

GEORGIA *Highlights*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Summer 2010 *for the Affiliate Chapters*
Volume 12, Issue 2

Georgia Historical Society ■ 501 Whitaker Street ■ Savannah, GA 31401 ■ www.georgiahistory.com ■ 912.651.2125

AN EVENING WITH **LEAH WARD SEARS**



*Former Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court,
Leah Ward Sears*

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) is honored to present "An Evening with Former Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears" on Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lucas Theater in downtown Savannah.

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears has achieved a distinguished position in Georgia's history. She was the youngest person and first woman to serve as a Superior Court Judge in Fulton County, Georgia, and when appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Zell Miller, she became the first woman and youngest person ever to serve on that Court. In retaining her appointed position as a Supreme Court Justice, Chief Justice Sears also became the first woman to win a contested state-wide

election in Georgia. In July 2005, she became the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

During her tenure, Chief Justice Sears has spearheaded two major initiatives: the Georgia Supreme Court's Commission on Children, Marriage, and Family Law and the Committee on Civil Justice. The Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law was established to address the legal and administrative issues stemming from the increasing fragmentation of Georgia's families, while the Committee on Civil Justice was established to develop, coordinate and support policy initiatives to expand access to the courts for poor and vulnerable Georgians.

In 2009, Chief Justice Sears retired from the Supreme Court of Georgia after 27 years of service in the judiciary. After her retirement, she joined Schiff Hardin, LLC in its Atlanta office as a partner in the Litigation Group, where she currently practices general and appellate litigation. In addition to practicing law, Chief Justice Sears is a visiting professor on contemporary issues in family law at the University of Georgia School of Law for the 2009-2010 academic year, and she also serves as the William Thomas Sears Distinguished Fellow in Family Law at the Institute for American Values, a private, non-profit, nonpartisan research institution.

This program is sponsored by Atlanta Gas Light, with funding provided in part by the City of Savannah.

For more information contact Charlie Snyder at (912) 651-2125 ext. 40 or RSVP to csnyder@georgiahistory.com.

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NEH SUMMER SEMINAR THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AT 150: NEW APPROACHES

From June 6-July 2, 2010, GHS hosted a four-week National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded summer seminar entitled, "The American Civil War at 150: New Approaches." Sixteen participants (14 college faculty and two graduate students) hailing from 14 states joined GHS in the in-depth, scholarly exploration of the reasons behind, the players within, and the consequences of the American Civil War. The rigorous seminar featured lectures and discussions with leading scholars in the field, readings, directed research in primary source documents, and selected site visits that spanned the causes of the war, the choosing of sides, slavery and emancipation, and the war as it is remembered in our collective history and memory.

Participants took weekly field trips that focused on the themes of the seminar. The first weeks trip took the group by boat up the Savannah River to Ebenezer Creek, where in 1864 hundreds of escaped slaves following the Union army drowned trying to cross the creek after U.S. General Jeff. Davis, in anticipation of approaching Confederate troops, pulled up his pontoon bridges as he advanced on Savannah. The second week included a visit to nearby Fort Pulaski, a strategic position for the defense of Savannah and a key point in the Union blockade of the Confederate coast. Confederate General Robert E. Lee had a part in construction of



NEH Summer Seminar participants at the Sapelo Island Post Office.

the fort while serving as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers. The third week took participants by ferry to Sapelo Island. The group went on a tour of the island, including a stop at the R. J. Reynolds Mansion, the University of Georgia's Marine Research Institute, the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve and finally the Gullah community of Hog Hammock, where participants had lunch and heard stories from residents. The final week took participants on a walking tour of downtown Savannah, visiting the various memorials to the Civil War era.

As a follow up to the seminar, GHS is now creating an online exhibit that will guide users through the four subject areas of the program. The web site will feature podcasts of seminar lectures, images from field excursions and GHS artifact collections, as well as suggested readings and tips for teachers on using the exhibit in their classrooms.

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FROM THE AFFILIATES

Historic Augusta

Historic Augusta's Preservation Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for the 2010 awards to be given at the organization's annual meeting to be held in the fall.

In order to be considered for an award, a property must be on or eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as part of a historic district, and the project must be completed. The preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of the building should have been completed within the last two years. Preference will be given to those projects which included major renovation work such as saving a building from an uncertain fate, returning a dilapidated structure into a viable resource, making extensive interior or exterior repairs, and returning a structure to its original appearance with appropriate historic materials.

For more information, to check the National Register status of a building, or to nominate a property for a 2010 Historic Preservation, please contact Robyn Anderson by telephone at 706-724-0436, or e-mail at robyn@historicaugusta.org.

Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting

*Archives in Transition:
Current Issues and Future Trends*
October 27-29, 2010, Augusta Marriott
With Kathleen Roe and Richard Pearce-Moses

For more information or to register: <http://soga.org/annualmeeting>

Cherokee County Historical Society

Southeastern Barn Conference
at the Historic Rock Barn
Canton, Georgia

September 30 - October 2, 2010
Barn Adaptive Reuse • Land Conservation •
Urban Farms

Register online at www.rockbarn.org or call
The Cherokee County Historical Society at
770.345.3288

Augusta Museum of History

The Augusta Museum of History is pleased to announce the return of Dollar Dog Days of Summer. During the entire month of August, Museum admission is only \$1 per person!

Exhibitions on display this month include *Celebrating a Grand Tradition: the Sport of Golf*, *The Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown*, and *From Ty to Cal: A Century of Baseball in Augusta*. Also included is *One Man, Two Ships*, and *A Community That Heals*.

Programs available to visitors during this month include Hunt for History, a self-guided journey through Augusta's Story for ages 4 - 13, and a viewing of *Mill Times*, a film that explores the impact of textile mills in people's lives.

Admission to the Augusta Museum of History and the 1797 Ezekiel Harris House is \$1 per person and FREE for children age 5 and under during the month of August. For more information on Dollar Dog Days, visit www.augustamuseum.org or call 706-722-8454.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BACKLOG



Southern Guards (a company of University of Virginia students), and then as a 2nd Lieutenant with Cabell's Battalion of Artillery. After the war, he joined the Oglethorpe Light Infantry; in 1872 he was appointed captain. He became a life member of the Savannah Volunteer Guards in 1886. He was an active member of the Georgia Historical Society and for many

*E*xpanding Audiences for History: Access for a New Century is a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to the Georgia Historical Society to allow us to create searchable online catalog records for artifacts, portraits, and maps in the GHS collection, including the creation of digital images of artifacts and portraits that will be made searchable through the GHS Web site. Here are some images that have recently been created for items from the Georgia Historical Society's backlog.

P-1361-42 A large photographic portrait of Judge Robert Falligant has been identified. Robert Falligant (1839-1902) was a distinguished citizen of Savannah, Georgia. He was a lawyer and served in both houses of the Georgia Legislature. He was Judge of the Eastern Judicial Circuit from 1889 until his death. During the Civil War he served first with the



Judge Robert Falligant

years served as its corresponding secretary.

A-1361-265 A medal that was previously cataloged as "French battle medal - World War I"



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to French command during World War I.



*Medal honoring the United States 37th
Infantry Regiment*

A-318 GHS holds several of Juliette Gordon Low's Girl Scout merit badges. Low is well known in Georgia and beyond as the founder of the Girl Scouts of America. After meeting Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, in England in 1911, she was inspired. From 1912 until her death in 1927 she devoted her time, energy, social connections and funding into building what would become the largest voluntary association for women and girls in the United States.



Girl Scout Badge

A-1361-482 A miniature portrait of Peter Deveaux puts a face to a native Georgian who

fought in the Revolutionary War. Deveaux served under General Robert Howe, served as an aide-de-camp to General Gates, and served under General Nathaniel Greene in the Battle of Guilford Court House. He is also credited with saving the lives of James Jackson and John Milledge when they were mistakenly arrested as spies. After the war he settled as a planter in Chatham County and served in the Georgia General Assembly.

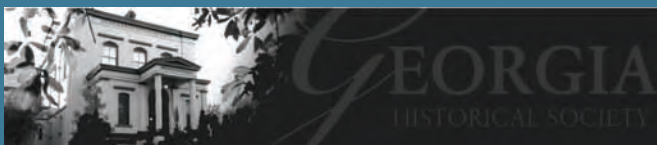


Peter Deveaux

MS 1361-MP 087 This Map of Northern Georgia was drawn and printed in the field during the Civil War and is a copy of the map used by Maj. General Sherman during his march to Atlanta.



Map of Northern Georgia used during the Civil War



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