckenheimer Adler and Elinor Grunsfeld Adler. He attended the Pape School in Savannah, followed by Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. In 1942, Lee enlisted in the United States Navy Air Corps. Lee’s father had been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in World War I.

Following World War II, Lee enrolled at Brown University, before returning to Athens to complete his degree at the University of Georgia in 1950. Lee trained at Atlanta’s famed Rich’s Department Store before returning to his hometown to take his place with his father at Adler’s on Broughton Street before ultimately turning his career toward investment banking.

In September 1953, Lee married Emma Morel, a Savannah native with roots stretching to the founding of the Georgia colony. Emma was the daughter of John and Emma Walthour Morel.

Emma also attended Savannah’s Pape School, followed by the Westover School, an all-girls high school in Middlebury, Connecticut. After graduation she attended Bryn Mawr and earned a B.A. degree in French, Art History, and Architecture in 1952. She worked as a reporter for the Savannah News Press until her marriage to Lee in September 1953. They had two sons, Leopold III, and John Morel.

Lee’s mother Elinor had been one of seven women who banded together in 1955 to save the Isaiah Davenport House from demolition and by extension was a founding member of the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF). Both Lee and Emma served HSF as Trustees, and in 1961 Lee was elected to the first of six terms he would serve as president of the Foundation.

Emma has been honored on multiple occasions for her contributions to preservation and tourism, including the Davenport Trophy for outstanding contributions in the field of historic preservation in 1967, the Certificate of Excellence in Heritage Education from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in 1987, and the Distinguished Georgian Award from the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University in 2002. In 2002, Governor Roy Barnes presented her with the Governor’s Award in the Humanities, and in 2003 she and Lee jointly received the John Macpherson Berrien Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Georgia Historical Society.

In addition to his work with HSF, Lee Adler served as Vice President of Robinson-Humphrey Company, Inc. Investment Bankers from 1958-1981. He led the effort to create the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, which secured federal funding and brought media attention to historic preservation beneficial to poor and low income families. In 1982, the National Trust bestowed on Lee their highest honor, the Crowninshield Award.

In 1989, President Georgia H.W. Bush presented Lee Adler with the National Medal of Arts “for civic leadership in preserving for all time the beauty of Savannah.” Lee was the first preservationist to receive the honor.

Lee died on January 29, 2012, and is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery. In 2004, the Adler Family Foundation established the Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Adler II fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring that their shared love of Georgia’s history will continue in perpetuity.
Ray C. Anderson was born July 28, 1934, in West Point, Georgia, the third son of William Henry Anderson, an assistant postmaster, and Nannie Ruth McGinty.

Ray attended the Georgia Institute of Technology on a football scholarship where he played under legendary football coach Bobby Dodd. An injury during his freshman year left him sidelined and unable to play, but Dodd allowed Ray to continue his education and keep his scholarship as long as he maintained his grades. Ray did not disappoint and graduated with honors in 1956 from Georgia Tech’s School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Ray learned the carpet industry from the ground up at Deering-Milliken and Company and Callaway Mills before founding Interface in 1973, with a vision to provide flexible floor coverings for modern office buildings. By 1983, the company was posting sales of $11 million annually, and following the 1987 acquisition of Heuga Holdings B.V., it became the undisputed world leader in carpet tile manufacturing.

Ray Anderson experienced an environmental epiphany in 1994, and challenged the company, which at the time was heavily dependent on petrochemicals, to become environmentally sustainable without loss of profits. His ultimate goal, in his own words, was “to be the first enterprise in history to become truly sustainable – to shut down the smokestacks, close off effluent pipes, to do no harm to the environment and take nothing not easily renewed by the earth.”

Today, Interface is a $1 billion publicly traded company (Nasdaq:TILE) with manufacturing on four continents and sales in more than 110 countries. Despite the loss of its visionary leader in August 2011, the company remains committed to its Mission Zero® pledge to eliminate its environmental footprint.

Ray Anderson died August 8, 2011, and is buried at Shadowlawn Cemetery in LaGrange, Georgia. In September 2015, the Ray C. Anderson Foundation and Interface Inc. donated his papers and ephemera to the Georgia Historical Society. The collection contains approximately 150 cubic feet of artifacts, artwork, audiovisual materials, awards, correspondence, meeting materials, notes, pamphlets, photographic materials, reports, speeches, and writings. The collection also contains Ray C. Anderson’s book collection, which focuses on the topics of environment, sustainability, and business.

This is a collection of significance to future researchers. Ray Anderson was not only a pioneer in his industry, but he also possessed the conscience and character to step out from the crowd and take the risk to prove that sustainability and profitability are not mutually exclusive. The Ray C. Anderson collection will provide the insight and inspiration into the life and work of one of the founding fathers of the industrial environmental movement.

The collection was accompanied by a gift from the Ray C. Anderson Foundation to the Georgia Historical Society’s Next Century Initiative to process and endow the collection—ensuring its care and accessibility to researchers for generations to come.
Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Fund

Elaine Bernasek was born in Lorain, Ohio, on September 2, 1930. She met Victor Andrews when they were both 15. They married on July 9, 1954.

After receiving a B.A. in Russian History from Stanford University in 1952, Elaine 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, where he earned an M.A. in Economics and an M.B.A. before earning a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 1958.

While living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Elaine 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. She taught economics at Boston University and Simmons College before the Andrews moved to Atlanta in 1968, where Victor was hired to create the Finance Department at Georgia State University. He chaired the department for twenty-five years and served as the Mills B. Lane Professor of Banking and Finance.

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

Victor retired as chair of the Finance Department in 1993, and in 1997 the Andrews moved to Savannah, where the couple enjoyed golfing, travel, and becoming involved in local and state non-profit institutions.

In January 2008, Elaine was diagnosed with cancer. She died on July 5, 2009, four days shy of their 55th anniversary. She is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

In 2014, as part of GHS’s Next Century Initiative, Victor created the Victor L. Andrews Charitable Remainder Unitrust, a planned gift that created an endowed position, The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Distinguished Historian. The position honors Dr. Elaine Bernasek Andrews and ensures the sustainability of high-quality, scholarly-based educational programming at GHS. It is a fitting tribute to Dr. Elaine B. Andrews.
Craig Barrow was born in Athens, Georgia, on May 12, 1876, the sixth child of Middleton Pope Barrow and Sarah Church Craig. Following graduation from the University of Georgia (UGA) in 1896, Craig completed his medical degree in 1900 at the University of Maryland. He began medical practice in Savannah in 1902 as a surgeon.

On January 3, 1906, Craig married Elfrida DeRenne, a sixth-generation Georgian born on January 7, 1884, to Wymberly Jones DeRenne and Laura Norris DeRenne. Elfrida was a direct descendant of Georgia colonist Noble Jones, who established Wormsloe Plantation in 1737. Craig and Elfrida had three children, Craig Jr., Elfrida, and Muriel. The Barrows moved to Wormsloe in 1938.

Dr. Barrow worked as a surgeon at the Georgia Infirmary for 36 years and spearheaded the establishment of the Central of Georgia Hospital in 1927. Dr. Barrow died on August 31, 1945, at age 69. Elfrida DeRenne Barrow died on October 1, 1970, age 86. They are both buried at Wormsloe.

Craig Barrow, Jr. was born on October 25, 1906, and graduated from UGA in 1928. He worked in the investment division of Citizens and Southern National Bank in Augusta. In 1938, he married Laura Palmer Bell, born on December 8, 1914, the daughter of Malcolm Bell and Laura Palmer Bell of Savannah. They had three children, Elfrida, Laura, and Craig III.

Craig Jr. became president of the Wormsloe Foundation, the non-profit arm charged with publishing works on Georgia history. In 1972 he transferred ownership of 750 acres of Wormsloe--excluding the family home and roughly 50 acres of surrounding land--to the Nature Conservancy which one year later transferred ownership to the State of Georgia. Craig Jr. died on October 6, 1978, age 71. Laura Palmer Bell Barrow died on May 3, 2003, age 88. They are both buried at Wormsloe.

Craig Barrow III was born on March 21, 1942, and graduated from UGA in 1965. Craig married Diana Deas, the daughter of Thornton Meadows Deas and Marie Young Deas, on May 7, 1966. She was born November 3, 1943. Craig and Diana have two children, Thornton Deas and Kathryn Candler. Craig III represents the ninth generation of his family to live at Wormsloe.

Craig III’s UGA ties are many: a founder of the Board of Visitors for the UGA Libraries, a founder of the UGA Press Advisory Council, and service as UGA Foundation Trustee. Craig led the $30 million effort to build the new Special Collections Library at UGA. In 2013, he arranged for the trustees of the Wormsloe Foundation to donate 15 acres to UGA to create the University of Georgia Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe.

As managing director of the investment firm of Sterne, Agee and Leach (now Stifel), Craig III served for many years on the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) Endowment Trust Board. Craig III received the John Macpherson Berrien Award for lifetime achievement in Georgia history from GHS in 2006.

In 2004, Craig Barrow III established the Craig Barrow Fund at the Georgia Historical Society to honor his father and grandfather, ensuring that their shared love of Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.
Malcolm Bell, Jr. Fund

On March 11, 1913, Malcolm Bell, Jr., the second child of Malcolm and Laura Palmer Bell was born in Savannah.

Malcolm’s early education was spent in Savannah, including Savannah High School. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where in addition to academics he excelled in athletics and most notably in 1934 when he lettered as a senior fullback under Coach Carl “The Grey Fox” Snavely. After graduation Malcolm put the gridiron behind him to attend Rutgers University to study banking.

On July 23, 1936, Malcolm married Muriel Barrow, born on December 23, 1913, the daughter of Dr. Craig Barrow. It was the blending of two of Savannah’s most prominent families. They would have two sons, Malcolm Bell, III and Craig Barrow Bell.

In 1939, Malcolm and Muriel became involved with The Federal Writers’ Project, part of the Work Progress Administration designed to provide jobs for historians, teachers, writers, and librarians. Malcolm and Muriel, both photographers, were invited by Mary Granger, the District Supervisor, to take part in a project documenting the oral histories of elderly African Americans in coastal Georgia, many themselves former slaves. The result was Drums and Shadows, published in 1940.

When the United States entered World War II, so did Malcolm Bell, Jr. as a member of the United States Coast Guard. By 1944 Bell was Captain of a Coast Guard Freighter ferrying much needed supplies to troops in the Pacific.

Eventually Malcolm would return home to Muriel and to a career in banking as President, and later chairman, of the Savannah Bank and Trust, but the two would pursue their love of history as ardently as any career. Passionate about Georgia history in particular, Malcolm would eventually serve as President of the Georgia Historical Society, where he wrote extensively contributing numerous articles to the Georgia Historical Quarterly. Malcolm also wrote several books including Savannah Ahoy (1959) and Major Butler’s Legacy: Five Generations of a Slaveholding Family (1987).

In 1982 Malcom received the Freedom Fund Award from the NAACP. He received the Governor’s Award in the Humanities in 1991, and the GHS John Macpherson Berrien Award for lifetime achievement in 2000. In 1992, GHS established the Malcolm Bell, Jr. and Muriel Barrow Bell Award. Given annually, it is the highest publication award given by the Society in recognition of the best book on Georgia history published the previous year.


The Malcom Bell, Jr. Fund was established in 2002 in memory of Mr. Bell via a bequest from his estate and a transfer from the General Endowment Fund to ensure that his love of Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.
Barbara and Jack Cay Fund

John Eugene “Jack” Cay, Jr. was born in Savannah on October 10, 1914, the son of John Eugene Sr. and Caroline “Caro” Palmer. In the year following John’s birth his father, along with his maternal grandfather Armin B. Palmer, formed Palmer & Cay Insurance.

When Jack was two months old, Thomas and Elizabeth Ficklen Hilton, also of Savannah, welcomed Barbara Alexander Hilton and by the time they were ten the Cays and Hiltons were neighbors and friends across Atlantic Avenue’s beautiful promenade in Ardsley Park -- setting the stage for a lifelong love affair between Jack and Barbara.

Both Jack and Barbara would leave Savannah for boarding schools in the Northeast – Jack at Episcopal High School, an elite boarding school in Alexandria, Virginia and college at the University of Chapel Hill in North Carolina, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and The Order of Sheiks. Barbara went to Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, and then to Vassar, but in her junior year she transferred to Chapel Hill to be with Jack. In addition to playing intramural tennis and basketball, Barbara indulged her creative side appearing in numerous stage productions, including being cast as Dora Carter in the world premiere of “The Enchanted Maze,” by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paul Green. In 1935, ”Blonde Tragedy,” an original work written by Barbara about two girls and a poet in New York City, was selected as one of only six scripts to be produced by UNC’s Playmakers Repertory Theatre Company.

In 1938, with college behind them, Jack and Barbara were married at Christ Church in Savannah surrounded by family and friends. Jack was in business at Palmer & Cay with his father and Barbara immersed herself in community life through volunteerism through the Bethesda Home for Boys and the Red Cross. In 1940, they welcomed their first child Caroline Hilton Cay, followed closely by Barbara Lachlison Cay in 1941. In 1945, their only son, John Eugene Cay III joined the family, followed in 1949 by Elizabeth Mason Cay.

Through more than fifty years of marriage they were devoted to each other, their family, and their community. Jack assumed the helm of Palmer & Cay in 1947 and in 1953 received the Dunlop Award as the outstanding insurance underwriter in Georgia. He was instrumental in bringing Memorial Hospital to Savannah and served one term as board chairman. In 1954, he was awarded the Lucas Trophy, the oldest and most honored award given by the city of Savannah.

In 1958, Jack wrote and published fifty copies of Ward Allen, Savannah River Market Hunter and presented it to the members of the Madeira Club in March of that year. In 1959, an additional 200 copies were printed and in 2013 it was made into a feature film starring Jim Caviezel and filmed on location in Savannah.

John Eugene “Jack” Cay died on October 3, 1989, at age 74 on Hilton Head Island where he and Barbara lived in their later years. Barbara died on November 6, 1995. They are both buried at Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. In 2005, The Cay Foundation (John Cay and his sons Christopher and Jack) created the Barbara and Jack Cay Fund at the Georgia Historical Society to continue the legacy of Jack and Barbara in Savannah and the State of Georgia.
Frank A. Chisholm Fund

Frank Anderson Chisholm was born August 24, 1910, at the family home on Jones Street in Savannah. The son of Frank Miller Chisholm and Elsie Grace Barnard, Frank attended Savannah’s Pape School as well as Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before graduating from Yale University in 1932.

During his time at Yale, Frank made plans for a career on Wall Street but following the stock market crash he returned to Savannah where he and Sam Varnedoe formed the investment firm Varnedoe, Chisholm & Company, where he remained until his retirement in 1997.

In 1940, Frank married Marjorie Kelly of Sioux City, Iowa. During their ten-year marriage they had three daughters – Marjorie Batcheller, Diane Middleton, and Hatherley Merrick.

Frank enlisted in the Navy to serve his country during World War II and in 1944 Lieutenant Junior Grade Chisolm was made Commander of the United States Navy’s Landing Craft Infantry 816 (LCI-816), part of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Forces. As such he was part of the invasion of Okinawa and the subsequent American occupation of Japan.

In 1956, Frank married Katherine Crutcher, born March 31, 1929, the daughter of Ralph and Eleanor Crutcher of Savannah. Katherine also attended Savannah’s Pape School and after graduation enrolled at Randolph Macon Women’s College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she was initiated into Kappa Delta Sorority and played on the freshman women’s basketball team. Katherine eventually transferred to the University of Georgia where she earned her degree before returning home to work first for the Board of Education and eventually for The Savannah Bank. It was during that time that she and Frank met, and within three months were married and beginning a life that together would span sixty years, two children, Frank Anderson Chisholm, Jr. and Elsie Robinson “Dolly” Chisholm Sadler, eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great grandchildren.

Katherine loved historic preservation, serving on the boards of both Massie Heritage Center and Historic Savannah Foundation. She was the Georgia Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames.

During his lifetime Frank was President of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati and President General of the National Society. He was also a member of the Georgia Society of Colonial Wars, and for seventy-five years Frank was a member of the St. Andrew’s Society, earning him the distinction of being their longest active member.

Frank Chisholm died June 9, 2008, age 97. Katherine died February 1, 2016, age 86. They are buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. In 1999, his family established the Frank A. Chisholm Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in his honor.
Thomas A. and Dorothy B. Davis Fund

Thomas A. Davis was born on July 21, 1935, in Macon, Georgia, the son of Wallace M. and Thelma H. Davis. Dorothy Baxley was born on January 11, 1938, in Savannah, the daughter of Harry E. and Dorothy W. Baxley.

Tom graduated from Georgia Tech in 1957 and Dotty from Armstrong Junior College in 1957. They were married on August 10, 1957, and have two children, Dorothy and Thomas A., Jr.

After service in the U.S. Army, Tom founded the Davis Supply Company, which he ran from 1958 to 1997. The company was subsequently sold to The Home Depot and Tom continued as a consultant until 2002, when he retired.

Tom and Dotty Davis are longstanding contributors to the community. He is a member of the Savannah Rotary Club and is past president of the German Heritage Society. They are members of Isle of Hope United Methodist Church and have volunteered extensively with the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, the United Way, and the Georgia Historical Society.

The Thomas A. and Dorothy B. Davis Endowment Fund was established in 2006 by Mr. and Mrs. Davis, ensuring that their commitment to Savannah and Georgia history will continue.
Robert Houston Deméré Fund

In March 1776, a young firebrand named Raymond Paul Deméré, under the command of Colonel Lachlan McIntosh, set out from Yamacraw Bluff with a fellow townsman in a small boat. They rowed under a flag of truce to demand the release of a Patriot officer being held on Hutchinson Island. Deméré and his companion would also become British prisoners briefly and the ensuing Battle of Rice Boats that followed, would, at last, bring the American Revolution to Savannah and begin a chapter in the life of young Raymond Deméré that would include service under General George Washington in the Continental Army before his return to Savannah.

Two centuries after the battle of Rice Boats, his great-great-grandson Robert Houstoun “Bobby” Deméré, would be part of the fifth generation carrying on the Deméré name in Savannah as a devoted father and husband, business executive, community leader, and philanthropist.

Born February 15, 1924, Bobby Deméré was the first of three sons of Raymond Deméré III, and Josephine Elizabeth Mobley. First Lieutenant Raymond Deméré had served in World War I and on his return, seeing the increasing need for automobile fuel, founded the American Oil Company in 1921, now Colonial Oil.

Bobby Deméré was educated at the Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut where he was Captain of the Nathaniel Bishop Rowing Club, and graduated in 1942 before attending Yale where he was in the Scroll & Key Honor Society and a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. Following his service in the Pacific Theater during World War II on a sub-chaser, Bobby Deméré came home and on September 21, 1946, he married Mary Elizabeth Bullock at Christ Church in her hometown of Bronxville, New York. The two had met at Yale, and following a honeymoon in Bermuda they returned to Savannah and to the family business at Colonial Oil.

Robert Houston Deméré was a consummate businessman, community leader, quiet philanthropist, and devoted family man. Following the death of his father, he took the reins of Colonial Oil where he served as President and Chairman of the Board until his retirement. He was a member of the St. Andrews Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Society of Colonial Wars among other service and philanthropic organizations in the city. In 1955, he was one of fourteen founders who joined forces to establish Savannah Country Day School.

Bobby Deméré was never happier than when he was on the water and enjoyed sailing Savannah’s many waterways. He once made a trip from Savannah, through the Panama Canal, to California to deliver his father’s boat, The Ocean Queen, to his brother. Throughout his life, he shared his nautical passion with his family and friends, so much so that in 2005, the Savannah Foundation established the Robert Deméré Sailing Scholarship that annually sends high school students to the Charleston Sailing Academy in South Carolina.

Robert Houstoun Deméré died December 26, 2003, age 79, and was buried in the Deméré family private cemetery. In 2005, Mary Bullock Deméré and the Deméré family established the Robert Houstoun Deméré Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in his memory.
Barbara and Vincent Dooley Fund

Vincent “Vince” Joseph Dooley was born in Mobile, Alabama, on September 4, 1932, the son of William and Nellie Dooley. Vince attended Mobile’s McGill Catholic High School, excelling in basketball and football, and went on to play football for legendary coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan at Auburn University. Barbara Anne Meshad was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 8, 1939. She and Vince Dooley married on March 19, 1960. They have four children: Deanna, Daniel, Denise, and Derek.

After two years in the Marine Corps, Vince returned to Auburn, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Management in 1954 and a master’s degree in History in 1963. He also began working for Coach Jordan. In December 1963, he was hired as the head football coach at the University of Georgia at age 31. Mrs. Dooley graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor’s in Education in Speech Therapy and Mental Retardation. She also earned a Master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling.

Dooley coached for 25 seasons at UGA, retiring in 1988 with a record of 201 wins, 77 losses, and 10 ties. He won six Southeastern Conference Championships and played in twenty bowl games, with only one losing season (1977). In 1980, he won the National Championship, beating Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl. Coach Dooley also served as UGA athletics director from 1979 to 2003. UGA teams won twenty-three national championships during his tenure as Athletic Director. He was recognized as NCAA Coach of the Year in 1980 and 1982, was SEC Coach of the Year seven times, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1994. He is also a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach Dooley is also a master gardener, developing a sturdy hydrangea that can withstand late spring freezes, and the UGA Department of Horticulture named a rose after him. Dooley is also an avid student of history. He is a member of the Civil War Round Table, the Civil War Trust, and has donated all of his extensive papers to the Georgia Historical Society.

Mrs. Dooley has been active in a number of civic and philanthropic endeavors over the course of her career, including the Winship Cancer Center, the Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia, St. Mary’s Hospital, the National Football Association Hall of Fame, the Center for Disease Control Foundation Board, the United Way, the Paralympics, and many others. She has received numerous awards and honors for her charitable work. In addition, she has hosted a popular morning radio talk show since 1994.

Mrs. Dooley has written two books, *Put Me in Coach: Confessions of a Football Wife* (1992), and *Fourth and Inches: How to Win When Cancer is the Opponent* (2015). Coach Dooley has written a number of books on football, leadership, history, and horticulture, including *Dooley: My 40 Years at Georgia* (2005); *In Dooley’s Garden: A Horticultural Journey of a Football Coach* (2008); and *History and Reminiscences of the University of Georgia* (2011).

Coach Dooley has served on the GHS Board of Curators since 2007, and in 2016 he became Board Chairman. He was named a Georgia Trustee by GHS and the Office of the Governor in 2011.

The Barbara and Vincent Dooley Fund at the Georgia Historical Society was established in 2016, ensuring that their commitment to Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.
Martha and George N. Fawcett Fund

George Fawcett was born in Savannah on March 25, 1926, the son of Alexander Robert Fawcett and Georgia Foster Fawcett. Martha Katherine Norman was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 1, 1929, the daughter of Newton Jones Norman, Jr., and Katherine Austin Norman. George and Martha married on June 26, 1946, and they had three children: Alexander Robert, George, Jr., and McDonald Austin.

George graduated from Georgia Tech in 1946 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at Tech he served in the US Navy from 1944 to 1946, during World War II, in the V-12 College Program. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. Martha attended Armstrong Junior College, Palm Beach Junior College, and Florida Atlantic University.

Mr. Fawcett began his career with Savannah Foods & Industries in March 1947 as an engineer at the Savannah Sugar Refinery. He worked in laboratory, engineering, maintenance, packaging and process operations. In the 1950s, he improved the automated sugar boiler and was a member of the team that developed the first integrated automatic sugar refinery system.

In 1964, Mr. Fawcett was named resident manager of the company’s Everglades Sugar Refinery in Clewiston, Florida. He returned to the Savannah Sugar Refinery in August 1970 as Assistant Plant Manager. In 1973, he became General Superintendent for both the Savannah and Everglades operations and in 1975 was named vice president of operations. In 1980, he joined Savannah Foods’ Board of Directors and was promoted to senior vice president and director of plan operations in 1987. He held that title until his retirement in 1991.

Mrs. Fawcett worked as a real estate agent with Esther Wynn Realty and David Byck Realty. She was active in the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia, serving as associate state registrar for fifteen years. She has also been a member of the Trustees Garden Club and served as regional president of the American Hemerocallis Society. The Fawcetts are actively involved in St. John’s Episcopal Church.

During his career, Mr. Fawcett was an active member of his profession, serving in a number of professional associations. He has also served on the boards of the Historic Savannah Foundation and the Davenport House and as Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Georgia.

The Fawcetts have been longtime members and supporters of the Georgia Historical Society, with Mr. Fawcett serving as chairman of the Society’s Endowment Trust and as ex-officio member of the GHS Board of Curators from 1996 to 2002. The Fawcetts established the Martha and George N. Fawcett Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in 2001, ensuring that their commitment to Savannah and Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.
Margaret Powell and Langdon Strong Flowers Fund

Langdon Strong Flowers was born in Thomasville, Georgia, on February 12, 1922, the son of Flewellyn Strong Flowers and William Howard Flowers. Flowers’ father William started Flowers Bakery in 1919.

A 1944 graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Langdon enlisted in the US Navy shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. At MIT he won the Barton Rogers Award, the highest honor given to a graduating senior. Upon graduation, he attended Midshipman’s School at Notre Dame and received his commission as Ensign. He served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Belleau during World War II as Engineering Officer for Air Group 31 as part of Admiral Bull Halsey’s Third Fleet that saw action off the coast of Japan. At the war’s end, Mr. Flowers returned to MIT where he earned a master’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Langdon Flowers’s career with Flowers Bakery started in 1947. He first worked in the sales department, then became President and Chief Operating Officer in 1965, a member of the Board of Directors when the company listed publicly in 1968, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 1976, and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1981. He retired in 1985 and continued to serve as a member of Flowers’ Board of Directors until 2004.

Flowers, along with his brother William Howard Flowers, Jr. and the company’s senior leadership team, directed the company’s growth from a small baking company into one of the largest baked foods enterprises in the country. He was actively involved in the baking industry and in civic life, serving in leadership positions on a number of boards.

Langdon married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret (Bobbie) Clisby Powell on June 3, 1944, and they were married almost 60 years, with five children. Bobbie was born November 17, 1921, in Thomasville, the daughter of Margaret McKay Powell and William John Powell. She graduated from Agnes Scott College. Along with leadership roles in the National Society of the Colonial Dames, she was actively involved in Thomasville cultural life, serving as founding member and president of the Thomasville Cultural Center, as founding board member of the Brookwood School, and president of the Thomas County Historical Society. She was named Thomas County’s Woman of the Year in 1981.

Margaret Flowers died on December 22, 2003, age 82. Langdon Flowers died on June 22, 2007, age 85. They are buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville.

In 2003, Margaret and Langdon Flowers’ children, led by GHS Curator Peggy Rich and her brother Langdon Flowers, established the Margaret Powell and Langdon Strong Flowers Endowment Fund at the Georgia Historical Society to honor their parents’ contributions to Georgia history.
There were no truer students of history than William and Lougenia Gabard.

William “Bill” Montgomery Gabard was born August 17, 1922, in Lewisburg, Tennessee. He was the son of Nell Haynes and William Gabard, Sr. He attended Forrest High School in Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee, where he was initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Following graduation, he earned his M.A. from Northwestern University, and his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans.

He served as head of the history department and was the founding Director of International Studies at Valdosta State University from 1948 – 1988. He also held post-doctoral fellowships in Asian history at six different universities, including Columbia University in New York, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

On November 18, 1961, he married Lougenia “Lou” Gillis, daughter of Jeanie Bell and Neil Lee Gillis, Jr. Lou was born May 10, 1923, in Soperton, Georgia. Lou was a graduate of Brenau College where she studied to be a teacher and was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Lou would eventually join the faculty of Valdosta State and Valdosta High School.

Lou and Bill were devoted to each other and enjoyed traveling abroad, most especially to Asia. Their home became a showplace for treasures from their travels and included Faberge eggs, samurai robes from the 1700s, and rooms filled with antiques including a table that belonged to one of George Washington’s brothers.

Bill and Lou delighted in travel and sharing their adventures with students, faculty, and friends. When they were not traveling their home was always open, and Lou especially delighted in entertaining and was known to all as an excellent hostess and cook.

Lou and Bill were also generous with their time and served their state and community throughout their lives. Bill was President of the Georgia Consortium, Inc., and founding president of the Lowndes County Historical Society. In 1984, he was elected President of the Georgia Historical Society, the first non-Savannahian to hold that position in the history of the Society. Lou was active in the National Society of Colonial Dames and the Symphony Guild, as well as sharing Bill’s love of history.

Bill died August 18, 2006, at Brookwood Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Lou died on April 2, 2014, following a stroke. Before their passing they established the Lougenia and William Gabard Fund and through bequests in their wills and a substantial estate auction held following Lou’s death made an additional gift to the fund.
Courtney Knight was born October 6, 1929, in Savannah, the daughter of W.T. “Bill” Knight, Jr., and Grace Schley Knight. She attended the Pape School in Savannah and then Wesleyan College in Macon, graduating in 1951.


Mr. and Mrs. Gaines led an active civic life in Savannah, and she supported many causes with her time and philanthropy. Courtney was a member of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church for 62 years. She served on the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society and was also active in the Junior League, United Methodist Women, Christian Women of Savannah, Historic Savannah Foundation, and Friends of the Owens–Thomas House, among others. Courtney received an award from her alma mater, Wesleyan College, in 2001 for a lifetime of service to the United Methodist Church.

Courtney traveled every summer to her mountain home in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. An avid cyclist, she biked from California to Florida in 1999 at age 69 after finishing treatments for lymphoma. All her fellow riders were female cancer survivors over the age of 50.

Courtney died on July 14, 2016, at age 86. Her husband Zeke Gaines died in 1980.

In 2000, Mrs. Gaines established the Courtney Knight Gaines Endowment Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring that her commitment to Georgia history education will continue in perpetuity.
Alan Gaynor Fund

Alan Sims Gaynor was born in Savannah on October 11, 1928, the son of Dora Gittelsohn and Sims S. Guckenheimer. In the 1930s the family changed the name to Gaynor. Alan’s father was involved in national radio at the time and felt the name Guckenheimer was problematic for his career. The family moved to Chicago, then New Rochelle, New York, where Gaynor graduated from high school. He graduated from the University of Virginia, where he received a number of undergraduate honors, including membership in the prestigious Raven Society, 13 Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society. He received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1952.

During the Korean War, Mr. Gaynor served in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocates General Corps and was stationed in Goose Bay, Labrador, where he achieved the rank of Captain. He returned to Savannah in 1954 and began his law practice with Bouhan, Williams, and Levy and concentrated in the areas of real estate law, trusts and estates, and corporate law. He served as chairman of the Corporate and Banking Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and as president of the Savannah Bar Association. Toward the end of his career, Mr. Gaynor did extensive pro bono work for Georgia Legal Services.

Mr. Gaynor served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1966 to 1972. He was also involved with the Boy Scouts of America throughout his life. As a young man, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout and as an adult he served with the Coastal Empire Council as troop leader, camp counselor, and in other administrative and advisory positions. He was awarded the Silver Beaver and Celtic Cross awards, significant honors within the Scouting movement.

Mr. Gaynor was a lifelong member and supporter of the Georgia Historical Society, serving as Treasurer as well. He served as president of the Rotary Club of Savannah, was a founding member of Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire, Inc., and was on the boards of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, the Telfair Academy, and the United Way of the Coastal Empire. He was also a member of the Military Order of World Wars.

An early proponent of Savannah’s revitalization, he purchased and restored a home on Lincoln Street in the early 1960s and lived there almost 50 years. Always intensely interested in his cultural and community heritage, Mr. Gaynor was involved in the development and historical research for the museum at Temple Mickve Israel. For years, he worked on compiling histories of the Congregation, which was founded in 1733, shortly after the establishment of the Georgia colony. As Savannah and Mickve Israel tourism increased, he helped develop an audio tour of the historic sanctuary on Monterey Square. For many years, he was a docent at the Synagogue.

Mr. Gaynor died on August 21, 2010, in Savannah, at age 81. He is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

Mr. Gaynor left a bequest to the Georgia Historical Society in his will, and in 2011 the Alan Gaynor Fund was established by the Society with these funds, ensuring that Mr. Gaynor’s love of Georgia history and his commitment to history education will continue in perpetuity.
General John Floyd was the son of Charles Floyd of South Carolina. He served as a member of a volunteer militia from Beaufort during the final year of the American Revolution. Following the war Floyd trained as a carpenter and shipwright. In 1793, he married Isabella Maria Hazzard.

Floyd would become a successful planter of cotton and indigo with plantations at Fairfield and Bellevue near Woodbine, Georgia. When the young nation again needed military leaders, Floyd was named Brigadier General and placed in command of eight counties of the Georgia Militia. In the War of 1812, Georgia’s 1st Brigade, also known as “Floyd’s Brigade,” was involved in many battles with the Creek Indians. While fighting the Creek at Autossee, Floyd received a musket ball to the knee, where it remained the rest of his life.

Floyd was elected to three terms in the state legislature, serving until 1826 when he decided to run for the United States Congress. In 1832, when Floyd was sixty-three years old, the State of Georgia created Floyd County out of land that had previously been part of Cherokee County. It was one of few Georgia counties named for someone who was still living.

General John Floyd died in 1839 and is buried at Fairfield Plantation in Camden County, Georgia.

Mary Faith Wilson

Mary Faith Wilson was born in Chicago, Illinois, the eldest daughter of Lawrence Otis and Mary Faith McAdoo. She was a graduate of the Putney School in Vermont and the University of Chicago. She was one of the heirs to the Otis Elevator fortune, and a freelance news writer in Washington, D.C. for many years, as well as a consultant on national public affairs to various organizations.

Mary Faith was deeply interested in restoration and preservation, particularly in the historic Georgetown district of Washington, D.C., where she lived. Her work in preservation soon spurred an interest in American history and that of her ancestral families, the McAdoo, Davis, and Brooks families of East Tennessee; the Hazzard family of South Carolina and Georgia; the Otis family of New England; and the Floyd family of Georgia.

She soon began gathering materials including artwork about individual family members and their lives in America. She never married and died in Washington, D.C. on November 21, 1996. She is buried in Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. The fund was established in 1997 by a bequest from Mary Faith Wilson in honor of her ancestor, General John Floyd of Camden County, Georgia.
The Georgia Historical Society General Endowment Fund

In 1732, the Georgia Trustees, the visionary founders of the Colony of Georgia, took as their motto Non Sibi Sed Aliis, “Not for Self, but for Others.” In 1839, the founders of the Georgia Historical Society adopted this noble commitment to public service when they set out to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history for the benefit of future generations.

Today, the Georgia Historical Society is the premier independent statewide institution responsible for collecting, examining, and teaching Georgia history. GHS houses the nation’s oldest and most distinguished collection of materials related exclusively to Georgia history and is committed to making these irreplaceable resources accessible to people all over the world.

As a public history institution, GHS teaches Georgia and American history through a variety of educational programs, publications, and research services. It publishes the award-winning Georgia Historical Quarterly; operates the GHS Research Center in Savannah; manages the Historical Marker Program for the State of Georgia; organizes the annual Georgia History Festival; and, with the Office of the Governor, inducts the Georgia Trustees, the highest honor the State of Georgia can confer.

In 1973, the Georgia Historical Society created an endowment fund to ensure the future of the state’s oldest cultural institution and one of the oldest historical organizations in the nation. Governed by a separate, independent Endowment Board, the GHS endowment is intended to provide for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Society’s collections and facilities as well as to guarantee a sustainable source of funding for the delivery of its diverse educational outreach programs, publications, and research services.
William Todd Groce was born January 12, 1962, in Portsmouth, Virginia, the first child of William Lenvil Groce and Doris Marie Kitchen. When he was ten years old, his family, which has lived in Virginia since colonial times, moved to Memphis, Tennessee. There he met his future wife, Karen Clifton, and they began dating as seniors at Craigmont High School. After graduation from college in 1984 (he from the University of Memphis, she from Vanderbilt University), Karen and Todd married and moved to Knoxville, where he studied law and eventually earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Groce taught history at the University of Tennessee and Maryville College and was for five years executive director of the East Tennessee Historical Society. In 1995 he was appointed executive director of the Georgia Historical Society and in 2006 he was elected the Society’s 43rd president. He is the author and co-editor of two books on the Civil War era and has published over 50 articles and book reviews. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, past president of the Rotary Club of Savannah, and past Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Georgia.

Karen and Todd have one child, Katherine “Kate” Virginia Groce, born June 14, 1999. Dr. Groce is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, hiking, and camping. He has hiked every major Civil War battlefield and other battlefields across North America and Europe.

The W. Todd Groce Fund was established with a transfer from the General Endowment Fund in 2005 by the Georgia Historical Society Board of Curators in recognition of Todd’s ten years of service to the Society.
Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein Fund

The Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein Fund at the Georgia Historical Society was established in 2001 by Mr. and Mrs. Gutstein, ensuring that their commitment to Savannah and Georgia history will continue in perpetuity. Biographical information withheld at the request of the donors.
Thomas and Uriah Bullock Harrold Fund

Thomas Harrold was born June 12, 1814, in Sands Point, Long Island, New York, the son of William Harrold and Mary Probasco Harrold. Thomas married Mary Anne Bullock on December 8, 1836, in Macon, Georgia, and they had eight children: Mary Elizabeth, Uriah Bullock, Louisa Evangeline, William, Caroline Bragg, Maria, Eliza Clifford Cotton, and Caroline Clifford.

Uriah Bullock Harrold was born in Macon, Georgia, on February 17, 1839, the son of Thomas Harrold and Mary Ann Bullock Harrold. He married Mary Elizabeth Fogle and they had four children: Mary Lavinia, Theodore Fogle, Thomas, and Frank Probasco.

Thomas Harrold and his son Uriah were major cotton factors in Americus, Georgia. Uriah Harrold also served as a director of the Central of Georgia Railroad for twenty years.

During the Civil War, Uriah Harrold served as Confederate commissary agent for Americus and was asked by Confederate authorities to find a site in remote southwest Georgia for a prisoner of war camp so that United States POWs could be shipped from Richmond. Harrold selected Anderson Station, Georgia, which became Camp Sumter Military Prison (known as Andersonville Prison) after the railroad station in neighboring Sumter County. By the summer of 1864, the camp held the largest prison population of its time, with numbers that would have made it the fifth-largest city in the Confederacy. Harrold testified at the war-crimes trial of Andersonville commander Captain Henry Wirz in Washington, D.C. after the war.

Thomas Harrold died on November 7, 1887, age 73. Uriah Bullock Harrold died on September 10, 1907, at age 68. They are both buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Americus, Georgia.

The Thomas and Uriah Bullock Harrold Fund was established in 2001 by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Hale in memory of Mrs. Anne Sheffield Hale’s great-great grandfather and great-grandfather, ensuring that the Hale’s shared commitment to Georgia history education will continue in perpetuity.
Walter C. Hartridge, Jr. Fund

Walter Charlton Hartridge, Jr., was born in Savannah on February 9, 1914, the son of Walter Charlton Hartridge, Sr. (1870-1932), a distinguished Savannah attorney, and his second wife, Catharine Honoria McIntire Hartridge (1879-1949). Mr. Hartridge had a number of illustrious forbears, including his grandfather, U.S. Representative Julian Hartridge (1829-1879), and his great-grandfather, Robert Milledge Charlton (1807-1854), a judge and U.S. District Attorney.

Mr. Hartridge attended Pape School in Savannah, then Loomis Academy in Windsor, Connecticut, and received his B.A. in History, cum laude, from Harvard in 1936. In 1938, he received his masters degree in Architectural History from Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Among his civic activities and accomplishments, Mr. Hartridge was president of the Georgia Historical Society from 1952-1961; chairman of the Chatham-Savannah Historic Sites and Monuments Commission; historian for the Society of Cincinnati; a fellow of the American Genealogical Society; a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, the Parish Council of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (where he was a lifelong communicant), and the Oglethorpe Club. He organized Savannah Restorations, Inc. and was active in the efforts to develop the Revolutionary Battle Park, and to save the Scarborough House. He was heavily involved in preservation of the Olde Pink House, the Davenport House, and a number of other buildings.

Hartridge was a popular and charismatic speaker, and he was influential in the preservation movements in Athens, Augusta, Milledgeville, and Jekyll Island. He received the 1964 Gignilliat Award from the city for outstanding contribution to Savannah culture, particularly for his work with the Historic Savannah Foundation and the Savannah Symphony.

Mr. Hartridge’s knowledge of southern families was encyclopedic, and he helped preserve a number of significant collections of family letters, as well as documents in both government and private archives. In addition to editing collections of letters by Robert Mackay, Don Juan McQueen and Michael Wallace, he wrote the text for Savannah: Etchings and Drawings, by Christopher Murray, published in 1947. He published a number of genealogical articles in historical journals, and the Walter C. Hartridge, Jr., Collection at the Georgia Historical Society contains a number of his other articles and speeches.

Mr. Hartridge married Susan L’Engle McMillan, the daughter of Thomas Hasley McMillan, Jr. and Helen Sandwich Hartridge McMillan, on July 7, 1956, in Orange Park, Florida. They had one son, Walter Charlton Hartridge III, born February 21, 1958.

Walter Charlton Hartridge, Jr., died on August 19, 1974, at age 60. His wife, Susan McMillan Hartridge, died on December 12, 2015, at age 90. They are both buried in Savannah’s Laurel Grove Cemetery.

The Walter C. Hartridge, Jr. Fund at the Georgia Historical Society was begun in 2003 by friends of Mr. Hartridge, who wanted to ensure that his lifelong dedication to Georgia and Savannah history will continue in perpetuity.
Lilla Kennerly Mills was born on February 1, 1908, in Camden, South Carolina, the daughter of Laurens Tenney Mills and Margaret Johnstone Mills. She attended Converse College and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Agnes Scott College in 1928, and then received a degree in Library Science from the George Peabody College for Teachers in 1939. She also received a certificate in preservation and administration archives from American University in 1948.

She married Foreman McConnell Hawes on May 29, 1936. Hawes moved to Savannah in 1935 to take a position as a chemistry professor at the newly organized Armstrong Junior College. By 1942, he was named Dean of Students and later served as acting president for a year and a half before being chosen as the third president of the institution by the Georgia Board of Regents in 1944. He served as president from 1944 to 1964 and was instrumental in promoting the expansion of the school, culminating in 1963 with the designation of Armstrong as a four-year senior college. After his retirement from Armstrong, Hawes briefly entered politics and ran an unsuccessful race for state senator in 1964.

Mrs. Hawes began working at the Georgia Historical Society library in the 1930s, when it also served as Savannah’s public library. She eventually became the librarian and director of GHS, serving from 1948 until 1976. During her tenure, the GHS also served as the library for Armstrong Junior College. With Mrs. Hawes as director, GHS became a branch repository of the Georgia Department of Archives and History in 1966, a designation that was completely redefined by privatization in 1997.

Mrs. Hawes edited 8 published volumes of the Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. She also co-edited the publication of The Mackenzie Papers (co-edited with Albert S. Britt, Jr., 1973), and edited an edition of Charles Colcock Jones’s Jones Sees a Ghost (1981).

GHS established the Lilla Mills Hawes Award in 1994 to honor the best book published in county or local Georgia history. She received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award of Merit through the Lachlan McIntosh Chapter in 1956.

Mrs. Hawes died on August 15, 1994, in Kershaw, South Carolina, at age 86. Mr. Hawes died on May 18, 1981, age 81, in Savannah. They are both buried in the Quaker Cemetery in Camden, South Carolina.

The Lilla M. Hawes Fund was established with a transfer from the General Endowment Fund in 1978 by the Board of Curators to honor Mrs. Hawes and her lifetime of dedication and contributions to Georgia history.
Alice A. and Robert S. Jepson, Jr. Fund

Born July 20, 1942, and raised in Richmond, Virginia. Robert S. “Bob” Jepson is an American success story. He attended Thomas Jefferson High School before enrolling at the University of Richmond, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in 1964. After graduation Bob joined the United States Army, where he served in the Military Police for two years.

On December 28, 1964, he married his high school sweetheart Alice Finch Andrews, the daughter of Charles Bruce Andrews and Evelyn Byrd Childrey of Richmond. Alice had attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she majored in English and was elected to the Sophomore May Court in 1962. They have two sons, Scott and Steve, and now have five grandchildren.

After leaving the Army, Bob worked briefly for a Richmond-based holding company before he and Alice moved to California, where Bob worked with the brokerage house of Birr Wilson in San Francisco. There Bob formed California Capital, the first of many businesses he would own. Since those days, Bob has been at the helm of many successful companies; Jepson Corporation, a Fortune 500 diversified manufacturing conglomerate he founded in 1983 and sold in 1989, and Jepson Associates, Inc., a private investment firm he started in 1989. In 2013, he was named the Most Respected Business Leader by Georgia Trend.

With their shared love of art and education, Bob and Alice Jepson have changed lives as well as the landscape of many educational institutions. Among their most notable contributions is the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership Studies, founded in 1992. They also funded a new building for the Gonzaga School of Business Administration in Spokane, Washington. The Jepsons have given generously to Alice’s alma mater at Mary Washington University, including building and endowment programs, and the Jepson Fellows program, and an initiative designed to recruit high-quality junior faculty members and support their quest for tenure.

In Savannah, their adopted hometown since 1989, the Jepsons have left an equally indelible mark on the future of the city. Bob has served on numerous corporate and charitable boards including Chairman of the Georgia Port Authority and Chairman of the GHS Board of Curators from 2014–2016. Under his leadership the Society enjoyed unprecedented growth, including topping a $1 million-dollar fundraising goal with the Georgia History Festival and in 2015, the crown jewel of the Jepson legacy at GHS, the Jepson House Education Center, named in honor of Bob and Alice. Alice too is deeply committed to Savannah, helping to found the Children’s Hospital Charter Circle at Memorial University Medical Center, serving as Board Chair of the Jepson Center for the Arts, serving on the Savannah Philharmonic Advisory Board, and on strategic planning committees for The Savannah Country Day School, to name a few.

In 2006, Bob and Alice created the Alice A. and Robert S. Jepson, Jr. Fund at the Georgia Historical Society ensuring that their legacy and their name will live on for generations to come.
A.W. Jones, Jr. Fund

Alfred W. Jones, Jr. was born in Savannah on January 3, 1930, the son of Alfred W. Jones Sr. and Katharine Talbott Jones. He was reared on St. Simon’s Island. He graduated from the Millbrook School in New York in 1948, and the University of Georgia in 1952 with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. In 1972, he graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1955.

Alfred, Jr. married Betty Wray Macdonald on October 1, 1955, and they had three children: Anne, Alfred “Bill” W. III, and James “Jim.”

Mr. Jones spent his career at the Sea Island Company, founded in 1928 by his father Alfred W. Jones, Sr. and his cousin, auto magnate Howard Coffin. Mr. Jones, Jr., became Director and Assistant to the President in 1956, Vice President in 1961, President in 1966, and Chairman of the Board and President in 1980. He relinquished the job of President to his son, Bill Jones III, in 1993 before retiring from the company in 1997. At the Sea Island Company, Mr. Jones modernized the company’s operations and turned it into a resort with a worldwide reputation.

Mr. Jones was heavily involved with a number of philanthropic endeavors over the course of his life, including the Boy Scouts (for which he received the Silver Beaver Award), the Cumberland Island Historical Foundation, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, the University of Georgia Foundation, and the United Way. He systematically made gifts of land for coastal churches to be built on land the company owned between historic Christ Church and Fort Frederica National Monument, including Wesley Memorial Garden across from Christ Church, Wesley UMC at Frederica, Christian Renewal Church, and Frederica Presbyterian Church. These gifts not only provided land for the churches but also secured the area around historic Christ Church and Fort Frederica. Mr. Jones loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Alfred W. Jones, Jr., died on March 24, 2007, at age 77. His wife Betty died on June 25, 2016, age 86. They are buried at Christ Church Cemetery on St. Simon’s Island.

Bill Jones III established the A.W. Jones, Jr. Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in 2004 in honor of his father, ensuring that his commitment to Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.
Don and Kaye Kole Fund

Don and Kaye Kole have been actively involved in Savannah’s economic, cultural, and social life since they were married over 60 years ago.

Don was born on September 20, 1930, in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Abraham and Beatrice (Wittenberg) Kowalsky. He graduated from Boston University in 1952, and was serving in the military at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, when he met Kaye. Kaye Robinson was born in Savannah to Samuel Robinson and Kate Holitser Robinson on December 10, 1935. She graduated from Savannah High School in 1952 and attended the University of Miami for two years before their marriage.

Don and Kaye met at the old Desoto Beach Motel on Tybee Island. They married on January 1, 1955, in Savannah, and have two children, Jeff and Deborah. In order to keep the couple from moving, Kaye’s parents offered Don a position in the family business, Bay Street Lumber. It eventually became Builderama. The Koles sold the business in 1986. Don and his son Jeff own Kole Management Company in Savannah, a commercial real estate and investment company.

Kaye graduated from Armstrong University in 1975, majoring in English and minoring in Library Science. She worked as a librarian and as an independent genealogist and researcher.

The Koles are long-time supporters of the Live Oak Public Libraries, with Don serving on the Foundation board and Kaye serving on the Board of Trustees of the library system. In 2002, the Genealogy Room at Savannah’s Bull Street Library was named in honor of Kaye, a board-certified genealogist and member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Kaye was the founder of the Savannah Jewish Archives and has been an active member of the Georgia Historical Society, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Savannah Area Genealogical Association, and the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Both Don and Kaye are actively involved with Congregation Mickve Israel.

Kate is the co-author, with Valerie Frey, of Voices of Savannah: Selections from the Oral History Collection of the Savannah Jewish Archives (Savannah Jewish Archives, 2004), The Jewish Community of Savannah: Images of America (Arcadia, 2002), and author of The Minis Family of Georgia, 1733-1992 (GHS, 1992). She has also authored several articles on Jewish genealogy.

Don has served the Georgia Historical Society as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Curator, and fundraiser. He has also served on the boards of numerous Savannah institutions, including Union Mission, Hospice Savannah, the Armstrong Foundation, King-Tisdell Museum, the United Way, the Jewish Educational Alliance, and the Savannah Jewish Federation.

The Koles are inveterate travelers and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. Don’s extensive and renowned private collection of African art has been exhibited at Armstrong’s Fine Arts Gallery and at the Georgia Museum of Art.

In 2001, Don and Kaye Kole demonstrated their lifelong love and support of the Georgia Historical Society by establishing the Don and Kaye Kole Endowment Fund. Their strong belief and commitment to Georgia history education will continue in perpetuity.
Remer Y. Lane Memorial Fund

Remer Young Lane was born March 10, 1910, in Savannah, the son of Mills Bee Lane and Mary E. Comer Lane. He attended Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, and received an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

He married Louise Harris (born in Savannah on December 23, 1915) and they had five children, Remer, Jr., Mills B. III, Louise, Thomas, and Raymond.

Remer Y. Lane was a member of one of the most distinguished banking families in Georgia and South Carolina, and was a founding member of the brokerage firm Johnson, Lane, Space, and Company.

After retiring from the brokerage firm, he became an active farmer on his family’s Combahee Plantation in White Hall, South Carolina. He had a lifelong and deep interest in the history of Savannah and coastal Georgia. He worked on numerous projects to document this history, including inventorying and researching trees, researching the history of fires and hurricanes in Savannah, and numerous other projects that documented the history of the region.

Mr. Lane and fellow Savannahian Stewart C. Forbes, a horticulturalist, undertook an inventory of all city-owned trees in the mid-1970s and determined that there were 66 varieties growing on public property and nearly 80 varieties on public and private urban land. In 1978, they published their research in a booklet, *Trees of Savannah, Georgia*, listing all the varieties and the locations of the most notable specimens.

Mr. Lane was an active member of the Georgia Historical Society. The Remer Young Lane Collection at GHS contains Mr. Lane’s oral histories concerning coastal fishing. In keeping with his deep interest in Savannah’s environment, Mr. Lane also served on Savannah’s Park and Tree Commission.

Remer Y. Lane died June 5, 1984, age 74. Mrs. Lane died on October 8, 2012, at age 96, and they are both buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah.

In 1985, the Mills Bee Lane Memorial Foundation established the Remer Y. Lane Memorial Fund at the Georgia Historical Society to honor the memory of Mr. Lane and his love of Georgia history, and to continue his commitment to Georgia history education through the mission of the Georgia Historical Society.
B.H. Levy Fund

Benjamin Hirsch Levy was born in Savannah on August 24, 1912, the son of Arthur and Regena Levy.

He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1932 and received a law degree from Harvard University Law School in 1935. He was admitted to the bar that same year and began to practice as an attorney for the Bright and Brennan law firm in Savannah.

On August 7, 1940, he married Marion Cecil Abrahams of Savannah and they had two children, Joan and B.H., Jr.

He began active duty in the United States Army Air Corps in 1940 and served throughout World War II, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the war Mr. Levy joined the law firm of Bouhan, Williams, and Levy, eventually becoming a senior partner. He practiced law in Savannah for 53 years.

Besides leading a successful career as a lawyer, Mr. Levy was an active civic, business, religious, and cultural leader. Throughout his life he served as president of the Chatham County Board of Education, president of the Savannah Rotary Club, commander of the Savannah chapter of Military Order of World Wars, president of Congregation Mickve Israel, and president of the Savannah chapter of the B’nai B’rith.

He served as president of the Georgia Historical Society from 1980 to 1984 and chaired the Society’s Endowment Trust board from 1984 to 1987.

B.H. Levy loved history and it became a second calling. In addition to his service to GHS he was chairman of the Savannah and Georgia Semi-quincentenary Commission for the state’s 250th anniversary and was a trustee for the U.S. Constitution Council of the 13 Original States.

He was also an authority on the history of Savannah’s Jewish community and chaired the Savannah chapter of the American Council of Judaism. He published articles in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and was the author of Savannah’s Old Jewish Community Cemeteries, published by Mercer University Press in 1983, and Mordecai Sheftall: Jewish Revolutionary Patriot, published by GHS in 1999.

B.H. Levy died on August 3, 1988, at age 75. He is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah.

In 2004, his family established the B.H. Levy Endowment Fund, ensuring in perpetuity that his deep love and commitment to Georgia history education will continue.
Robert v. Martin, Jr. Fund

Robert Vincent Martin, Jr., was born in Savannah on July 11, 1915, to Dr. Robert Vincent Martin and Annie Phoebe Dunwoody Martin. He graduated from Savannah High School and then Clemson Military College in 1936 with a commission as a second-lieutenant. He attended the University of Georgia for a postgraduate degree.

In 1940, Mr. Martin was called to active duty at Fort Stewart and, during World War II served in the Southwest Pacific Theater in Australia and New Guinea. He received the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct at the Battle of Milne Bay in New Guinea, August 25 – September 7, 1942. He rose to the rank of captain before returning to Savannah in 1945.

Robert Martin married Julia Groves Martin in 1945, and they had five children, Evelyn, Vincent III, Julia, Catherine, and Walker.

Robert began his career with the Texas Company before joining Colonial Oil in 1949, where he worked as Vice President of Marketing until his retirement in 1980.

He was actively involved in the civic and social life of Savannah, serving as president of the Georgia Historical Society, the St. Andrews Society, the Oglethorpe Club, and the Georgia Oil Jobbers Association. He also served on the boards of Sun Trust Bank, Savannah Country Day School, the Savannah Science Museum, the Savannah Red Cross, and the Harper Fowlkes House. He was a charter member of the Georgia Trust.

He also served as governor of the Georgia Society of Colonial Wars and was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Mr. Martin died on November 22, 2003, age 88, and Mrs. Julia Martin died on March 2, 2016, age 95. They are buried in Greenwich Cemetery in Savannah.

In 1996, Mr. Martin established the Robert V. Martin, Jr. Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that his commitment to Georgia history education will continue.
Raymond M. Masciarella II, Esquire and Family Fund


Mr. Masciarella was admitted to the Florida bar in 1984 and is certified by the Florida bar as a Board Certified Specialist in the area of construction. He has practiced in Palm Beach County his entire career, focusing on complex construction litigation. He is rated a Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters and is a lecturer on various legal topics. Mrs. Masciarella is a Registered Dental Hygienist and has anchored the hygienist staff at several prestigious dental practices in the Palm Beach County area for over 20 years.

A sportsman and amateur historian, Mr. Masciarella is the author of *Most Perfect: An Illustrated Guide to M. L. Lynch Turkey Calls* (2013). He has also contributed to the *Corvette Restorer Magazine* and has collected stamps, coins, game calls, firearms, automobiles, furniture, and other historic objects during his lifetime. The Masciarellas reside in historic homes they restored in the Prospect Park section of West Palm Beach and on Pulaski Square in Savannah.

The Masciarellas established the Raymond M. Masciarella II, Esquire and Family Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in 2015, ensuring that their dedication to history education will continue in perpetuity.
Frances D. and Richard Meyer III Fund

Richard “Rick” Meyer III was born in Savannah on September 13, 1946, the son of Augusta Martin Carter Meyer and Richard Meyer, Jr. Frances Dudley was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on July 20, 1946, the daughter of Charles Bondurant Dudley and Rita O’Quinn Dudley.

Rick attended the Asheville School and the University of Georgia, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism in 1970, and an MBA in 1972. Frances attended the University of Georgia, where she graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design. She married Rick Meyer III in 1968, and they had two children, Augusta Carter Meyer and Charles Heyward Meyer.

In 1979, Frances and Rick founded Frances Meyer, Inc., a manufacturing company they owned and operated for nineteen years. Frances ran the creative side of the operation, while Rick managed the business end.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were active in the Savannah community. Rick served on the Board of the Georgia Historical Society, having a lifelong fascination with history due to his having descended from South Carolina Landgraves Edmund Bellinger and Robert Gibbes, Dr. Henry Woodward (the first British colonist of South Carolina), Col. John “Tuscarora Jack” Barnwell, and Thomas Heyward Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence from South Carolina. He has also been active on the boards of Historic Savannah Foundation, Telfair Museums, Bethesda, the University of Georgia Press Advisory Council, and as a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Heyward Foundation, and the Madeira Club.

Frances was active in many Savannah organizations, serving on the boards of the Owens–Thomas House Committee, Chatham Commerce Club, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Nations Bank Advisory Board, Savannah-Chatham Historic Sites and Monuments Commission, Lucas Theatre Board, City Market Art Center, and Historic Savannah Foundation Licensing Committee. In 1985, she helped start the Women Business Owners of Savannah Group. Mrs. Meyer was also a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia.

Frances died on June 29, 2004 at age 57, and is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

In 2004, Rick established the Frances D. and Richard Meyer III Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that their shared commitment to history education will continue.
Florence Rebecca Powell was born August 7, 1913, in Atlanta.

She married Abram “Bob” Minis, Jr., a native of Savannah, on November 22, 1941, and they had three children, Marguerite, Richard, and Henry. Bob was founder of Minis and Co., an investment advising firm.

In 1949, Mrs. Minis was named to the Chatham County Department of Public Welfare and became president in 1955. She served also as head of the Board of Directresses of the old Telfair Hospital, and when construction began in 1967 on Candler’s Minis-Gilmer Diagnostic and Treatment Center, she officiated at the groundbreaking.

Mrs. Minis died on December 21, 1971, aged 58. Her husband died on June 29, 1998, at the age of 94. They are both buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

Her family donated Mrs. Minis’s collection of books to the Georgia Historical Society in 1976 and established the Florence Powell Minis Fund in that year, ensuring in perpetuity that her commitment to history education will continue.
Mary Lane Morrison Fund

Mary Lane Morrison was born August 15, 1907, in Savannah, Georgia, the daughter of Mills Bee Lane, Sr. and Mary Comer Lane.

Mary graduated from Smith College in 1929. She married Howard J. Morrison on May 10, 1941, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Savannah, with the Rev. William Brady of St. Paul’s and the Rev. Ernest Risley of St. John’s Episcopal Church officiating. Dr. Morrison was born on October 8, 1905, and served as a Lt. Commander in the United States Navy. Mary and Howard Morrison had two sons, Howard, Jr. and Mills, and a daughter, Mary.

Mrs. Morrison served on the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society, as a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia, and as a director of the Victorian Society in America.

She was very active in the preservation community in Savannah and received an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Preservation from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust praised her work as having “a major impact in documenting the architecture of Savannah. Virtually every building’s date of original construction is known as well as the name of the builders, with specific reference to date of construction and appropriate architectural style.”


Mrs. Morrison died on July 16, 1994, at age 86. Her husband, Dr. Morrison, died on June 13, 1965, age 59. They are both buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

The Mary Lane Morrison Endowment was established in 1995 by her family to honor her love of and commitment to Georgia history.
John and Grace Neises Fund

John “Jack” T. Neises was born in 1930 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to parents recently emigrated from Germany. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati, and then served in the Korean War as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He received a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and worked as a manufacturing and sales executive with Fortune 500 companies, most notably Xerox Corporation, then headquartered in Rochester, New York.

In 1970, Jack became one of three founding partners of Charles River Ventures, a leading early-stage venture capital firm based in Massachusetts that played a crucial role in the creation of many companies and new technologies. In Boston, he was awarded the Silver Beaver Medal for his work with the Boy Scouts of America, and supported the Handel Hayden Society as well as many other causes.

Jack and his wife Grace retired to Savannah in 1992, and they became active philanthropists and volunteers at local institutions. Jack worked as a home builder for Habitat for Humanity, as an organizer for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games sailing events in Savannah and as Treasurer, and then Chairman, of the Board of Trustees of the Telfair Museums.

Grace Ludeke was born on October 18, 1929, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with high honors from the University of Cincinnati, where she met Jack. They married in 1951 and raised their three children in the Boston area and in New Hampshire. Jack and Grace were married for 58 years.

After her children were grown, Grace became a business manager of a Norwood practice of four orthopedic surgeons. She was also involved with the Handel Hayden Society, and as a board member and with the Florence Crittenden Society, Wellesley Newcomers, New Hampshire Historical Society, and New London Historical Society.

In Savannah, Grace became active in a variety of educational and arts organizations including the Georgia Historical Society, serving on the Board of Curators. She was also involved with Parent and Child, Second Harvest, Telfair Museum, Savannah Symphony Women’s Guild, Lucas Theatre, and the Georgia Nature Conservancy.

Grace Neises died on January 10, 2010, age 80, followed by Jack Neises on January 22, 2014, at 83. In 2001, the Neises established the John and Grace Neises Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that their shared commitment to history education and will continue.
Barry and Grace Greer Phillips Fund

Barry Phillips was born in Valdosta, Georgia, on February 16, 1929, the son of William Otis and Beatrice Mercer Phillips. He was a graduate of Valdosta High School, the University of Georgia, and the University of Georgia Law School.

Barry served in the Korean War, stationed on the front lines where he was commander of a tank battalion. He earned the Air Medal for flying missions as an aerial observer identifying and calling back positions of enemy fire to the tanks and men on the front lines.

Barry attended the University of Georgia on a football scholarship under coaches Wally Butts and Quinton Lumpkin. Under the auspices of Coach Lumpkin, he established the first tutorial and study hall for fellow athletes at the University of Georgia. He later established two scholarships for the University of Georgia, one for the Law School, in honor of his law firm, the Kilpatrick Scholarship Fund, and the other to the University for Scholar Athletes, named in memory of his mentor, Coach Lumpkin. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of ODK (national leadership honor society), Sphinx, Gridiron, and Phi Kappa Alpha.

Barry graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia Law School in 1954. He entered the practice of law with the firm known as Smith, Kilpatrick, Cody, Rogers & McClatchey in 1954 and practiced with the firm his entire career, retiring in 1997 after 43 years of active practice and 12 years as chairman of the firm.

During his career, Barry was active in the civic life of Atlanta, serving as an officer of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, former president of the Georgia Council of International Visitors, and was a member of The Lawyers Club of Atlanta, The Downtown Kiwanis, The Piedmont Driving Club, The Commerce Club, and many other professional associations. Barry was also presiding co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the president of the Fulton County Division of the American Heart Association. He was named one of the Most Influential Georgians by both Atlanta Magazine and Georgia Trend magazine and selected as a Best Lawyer in Atlanta. Barry served as chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, chairman of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Board, and as the first Chairman of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games held in Atlanta.

He married Grace Greer on August 3, 1957, and they had four children. Barry died on January 23, 2012, age 82, and is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Grace Greer Phillips was born in Valdosta, Georgia, on August 10, 1934, to John Wesley Greer, Jr. and Grace Donohue Greer. She grew up in Lakeland, Georgia, and attended Agnes Scott College. She served as campaign treasurer for Governor Joe Frank Harris and then on his senior staff as executive assistant for eight years. She later worked for the State Board of Workers’ Compensation as a Division Director. During her tenure there, she was nominated to the prestigious Academy of Women Achievers by the YMCA. Grace served on the Georgia Historical Society’s Board of Curators and as Board Chairman from 2004 to 2006.

In 2004, Grace and Barry Phillips established the Barry and Grace Greer Phillips Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that their lifelong love of and shared commitment to history education will continue.
In 1913, Henry Cliff Sauls graduated from the Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons (later the Emory University School of Medicine) and joined Piedmont Hospital as an intern. The hospital had been founded as Piedmont Sanatorium in 1905. Over the next three decades, Dr. Saul’s skills as both a physician and a financial administrator would help transition Piedmont from a small, local sanatorium to a modern, regional hospital.

During World War I, Dr. Sauls enlisted as a captain with the Emory Medical Unit and served in the Army as a physician and surgeon at US Army Base Hospital 43 in Blois, France. After the war he returned to Piedmont Hospital, where he partnered in practice with two of the Hospital’s leading physicians, Dr. James Edgar Paullin (elected president of the American Medical Association) and Dr. Carter Smith, Sr. (the co-founder and first president of the Georgia Heart Association). Together, these doctors helped establish Piedmont Hospital’s reputation as one of the state’s leading research and treatment facilities.

Dr. Sauls was a skilled and respected specialist in internal medicine. His research and work with Dr. Paullin and Dr. Smith on diabetes, insulin treatment, and cardiology received national recognition and helped establish Piedmont Hospital’s growing reputation as a cutting-edge medical center. Dr. Sauls also served as president of the Fulton County Medical Society, chairman of the board of the Medical Arts Building, associate professor of Clinical Medicine at Emory Medical School, and diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Sauls also served Piedmont Hospital as financial planner, administrator, and visionary. As treasurer of the Piedmont Hospital Board of Trustees and as chairman of the Finance Committee, Sauls guided the Hospital through the economic challenges of the Great Depression and helped chart its continued growth and success. As a financial planner and visionary, he worked with the state legislature to achieve non-profit status for Piedmont and led the planning, located the new site, and helped secure the funding for the Hospital’s move to its current location on Peachtree Road.

Dr. Henry Cliff Sauls died on July 15, 1947, at age 60, but his legacy at Piedmont continued with the creation of the hospital’s first medical library, the Sauls Memorial Library, and the opening of the new Piedmont Hospital in 1957.

In 2006, Dr. Sauls’ daughter Laura and her husband John A. Wallace established the Dr. Henry Cliff Sauls Endowment Fund at the Georgia Historical Society to honor Dr. Sauls and his contributions to Georgia’s history.
The newspaper was founded as the *Daily Morning News* in 1850 by William Tappan Thompson. Except for a brief period during the Civil War, Thompson edited the newspaper until his death in 1882. During the Civil War he was a champion of the Confederacy until forced to evacuate Savannah as U.S. General William T. Sherman’s army approached the city on the March to the Sea.

The name changed twice before 1868. The paper went by the *Daily News and Herald* in 1865. The *Savannah Daily Morning News* lasted for one day on September 28, 1868. The next day it became the *Savannah Morning News*. The paper started publishing on Sundays in 1884. Four years later, the *Morning News* incorporated. The paper’s most famous editor was Joel Chandler Harris (his title was actually associate editor), who went on to collect the Uncle Remus tales.

On November 19, 1891, an evening newspaper, *The Savannah Press*, debuted with four pages under the ownership and editorship of Pleasant A. Stovall (later President Woodrow Wilson’s ambassador to Switzerland). In January 1931, the paper officially changed its name to the *Savannah Evening Press*.

On August 21, 1957, the *Morning News* and the *Evening Press* were sold to banker Mills B. Lane, Jr. and publisher Alvah H. Chapman (president and publisher). In 1960, Lane and Chapman sold the papers to William Shivers Morris, Jr., publisher of the *Augusta Chronicle* and *Herald* and owner of Southeastern Newspapers (later Morris Communications). In the summer of 1969, the staffs of the *Morning News* and *Evening Press* were merged. Morris closed the *Evening Press* in 1996, citing competition from television and other media.

As the only large daily paper on the Georgia shore, the *Morning News* is the state’s paper of record on a host of environmental issues, such as wetland preservation, red tide, coastline erosion, and water pollution.

During the tenure of Frank T. Anderson, who served as publisher from 1991 to 2005, the paper won the Georgia Press Association’s top award—first place in General Excellence—four times. National awards include Presbyterian College’s Hammet Award for “responsible, ethical, and courageous work in broadcast or print journalism,” and the James K. Batten Award for Excellence in Civic Journalism.

In 2005, the *Savannah Morning News* Fund was established at the Georgia Historical Society by William S. “Billy” Morris III of Morris Communications and Frank T. Anderson, ensuring the paper’s shared commitment to Savannah and to Georgia history education will continue.
Solomons Family Fund

The Solomons Family Fund was established in 2005 to honor Philip and Shirley Solomons.

Philip Solomons, Sr. was born in Savannah on September 25, 1919, the son of Isaiah Abraham Solomons, Jr. and Lena Schulhafer Solomons. He loved the outdoors and was an active Boy Scout, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and the Order of the Arrow. As an adult he served as a volunteer leader, eventually receiving the Silver Beaver Award for his years of involvement and support. After graduating from Savannah’s public schools, he attended Armstrong College for a year before transferring to Georgia Tech, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Management. He was always deeply appreciative of the foundation provided by that year at Armstrong and, with his wife Shirley, later endowed The Philip and Shirley Solomons Eminent Scholar Chair in the Department of Economics. In 2009, Armstrong recognized his life of service to the school and his community by bestowing an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.

Upon graduation from college, he served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and again in the Korean War, attaining the rank of Captain before returning to Savannah to begin his career at Solomons Company, the family pharmaceutical distribution business, which was founded as a small apothecary shop in 1845. During his 47 years with the company, he became its President and CEO, leading it through significant growth, including successful acquisitions of the other two local wholesale firms and becoming one of the foremost companies in the region, serving pharmacies and hospitals in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina, and holding positions on the national board of the industry’s trade association.

While at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, he met, and soon after graduation, married Shirley Massell, the daughter of Samuel and Florence Rubin Massell. She was born November 19, 1923. They had three sons, Philip, Jr., Ralph, and Richard.

The Solomons were actively involved in civic and community life. They were lifelong members and supporters of Congregation Mickve Israel. Philip, Sr. served 57 years in the Rotary Club of Savannah and as president of the Savannah Benevolent Association. They gave of their time and talents and were generous supporters of many of the area’s causes, institutions, and organizations.

Shirley Solomons died August 24, 1995, age 71. Philip Solomons, Sr., died on November 26, 2011, age 92, and they are buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

In 2005, the Solomons Family Fund was established at the Georgia Historical Society by their three sons and daughter-in-laws, and five grandchildren, to honor the lives of Philip and Shirley Solomons, ensuring in perpetuity that their shared commitment to Savannah and to Georgia history will continue.
Julian B. Space Fund

Julian Bowdre Space was born in Augusta, Georgia, on March 7, 1931, the son of Julian A. and Margaret M. Space. Julian moved to Savannah with his family at an early age.

Julian was a 1949 graduate of The Kent School in Kent, Connecticut and went on to graduate as a mechanical engineer from the School of Engineering at the University of Virginia in 1954. He then graduated from the United States Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and later attended the United States Navy flight training programs in Pensacola, Florida, and San Diego, California. Julian spent five years with the United States Navy as a naval aviator.

After military service, Julian returned to Savannah and joined the stock brokerage firm Johnson, Lane, Space, Smith & Co., Inc. He rose through the ranks to lead the firm’s underwriting department and eventually retired as Executive Vice President.

He met his wife, Mary Foy Space, at the firm, and they married in 1976. She worked for over 25 years at Johnson, Lane, Space, Smith & Co., becoming one of the first female registered stock brokers in the country in 1964, and later retired from Johnson Lane in 1985.

Throughout his life in Savannah, Julian was active in a variety of civic and social organizations including the Georgia Historical Society, the Savannah Benevolent Society, the Savannah Yacht Club, and the Society of Colonial Wars. He and his wife attended Independent Presbyterian Church.

Julian B. Space died on July 23, 2004, age 73, at Memorial Health University Medical Center. He and his wife, who died May 25, 2011, at age 86, are buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah.

In 1999, Julian and Mary Space established the Julian B. Space Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that their shared commitment to history education will continue.
Albert Stoddard Fund

Albert Henry Stoddard III was born in Savannah on November 14, 1920, to Albert Henry Stoddard, Jr. and Evelyn Pollard Stoddard. He received his education from the Pape School in Savannah and graduated from the Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Albert received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Virginia and served in the US Marine Corp during World War II. He subsequently returned to Savannah and served as a trust officer for the Savannah Bank and Trust Company until his retirement.

Throughout his life he gave generously of his time and talents. He was an early supporter of the preservation movement in Savannah and maintained a strong support for the arts in the city. Albert served as president of the Historic Savannah Foundation, as a Trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, and a Trustee of the Davenport House Endowment. In addition, he served on the boards of the Telfair Arts Academy, the Georgia Infirmary, the Virginia Episcopal School, and volunteered his services at the Owens-Thomas House, the King-Tisdale Cottage, and the Beach Institute, where he was also board member and secretary. He was awarded the prestigious Oglethorpe Award for his services to the Savannah community. For many years he served as secretary for the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Georgia.

Albert Stoddard died on June 16, 2005, age 84, at his home in Savannah. He is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

The Albert Stoddard Fund was established in 2005 after Albert’s death through a bequest in his will, ensuring that his love and support of the Georgia Historical Society will continue in perpetuity.
Ben J. Tarbutton Fund

Ben J. Tarbutton was born in Sandersville, Georgia, on May 14, 1885. He attended Emory University and graduated in 1905 as a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

After working in his father’s mercantile business, he purchased the Sandersville Railroad in 1916. The Sandersville Railroad was organized in 1893 by a group of prominent local citizens because the town needed another railroad to compete with the Augusta Southern. The Central of Georgia was helpful in getting the new company started because it gave the Central access to Sandersville. The new railroad was only three miles long and ran from Sandersville to Tennille.

In 1916, Ben Tarbutton was asked to take over the operation of the Sandersville Railroad by the organizing group. They were getting older and wanted a young businessman to run the company. The owners agreed to sell him the company at a favorable price if he agreed to operate it for five years. The railroad hauled freight, mail, express, and passengers.

Ben J. Tarbutton was also responsible for the location of the kaolin industry in Sandersville. In 1938, Champion Paper and Fiber Co. decided to develop its kaolin deposits in Washington County. Other companies soon followed.

Ben also served as president and director of the Central of Georgia Railroad from 1951 to 1954.

In addition to his career with the railroad, Ben served as Mayor of Sandersville from 1948 to 1952, as a Georgia state senator from 1947 to 1949, and as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1949 to 1953. He was a member of the Georgia delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1952 and 1956.

He served as a member of the Jekyll Island Authority, as an original trustee of Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons, and served on the board of directors of the Citizens & Southern National Bank from 1946 to 1962, the Gulf Life Insurance Company, and the Central of Georgia Railway Company. He was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Georgia and of the St. Andrew’s Society of Savannah.

In March 1951, the citizens of Washington County paid tribute at a testimonial banquet to Ben Tarbutton for his outstanding contributions of public service to and industrial development of the city of Sandersville and all of Washington County.

Ben married Rosa Moore McMaster of Waynesboro, Georgia, on November 22, 1928, and they had two children, Ben, Jr. and Hugh. Rosa was a graduate of Brenau College and received a master’s degree in History from Columbia University. She and Ben attended Sandersville United Methodist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and as president of the United Methodist Women.

Ben Tarbutton died in Sandersville on September 19, 1962, age 77, and is buried in the Old City Cemetery there. In 2006, his son, Ben J. Tarbutton, Jr., established the Ben J. Tarbutton Fund to honor his father and his contributions to Georgia history.
Vinson-Mitchell Fund

Alfred Summers Mitchell was born in New Madrid, Missouri, on February 17, 1877, to Alfred and Amelia Summers Mitchell. Minnie Grace Sowards was born in Paintsville, Kentucky, on August 15, 1877, to Thomas Jefferson Sowards and Sarah Rebecca Nibert Sowards. Alfred and Minnie married on January 28, 1900, and had one adopted daughter, Ann Frances Mitchell.

In 1909, Alfred became manager of Ingram-Day Lumber Company with mills in Mississippi and Alabama. Mitchell became president of the company in 1937.

In the early 1940s, Alfred formed the Long Leaf Pine Company with a mill in Pearson, Georgia. Alfred and Minnie incorporated the A.S. Mitchell Foundation in 1956 with money from the sale of timberlands in Carrabelle, Florida.

Minnie became the first female school board member in Lyman, Mississippi. She also served as Alabama Regent of the DAR and president of the Mobile DAR, and the Mobile Female Benevolent Home. She was Mobile’s First Lady in 1956 and received a number of honors for her charitable work there.

Minnie died on April 9, 1962, age 84, Alfred on January 19, 1965, age 87. They are both buried in Coalville Methodist Church Cemetery in Lyman, Mississippi.

Alfred and Minnie’s daughter, Ann Frances Mitchell, was born on July 2, 1913, in Sardis, Mississippi. She attended Gulf Park College in Gulfport before marrying Dr. Frank Vinson on December 27, 1933. Frank was born April 2, 1904, in Dunbar, Georgia, the oldest son of William Emmette Vinson and Frances Isabella Vinson. He received his M.D. from Emory University in 1932.

After their marriage they moved to Fort Valley, Georgia, where Frank was a family doctor for over 50 years. During World War II he served in the US Army Air Corps medical service at hospitals in Coffeyville, Kansas, and Camp Blandford, England. Dr. Vinson was on the staff of Peach County Hospital from its inception and was Chief of Staff for many years.

Ann Frances Mitchell Vinson was the first woman elected to the Fort Valley City Council in 1958. In 1962, she became Fort Valley’s first female mayor. When civil rights tensions developed during her administration, she appointed a biracial committee of influential citizens representing a variety of occupations and religions, which moderated the early civil rights era there. Frank and Ann Vinson had four children: Frank Bedingfield, Alfred Mitchell, Kenneth Graydon, and Ann Frances Vinson.

Dr. Vinson died October 5, 1985 in Atlanta at the age of 81. Ann Frances Mitchell Vinson died August 17, 2003, in Dallas, Georgia, at age 90. They are both buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Fort Valley.

The Vinson-Mitchell Fund at the Georgia Historical Society was established by the A.S. Mitchell Foundation in 2001 and carries on the family’s commitment to history and education.
Don and Cindy Waters Fund

Don Waters was born in Savannah on June 19, 1953. His father was a World War II veteran and his mother worked at the Savannah Public Library. Don attended Romana Riley Grammar School on Anderson Street in Savannah and graduated from Savannah High School in 1971. He received an undergraduate degree in Accounting, cum laude, from Armstrong State College, and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1978.

Cynthia “Cindy” Dismukes was born in Savannah on January 27, 1955, the daughter of Bernard Dismukes and Nan All Dismukes. Don met Cindy while attending Armstrong, where she earned degrees in Management and Finance. They were married on June 17, 1978. Don and Cindy have two daughters and four grandsons.

Don Waters is the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Brasseler USA, Inc., an international manufacturer of dental and medical surgical instrumentation. Don first joined the board of Brasseler USA in 1990 and three years later became Chairman and CEO. He became President in 1998, assuming responsibility of day-to-day operations. Prior to that he practiced both as a Certified Public Accountant, as a Partner with Price Waterhouse & Co., and as an attorney with Hunter Maclean.

Waters was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal in March 2013 to represent the First Congressional District of Georgia as a member of the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. He became a Curator of the Georgia Historical Society’s Board in 2015. Don is chair of the finance committee and a member of the board of directors for the Georgia Regents University Health System and is a Trustee Emeritus for the University of Georgia Foundation. He also serves on the boards of the Armstrong State University Foundation, the New York University School of Dentistry, and the University of California at Los Angeles College of Dentistry.

In Savannah, Don serves as the chairman of the board of trustees for Union Mission, Inc., the Chatham County Hospital Authority, and Sweetener Solutions, LLC. He is also a member of the board of directors for Coastal Bankshares, Inc. Over the years, he has served on boards for the United Way of the Coastal Empire, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Telfair Museums, Savannah Country Day School, and Armstrong Foundation.

Cindy Waters has been active in community and civic projects over the last thirty-five years, in many organizations, including Junior League, the Isle of Hope United Methodist Church, the Parkersburg Garden Club, Girl Scouts, the Savannah Country Day School, and the University of Georgia Libraries. In 2013, Don and Cindy helped start the Savannah Classical Academy, a public charter school serving an inner city neighborhood.

Waters was inducted into the Savannah Business Hall of Fame in 2013. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Armstrong in 2000.

In 2016, Don and Cindy Waters established the Don and Cindy Waters Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring in perpetuity that their shared commitment to history education will continue.
Watson-Brown Foundation Fund

The Watson-Brown Foundation, named for Thomas E. Watson and John Judson Brown, was established in 1970 by Walter J. Brown. Its mission is “to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship, and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.” The Foundation annually awards more than $2.4 million in merit and need-based college scholarships to students from a sixteen-county region of Georgia and South Carolina.

The Foundation is based in Thomson, Georgia, hometown of Thomas E. Watson. He was born September 5, 1856, two miles outside Thomson. After attending Mercer University and then reading law, Watson was admitted to the bar and returned to Thomson in 1877 to begin a successful law practice. He served in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1882, the U.S. House of Representatives from 1890-1892, and the U.S. Senate from 1920 until his death in 1922.

Watson emerged as the leader of the southern Populists soon after his election to Congress. He was nominated in 1896 for vice president on the Populist Party ticket with William Jennings Bryan. He ran for President on the same ticket in 1904 and 1908.

He is remembered for being a voice for Populism and the disenfranchised, and later in life, as a southern demagogue, a strident voice for white supremacy and anti-Catholic rhetoric. His heated rhetoric in his weekly newspaper, The Jeffersonian and monthly Watson’s Magazine played a crucial role in the controversy surrounding Leo Frank’s trial, sentence commutation, and subsequent lynching in 1915. He died on September 26, 1922, age 66, and is buried in the Thomson City Cemetery.

John Judson “J.J.” Brown was born in Hart County, Georgia, in 1865. He served as Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture from 1917-1927 and also founded the Georgia Farm Market Bulletin. J.J. Brown was a friend and political ally of Thomas E. Watson and served as vice president of Watson’s Jeffersonian Publishing Company.

Walter J. Brown, the youngest of J. J. Brown’s four sons, was born in Bowman, Georgia in 1903. He was educated at Georgia Tech and the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia. Walter Brown began his journalism career in Washington, D.C., ultimately managing his own news bureau. In 1925, Brown married Georgia Watson Lee, one of Tom Watson’s two granddaughters. Brown organized Spartan Radiocasting Company in 1947 and served as its president, chairman and CEO. The company became one of the largest privately held TV companies in the country.

Inspired in part by his friend James F. Byrnes, Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970, the Watson-Brown Foundation, named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown. Brown died in 1995, and he bequeathed the majority of his estate to the Foundation. From its headquarters in Thomson, the Foundation continues to operate its college scholarship program, to support higher education in the Southeast, and to encourage and fund scholarship on the South.

In 2001, the Watson-Brown Foundation established the Watson-Brown Foundation Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, providing perpetual care for, and access to, the GHS archives, the oldest collection of Georgia history in the nation.
Marguerite Neel Williams Fund

Marguerite Neel was born in Thomasville, Georgia, on October 31, 1917, the youngest of four children born to Lee and Ethel Flowers Neel. She attended Thomasville’s public schools and then completed two years at Duke University. There she met Thomas Lyle Williams, Jr. of Morganfield, Kentucky. They married on April 3, 1936, and moved to Chicago, where Mr. Williams ran the family business. They had two children. After Mr. Williams retired in 1969, they returned to Thomasville.

Mrs. Williams was a member of Thomasville Landmarks and founded several groups dedicated to preservation, including the Thomasville Genealogical History and Fine Arts Library, the Thomasville Cultural Center, and on the statewide level she was a founding Trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

She spearheaded many preservation efforts in Thomasville, including the acquisition of the Lapham-Patterson House as a state-owned historic site; the installation of the highly successful Main Street program that transformed the downtown business district; the conversion of the East Side School into a community cultural center; and the rehabilitation of a circa 1915 post office as the home of the Thomasville Genealogical, History, and Fine Arts Library.

Mrs. Williams was also responsible for the establishment of many organizations that positively impact the lives of children in Thomas County, including Thomasville Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Thomasville Cultural Center. She also started the Thomasville Antique Show Foundation which has provided funds to programs benefitting children in Thomas County every year since the 1980s. Mrs. Williams was instrumental in establishing the Boys and Girls Club of Thomasville. The Boys and Girls Club of Thomas County board voted to name the club in her honor.

Mrs. Williams received many awards during her lifetime, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s highest honor, the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award in 1997; Thomas County’s Woman of the Year in 1976; and an honorary Doctorate of Humanity from Florida State University in 1991. After her death the State of Georgia established the Marguerite Neel Williams Memorial Highway on a portion of Highway 195 in Thomas County.

Mrs. Williams was a longtime member of the Georgia Historical Society, having joined as a life member in 1972. She served on the Society’s Board of Curators from 1973 to 1976.

Marguerite Neel Williams died on May 11, 1999, at age 81, and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville. Her husband Thomas died on January 24, 1978, at age 65.

Mrs. Williams was posthumously inducted as one of the first two modern Georgia Trustees by GHS and the Office of the Governor in 2008.

In 2005, the Williams Family Foundation in Thomasville established the Marguerite Neel Williams Fund at the Georgia Historical Society, ensuring that her commitment to history education will continue.
Frances Wood Wilson Fund

Frances Wood Wilson was born in West Virginia on December 5, 1881. Her husband, Fred Wilson, was born in West Virginia as well, in 1890. After completing his education in West Virginia, Fred went to work in a men’s clothing store. At some point after marrying Frances, the Wilsons moved to Atlanta in the early decades of the twentieth century, and Fred opened a men’s clothing store on Peachtree Street. Though he would move on to other entrepreneurial ventures, he maintained a reputation for being a sharp dresser all of his life.

Fred sold his store in 1932 and went to work for Georgia Power Company as an assistant to company president Preston Arkwright. Wilson is credited with convincing Arkwright that Georgia Power should not only produce electricity, but should also sell electrical appliances in their local offices. Arkwright agreed, and the move turned out to be a big win for the company, which made money off the appliances and the electricity they demanded.

Fred Wilson had begun investing in Atlanta real estate from his earliest days in Georgia, and he eventually resigned from Georgia Power in order to focus on his own business initiatives. He eventually owned and developed shopping centers, apartment complexes, and hotels. The Wilsons lived in the Druid Hills neighborhood in Atlanta and owned an Angus farm in Fulton County that covered nearly 2,000 acres and was considered one of the best in the southeast.

When the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway purchased controlling interest of the stock of the Central of Georgia Railway in the mid 1950s, they placed the stock in a voting trust, with Fred Wilson named voting trustee. Wilson also served on the Central of Georgia’s Board of Directors from 1955 until his death in 1960.

Fred and Frances Wilson were members of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Atlanta. Fred established the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation in his wife’s honor in 1954. The Foundation supports charitable, religious, civic, and educational activities in the state of Georgia and the Christian Science church in Boston.

Fred B. Wilson died on October 10, 1960, at the age of 70. A portion of his assets were transferred to the Foundation at the time. Frances Wood Wilson died on December 27, 1967, age 86, and the remainder of the Wilson’s assets were transferred at that time. They had no children. The Frances Wood Wilson Foundation continues the Wilsons’ spirit and commitment to philanthropy.

On May 12, 2005, the Foundation established the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation Fund at the Georgia Historical Society as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, ensuring that the Society’s mission to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history will continue far into the future.
Nearly half a century ago, the Georgia Historical Society created an Endowment Fund to ensure the future of one of the oldest historical societies in the nation.

Governed by an independent Board of Trustees, the purpose of the GHS Endowment is twofold: provide perpetual care for, and access to, the oldest archival collection of Georgia history in the nation and ensure the delivery of rich and varied educational programs that teach history to hundreds of thousands of students each year.

**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. 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 historic Hodgson Hall, the home of the GHS Research Center. Cast bronze plaques recognizing gifts of $100,000 or larger are displayed prominently on the pilasters on the Research Center Reading Room mezzanine level.

**Legacy Society**

The Legacy Society offers special recognition for Georgia families who donate their personal collections of papers, photographs, portraits, and materials to be catalogued and archived 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.

The Georgia Historical Society Endowment Fund extends to donors a unique opportunity to provide perpetual support in fulfillment of GHS’s educational mission to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history. 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.

By supporting the Society’s Endowment Fund, you are leaving an enduring legacy that will benefit the people of Georgia for generations to come.
Georgia Historical Society

We believe in the value of history.

We believe that public knowledge of our past is fundamental to our future.

We believe our shared history is what binds us together as Americans.

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Safeguarding and Sharing Georgia’s Irreplaceable Legacy

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