

## HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2008

GHS'S GEORGIA DAYS  
February 1-16, 2008

*For a full listing of Georgia Days events visit [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com)*

SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL  
Saturday, February 2, 2008  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
*Free and open to the public*

275TH GEORGIA BIRTHDAY BASH & ANNUAL AWARDS GALA  
Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hyatt Regency, Savannah  
Keynote Speaker: Michael Beschloss,  
NBC's Presidential Historian

SYMPOSIUM:  
THE ATLANTIC WORLD AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND  
CULTURE IN THE GEORGIA LOWCOUNTRY:  
18TH TO THE 20TH CENTURY  
February 27-29, 2008  
Savannah, Georgia  
*To register, visit [www.ossabawisland.org](http://www.ossabawisland.org)*

APRIL 2008

GHS ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, April 17  
*Details TBA*

GHS ANNUAL BOOK SALE  
Friday, April 25th 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Member preview and purchase 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Proof of membership is required  
Saturday April 26th 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
501 Whitaker Street, Savannah  
*Open to the public*

### TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY WORKSHOPS

SHERMAN: A SOLDIER'S PASSION FOR ORDER  
W. Todd Groce, GHS  
February 20, 2008

LITTLE BIG HORN  
Jeffry Wert  
February 22, 2008

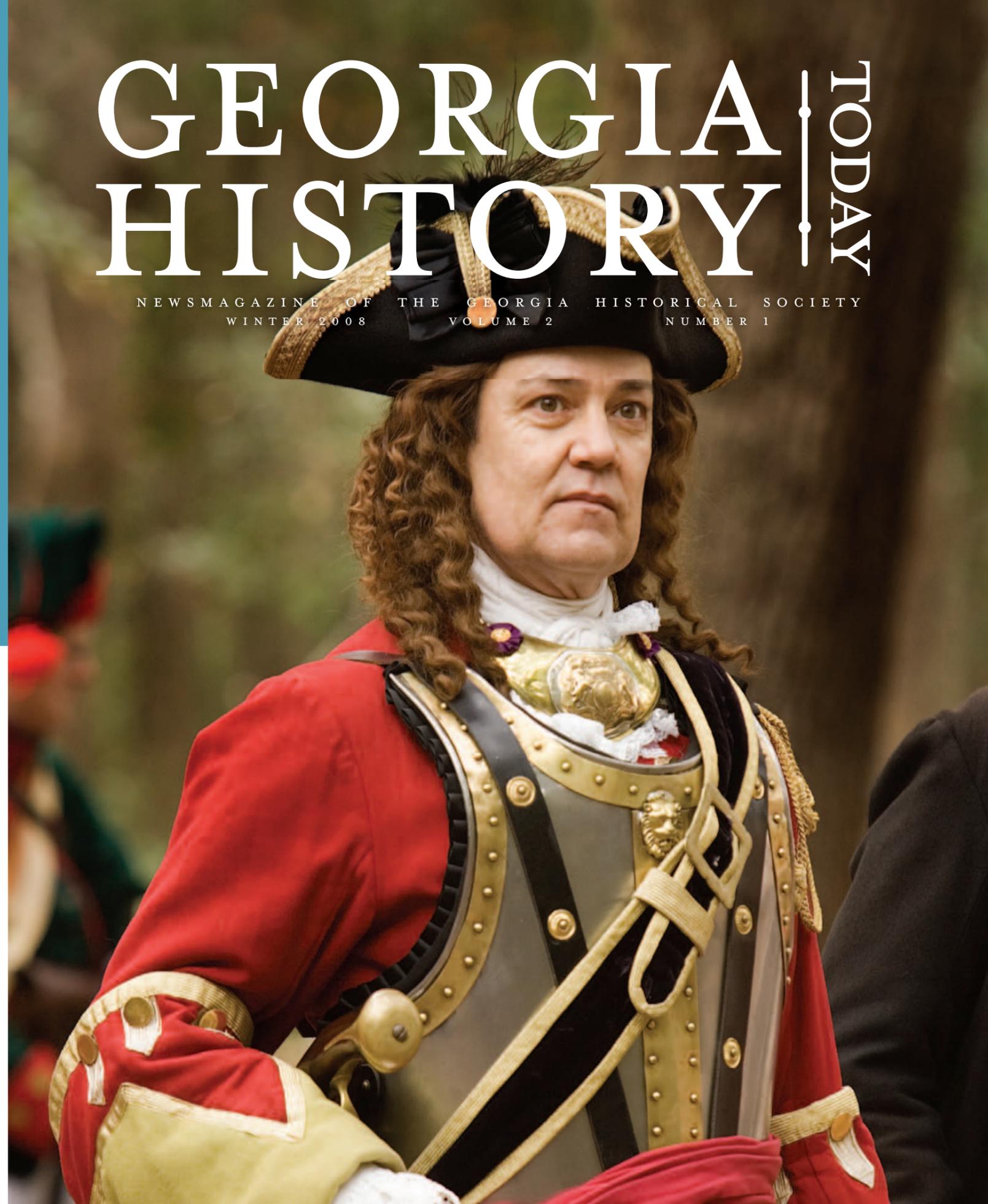
NATION AMONG NATIONS: WORLD WARS AND AFTER  
Lisa Lindquist Dorr, University of Alabama  
March 7, 2008

ALEXANDER HAMILTON  
Carol Berkin, Baruch College  
March 17, 2008

BUFFALO SOLDIERS  
Michael Searles, Augusta State University  
May 14, 2008

# GEORGIA HISTORY | TODAY

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WINTER 2008 VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1



## Perspectives

*A Tribute to a Man and His Vision*

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

ON FEBRUARY 12, 1733, JAMES EDWARD OGLETHORPE AND his hardy band of Englishmen and women landed at a site on a river bluff where sits today the city of Savannah. Oglethorpe arrived with a dream. He wanted to create in this new colony a better world, free from the ills of modern society, where the less fortunate of England would be able to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. He would do this by shielding the young colony from those things he saw as an impediment to economic opportunity: large landholdings, slavery, religious rancor, drunkenness, and legal disputes. It was an experiment in reform, and Georgia would be his laboratory.

The experiment only partially succeeded. The new colony, after a few years, didn't look quite like he had originally envisioned. Despite his best efforts, human nature asserted itself and Georgia soon took on the characteristics of the other British colonies. But this in no way detracts from the nobleness of the effort and the honor of the founder and his vision.

This February the Georgia Historical Society will celebrate, as a part of our signature educational program Georgia Days, the 275th anniversary of the founding of Georgia and honor the man who started it all, General Oglethorpe. To properly mark this momentous occasion and recognize our founder, we've planned a number of exciting new events, including a birthday bash and awards gala, that will add to the traditional Georgia Day parade and other school programs.

We pay homage to Oglethorpe during this anniversary because of who he was and what he did for Georgia. Very few colonies have that one figure that can be pointed to as the sole founder. Oglethorpe conceived the idea of the new colony, personally planted it in the contested region between English South Carolina and Spanish Florida, led its armies in its early struggle to survive, and gave shape and structure to its law and society and a unique urban plan to its first city. Although not among the colony's royal governors, he dominated Georgia's short colonial history like no other.

We remember Oglethorpe not only for his leadership but also for the things he believed in. Whereas other colonies were established for religious purposes or for profit, Georgia was formed primarily for philanthropic reasons. Oglethorpe demonstrated that we can create a better society, a place where economic opportunity exists for all. He not only got the young colony on its feet, he engrafted his vision on its early development. The values he brought to Georgia—hard work, equal opportunity, and the grace found in a second chance—still resonate with us 275 years later.

For all these reasons, we will honor the man and his vision this February as we celebrate the 275th birthday of the special place he created. Please join us in doing so. *G*

*W. Todd Groce is president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at wtgroce@georgiahistory.com.*



# GEORGIA HISTORY TODAY

Volume 2, Number 1 Winter 2008

*The mission of the Georgia Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share Georgia and American history.*

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**On the cover:**  
GHS's Georgia Days 2008 Honoree is General James Edward Oglethorpe, portrayed for the 275th anniversary of the founding by professional reenactor Scott Hodges. Read more about Oglethorpe and GHS's Georgia Days and 275th Anniversary events inside.

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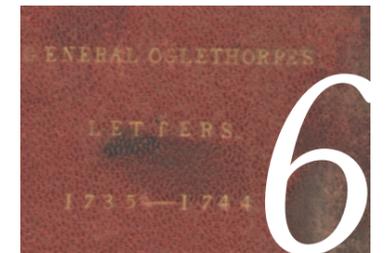


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# FEATURE

## Carved in Stone:

### Remembering James Oglethorpe

by Edwin L. Jackson

IF A LAND WITHOUT MONUMENTS IS A LAND WITHOUT memories, Georgians probably do not have to worry about forgetting founder James Edward Oglethorpe. From the mountains to the sea, our state has remembered Oglethorpe well. There are monuments, plaques, and memorials to him across our state.



#### JASPER MONUMENT

In 1929, Georgia Marble Company magnate Sam Tate began a drive to honor Georgia's founder. He proposed that Grassy Knob (in Pickens County, six miles east of Jasper, at the southern terminus of the Blue Ridge Mountains) be renamed Mount Oglethorpe and offered to erect a marble memorial to Oglethorpe on the mountain's summit. At the time, Grassy Knob belonged to Tate Mountain Estates, a company headed by Tate, who had made his fortune from his nearby marble quarry. Tate succeeded in getting Congress and the Georgia legislature to approve renaming Grassy Knob, and in the spring of 1930 his marble craftsmen under the supervision of James Watt began work on the monument.

When completed, the 38-foot monument was the largest memorial to the founder anywhere in Georgia. On October 23, 1930, Tate presided over the renaming of Grassy Knob and the unveiling of the marble shaft at the summit, with Governor Lamartine Hardman, state legislators, and other invited guests in attendance. Tate believed that the mountain and marble shaft would be an everlasting monument to perpetuate the memory of James Oglethorpe. Mount Oglethorpe still exists today, of course, but the marble monument no longer stands atop the mountain. What happened?

Eventually, Southern Bell obtained permission to erect communication towers atop Mount Oglethorpe. To protect the towers (which dwarfed the Oglethorpe monument) the company built a tall chain-length fence around the facility. The fence also served to protect the monument, which had become a favorite target for vandals. Terrible damage had been inflicted over the years, including the chipping away of Oglethorpe's face. Lightning had struck the monument on repeated occasions, and ice in the seams had caused chunks of marble to break off. As a result, the monument Sam Tate had predicted would endure for the ages was disgraced and appeared damaged beyond any hope of repair.

In the late 1990s, world renowned Finnish-American sculptor Eino came to the rescue. The artist had settled in Jasper, Georgia, where he became aware of the monument's plight. Through his efforts, it was removed from the mountain and taken to his studio. After a tremendous amount of restoration, the monument was erected in 1999 in a small park on Main Street in Jasper near the courthouse. In 2001, the Georgia Historical Society erected a historical marker at the site of the monument.

During his stay in Georgia, Oglethorpe never traveled north of the Fall Line. But the monument that stands in downtown Jasper is a legacy attesting to the fact that Oglethorpe belongs to all Georgians.

#### SAVANNAH STATUE

Georgia's most famous and most visited Oglethorpe monument began as a proposal by the Savannah chapter of the Colonial Dames of America, which in January 1906 requested \$15,000 from the Georgia General Assembly to place a statue of Oglethorpe in Savannah. The legislature appropriated \$15,000 for the monument to be erected in Chippewa Square. In Savannah, an Oglethorpe Monument Association was incorporated and began fund-raising efforts.

Subsequently, the city of Savannah voted to spend \$15,000, and local patriotic organizations agreed to donate \$10,000.

Noted sculptor Daniel Chester French was commissioned to produce the statue, with architect Henry Bacon chosen to design the pedestal and base. French's nine-foot bronze statue stands atop the pedestal on which is carved a portion of the charter of the colony. A lion holding a shield is located on each corner of the base. The shields feature Oglethorpe's coat of arms and the seals of the colony, the state, and the city of Savannah. The statue was unveiled on November 23, 1910.

#### OGLETHORPE IN AUGUSTA

The most recent Oglethorpe monument was erected in one of Georgia's oldest cities. In an effort to promote tourism in Augusta as well as improve the quality of downtown life, an organization known as Augusta Tomorrow created a square block area, the Augusta Commons, to connect Broad Street with the Riverwalk. In the center of the commons they proposed a life-sized statue of Oglethorpe in civilian dress. A delegation from Oglethorpe's boyhood hometown of Godalming, England visited Augusta for the statue's unveiling on February 6, 2003.

#### ST. SIMONS, OGLETHORPE COUNTY, STATE CAPITOL

In 1933, Glynn County erected a stone monument on what was believed to be the site of Oglethorpe's residence on St. Simons Island just east of what is today the entrance to Fort Frederica National Monument.

In 1993, Oglethorpe County celebrated its 200th anniversary. In conjunction with the county's bicentennial, county officials erected a granite monument in recognition of Oglethorpe. The monument is located in front of the county courthouse in Lexington.

The bust of Oglethorpe in the state capitol was sculpted by Felix Weihs in 1940 and presented to Georgia by Sir Eric Underwood of London in 1941. (Underwood was a cousin of Marvin Underwood, a federal judge who lived in Atlanta.) The bust was unveiled in formal ceremonies on the state capitol grounds by Governor E.D. Rivers. The bust was later moved to the interior of the capitol and placed on the landing of the stairs from the second to third floors in the northern wing of the capitol. The bust sits on a pedestal of what appears to be red granite.

#### EPILOGUE

There are other places in Georgia named for Oglethorpe that are still worthy candidates for a statue of the famous general. Though Oglethorpe University in Atlanta houses the famous oval portrait of Oglethorpe, the school has no monument of its namesake. Nor are there Oglethorpe statues in the Georgia towns of Oglethorpe in Macon County or Fort Oglethorpe in Catoosa County. Surprisingly, there are no monuments to Oglethorpe in England in his hometown of Godalming or his burial site in Cranham. Perhaps future generations will rediscover and further memorialize Georgia's founder. *E*

*Edwin L. Jackson is the Senior Public Service Associate at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia in Athens. He can be reached at [jackson@cviog.uga.edu](mailto:jackson@cviog.uga.edu).*

Page left: Jasper Monument. Below (left to right): Savannah, Augusta, St. Simons, Oglethorpe County, State Capitol



# INSIDE GHS Georgia Turns 275 in Style

by Jim Battin

A 275TH BIRTHDAY CALLS FOR A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION, AND that's exactly what the Georgia Historical Society has planned for February's Georgia Days 2008.

"Georgia Days is the premier celebration of the state's heritage and has grown in both importance and reach over the years," says Dr. W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society. "We think the state's 275th birthday is the perfect time for us to expand the event's impact by making the celebration of Britain's thirteenth and final colony bigger and more accessible than ever before."

A noteworthy change in the ambitious 2008 event schedule is the addition of a 275th Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala in lieu of Georgia Days Luncheon.

A must-attend event, the Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala will present best-selling author and NBC's Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss as keynote speaker in an especially timely Presidential election year appearance.

GHS will also honor two longtime supporters during the event. Atlantan Bradley Hale will be given the John Macpherson Berrien Award for lifetime achievement in Georgia history. Savannahian Archie H. Davis will receive the Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes individuals who have selflessly contributed their time and resources to advance the mission of the Georgia Historical Society to collect, preserve, and share Georgia history.

British interests in Georgia will be represented at the Gala by Atlanta Consul-General Martin Rickerd, who will present a Royal proclamation from Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II.

Honorary chairs of the Gala include Governor Sonny Perdue, Secretary of State Karen C. Handel, Attorney General Thurbert Baker, Commissioner of Labor Michael Thurmond, Senators Johnny Isaakson and Saxby Chambliss, and Congressmen Jack Kingston and John Barrow.

One of the most significant and highly anticipated educational outreach programs of each GHS program year, the two-week Georgia Days celebration includes school programs, lectures,

curriculum guides, and unique living history programming for young and old alike.

Georgia Days chair Jenny Lynn Bradley notes that the tradition of honoring a historical figure during the event will continue in 2008 as the Society again turns its educational spotlight on Georgia's founder, General James Edward Oglethorpe.

Scott Hodges, an accomplished professional interpreter, will make a dramatic presentation as the General at the Georgia Days Kick-off on Tuesday, February 5, at 6 p.m. at the Society's Hodgson Hall.

A Colonial Williamsburg-quality interpreter whose knowledge, mannerisms, impeccable upper-class English accent, and period costume complete down to a historically accurate dented breastplate, Hodges will bring General Oglethorpe to life at the kick-off with history, a little humor, and a lot of first-person character.

Programming for 2008 will include interactive learning experiences and long-term resources for the on-going study and exploration of Georgia's past. Georgia Days curriculum guides designed to meet state and national learning standards are available free of charge to teachers throughout the state by downloading from the GHS web site at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com).

"We hope all Georgia Historical Society members will participate in the Georgia Days 2008 celebration, especially the 275th Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala," says Dr. Groce.

"It will be a truly special event, and proceeds will help the Society preserve its priceless historical documents and artifacts, erect new historical markers across the state, train teachers, and ensure that our children continue to explore and experience Georgia's rich history."

Complete information about Georgia Days 2008 can be found at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com). For information about or tickets to the 275th Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala, call 912.651.2125 ext. 20.

## GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S Georgia Days

2008



**COLONIAL FAIRE AND MUSTER**  
SATURDAY (FAMILY DAY) AND SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 2-3, 2008,  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Wormsloe State Historic Site,  
7601 Skidaway Road, Savannah  
**Sponsored by: Society of Colonial Wars in  
the State of Georgia**  
*Free and open to the public*

**GEORGIA DAYS KICKOFF EVENT**  
AN EVENING WITH  
JAMES EDWARD OGLETHORPE  
A DRAMATIC HISTORICAL PRESENTATION  
BY SCOTT HODGES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008, 6:00 P.M.  
Georgia Historical Society,  
501 Whitaker St., Savannah  
**Sponsored by: British Gas**  
*Free and open to the public*

**OGLETHORPE ARRIVES AT DARIEN**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008, 10:00 A.M.  
Fort King George State Historic Site,  
Fort King George Drive, Darien  
**This event is organized by Fort King George  
and the Lower Altamaha Historical Society.**  
*For more information please call 912.437.4770.  
Free and open to the public*

**SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008,  
12:00 NOON - 4:00 P.M.  
Savannah-area museums  
**Sponsored by: Richmond Hill Plantation**  
*(visit [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) after January 1, 2008 for  
museum list, or contact individual sites of interest)*  
*Free and open to the public*

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY AND  
PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008, 5:00 P.M.  
Georgia Historical Society,  
501 Whitaker St., Savannah  
**Sponsored by: Savannah Morning News,  
Cumulus Savannah, and WSAV-TV**  
*Free and open to the public*

**GEORGIA DAY DIGNITARIE'S COFFEE**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008, 9:00 A.M.  
**Sponsored by: The Savannah Bank**  
*Invitation only*

**GEORGIA DAY PARADE**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008, 10:30 A.M.  
Bull Street from Forsyth Park  
to City Hall, Savannah  
**Sponsored by: The Savannah Bank with  
additional support from the City of Savannah**  
*Free and open to the public*

**2008 FORT FREDERICA LIVING  
HISTORY FESTIVAL**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008,  
9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.  
Fort Frederica National Monument, 6515  
Frederica Road, St. Simon's Island, GA  
*For more information, please contact the Fort Frederica  
Visitor's Center at 912.638.3639.  
Free and open to the public*

**BIRTHDAY BASH AND AWARDS GALA**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008, 7:00 P.M.  
Hyatt Regency Savannah  
**Keynote Presentation Sponsored by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jepson, Jr.**  
*Tickets \$175 each; reservations required*

**SCOTTISH HIGHLAND DINNER**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008, 7:00 P.M.  
Fort King George State Historic Site, Fort  
King George Drive, Darien  
**This event is organized by Fort King George  
and the Lower Altamaha Historical Society.**  
*For more information, please call 912.437.4770.  
Reservations required*



RENOWNED PRESIDENTIAL  
HISTORIAN TO DELIVER  
BIRTHDAY BASH KEYNOTE

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR Michael Beschloss, an award-winning historian and the author of eight books, most recently the acclaimed *New York Times* best seller *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989*.

*Newsweek* has called Beschloss "the nation's leading Presidential historian." He serves as NBC's Presidential Historian—the first time any major network has created such a position—and appears regularly on *Meet the Press*, *Today*, and all NBC network news programs. He is a regular on PBS's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. In 2005 he won an Emmy for his role in creating the Discovery Channel series *Decisions that Shook the World*, which he also hosted.

Beschloss was born in Chicago in 1955. An alumnus of Williams College, he also has an advanced degree from the Harvard Business School. He has been a historian on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution (1982-1986), a Senior Associate Member at Oxford University in England (1986-1987), and a Senior Fellow of the Annenberg Foundation in Washington, D.C. (1988-1996).

Beschloss's *The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945* (2002) was a *New York Times* bestseller for three months and was Amazon's bestselling history book of the year. *Taking Charge: The Johnson White House Tapes, 1963-1964* (1997) was Beschloss's first volume on President Lyndon Johnson's newly released secret tapes. *The Wall Street Journal* called it "sheer marvelous history," while the sequel, *Reaching for Glory: Lyndon Johnson's Secret White House Tapes, 1964-1965* (2001), was called "an incomparable portrait of a President at work" by the *New York Times Book Review*.

*Beschloss will be available to sign books following the Birthday Bash. Go to [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) to buy your tickets now, or call 912.651.2125, x. 20.*



# Georgia Gems

By Robert K. Weber

THEY SAY THAT EVERYBODY HAS A STORY. THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR EVERY ITEM IN THE GHS COLLECTION. Sometimes the story is every bit as fascinating as the item itself.

In 1873, the Georgia Historical Society published volume three of *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, a series initiated in 1840 highlighting the Society's manuscript holdings. Volume three's first 158 pages contain the first-ever printing of letters from General James Edward Oglethorpe to the Georgia Trustees and others, spanning the period from October 1735, soon after Oglethorpe's return from his first visit to England after Georgia's founding, to August 1744.

According to historian William Harris Bragg in his book *De Renne*, manuscript copies of the Oglethorpe letters had been presented to the Society in 1872 by George Wymberley Jones De Renne, owner of the Wormsloe estate, philanthropist, bibliophile, and subsequent president of GHS. In 1870, De Renne traveled to London with a commission from GHS authorizing him to "examine and obtain from the public offices of her Britannic majesty's Government copies of all papers and records relating to the history of Georgia." He could spend no more than thirty pounds sterling in this endeavor, however.

At the Public Records Office (PRO), De Renne discovered seventy-eight volumes pertaining to the Georgia colony, including several letters from Oglethorpe, of which he felt the state government might have failed to obtain copies in its previous efforts at colonial record gathering in 1840. De Renne sent back to GHS librarian William Harden for a list of those letters already in Atlanta and arranged to have copied those letters in the PRO not already in the State Library. He told Harden he thought the letters showed Oglethorpe's "own energetic temper, and the dangers and difficulties" of the campaigns against the Spanish in Florida. De Renne bound the letters in quarto, in red leather, with "General Oglethorpe's Letters, 1735-1744" stamped in gold on the cover. When he presented the volume to GHS, De Renne remarked that "much has heretofore been written about [Oglethorpe]—in these letters he speaks for himself."

The bound volume of Oglethorpe's letters remains a part of the GHS collection (MS 595), along with a second volume of copies of letters from James Wright (MS 884), last royal governor of Georgia, also obtained by De Renne on his trip to London and presented by him with the Oglethorpe letters. The handwriting is impeccable, the source of each letter is meticulously noted, the binding—while showing age—is tight, and the paper remains remarkably clean and free of foxing. As De Renne noted, much has been written about Oglethorpe, and thanks in part to De Renne, scholars in the United States have had relatively easy access to the letters he wrote to the Trustees in London from the uncertain and barely established frontier colony of Georgia.

As we mark the 275th anniversary of the founding of Georgia, there is perhaps no better way for us to understand and appreciate the difficulties faced by Oglethorpe and his small band of settlers than to read his own words. While the manuscript copies might not be in Oglethorpe's hand, they—and the journey they traveled to GHS—still tell his story and are themselves now a part of Georgia's long history. *g*

Robert Weber is the Special Collections Librarian at the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at [rweber@georgiahistory.com](mailto:rweber@georgiahistory.com).

GENERAL OGLETHORPE'S

LETTERS

1735—1744



## Profiles

ARCHIE DAVIS:  
*"History Inspires Me"*

By Jim Battin

"I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE than Savannah," says retired banker Archie Davis. "I get up excited every day."

That's a telling statement from a Winston-Salem-born University of North Carolina graduate whose banker father was a two-term North Carolina state senator, and who can trace his banking and business roots in that state back to 1850.

But Georgia has been Archie's home since 1966, when he joined Citizens and Southern National Bank in Atlanta after earning an MBA at Harvard. The Georgia connection was permanently sealed the following year when Archie married Sally Johnson, whose family had moved in the late 1820s from North Carolina to near Americus.

The couple first lived in Savannah from 1970 to 1980, when, at the request of C&SNB chairman, Mills B. Lane, Jr., Archie headed the bank's operations there. After a return to Atlanta where he headed the bank's commercial lending and international businesses, Archie left C&SNB in 1989, and he and Sally returned to Savannah.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Archie became founding director of The Savannah Bank and The Savannah Bancorp in 1989. As a business and community leader he has helped build a bank, strengthen dozens of local businesses and non-profit organizations, and make Savannah a better place to live and work.

Archie credits Mills Lane, Jr. and his father, Archie K. Davis, as influences.

"I learned a lot from Mills. He was a real character and a legend in the banking business," Archie says. "He brought marketing to banking, created the credit card business as we know it today, and taught me that there are only two kinds of people in world, customers and prospects."

He says Lane also gave him the best advice he's ever received.

"When Mills sent me here from Atlanta nearly 40 years ago," Archie recounts, "he said, 'Archie, Savannah is a town you've got to make love to,' and that's exactly what I've tried to do every single day."

But it was his father who inspired in him an appreciation for community leadership and involvement, and a lifelong love of history.

"My father was Chairman of Wachovia Bank & Trust," he says. "He was one of the founders of the Research Triangle in Winston-Salem. He was president of the American Banking Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He served on the boards of AT&T, Southern Railway-Norfolk Southern, Hanes Corporation, and many local organizations.

"He was a public-spirited man, and he taught me that banks have a strong moral obligation to help their communities grow and prosper."

His father was also a historian, and Archie proudly displays on his living room bookshelves the three black-bound volumes of his father's UNC history dissertation, and a copy of *Boy Colonel of the Confederacy: the Life and Times of*

*Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.*, written by his father and published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1985.

"History inspires me," Archie says, a statement supported by personal artifacts, family stories, a collection of vintage Lionel trains, forays into the GHS library and archives, and years of board service and leadership to such organizations as the Atlanta Historical Society, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Savannah Foundation, and Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum and Foundation.

And now, for the third time, as a member of the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society.

Archie first served on the GHS board in the 1970s at the request of Mary Lane Morrison, and he has seen Savannah and the Society change dramatically since that early involvement.

"Neither Savannah nor the Georgia Historical Society are as small and slow moving today as they once were, and both play increasingly important roles across the state," he says.

"History anchors us all, and over the years Howard Morrison, inspired by his mother, Mary Lane Morrison, and many others have helped the Georgia Historical Society take great leaps forward to reach more Georgians."

"The Society is doing great things," he continues. "It has an

important mission, a distinguished, highly professional staff, a sense of urgency, and offers more and more statewide activities, participation and involvement. When you have a sense of pride and ownership in an important organization, you support and sustain it. That's what Sally and I are doing."

For his part, GHS President and CEO Dr. W. Todd Groce says Archie is a valued board member for many reasons, especially for his long and varied history with the organization.

"Archie has a perspective on the Society that, combined with his years of local and statewide business leadership, helps him see things that others don't see, and accomplish things that others might not accomplish," Todd says.

"Archie just makes great things happen."

*Archie Davis will be honored by the Georgia Historical Society with the Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award at the Birthday Bash & Annual Awards Gala in February.*

# THE STATE OF HISTORY

## The Savannah Book Festival

By Madison Parks Prickett

IN THE FALL OF 2004 MY WIFE, JANE GRIFFIN AND I BOUGHT A HOUSE ON WILMINGTON ISLAND, A SECOND HOME THAT would one day become our primary residence. As is usually the case, I bought books in order to learn more about the place I was going. I already knew a few things about Savannah, but needed to learn more. How can a place become your home if you do not know its history and culture?

From the *Insider's Guide to Savannah and Hilton Head*, I learned that with all its wonderful festivals and cultural offerings, Savannah did not have a festival for adult readers. From *Literary Savannah*, I learned about the city's rich literary heritage. Savannah is the birthplace of Conrad Aiken, James Alan McPherson, Johnny Mercer and Flannery O'Connor, and the inspiration for many other authors, including John Berendt and Robert Louis Stevenson. How was it that this beautiful, historic, romantic place did not have a book festival?

During a March 2005 lunch with local publisher Deric Beil, I asked the same question. Deric said he did not know, but offered introductions to those whom he knew would be receptive to starting such an event. A year later, I had talked with scores of Savannahians, visited book events up and down the East Coast and questioned experts, including John Cole of the National Book Festival and Bill Starr of the Georgia Center for the Book, about how to produce a successful book festival. In the summer of 2006, a number of Savannah's civic leaders joined the board of the Savannah Book Festival, including our President, Lisa White, Vice President Swann Seiler, Treasurer Elizabeth Oxnard, and Secretary Alloceia Hall. We incorporated and began making concrete plans for our inaugural festival to be held on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

In January 2007, Dr. Stan Deaton and I traveled to New York and shared our plans with publicists at a number of the major publishing houses including Harper Collins, Penguin, Random House, and Simon & Schuster. Several of the Savannah Book Festival's authors will come from these publishers; others will come through connections with various Savannahians who are committed to the success of the festival and the impact it will have on the cultural life of our city and state.

The festival will feature five venues on historic Telfair and Franklin Squares—History & Biography, Fiction, Lifestyle, Poetry & Songwriting, and Contemporary Issues. Beginning each hour from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., authors will make simultaneous 45-minute presentations. These presentations will include comments about their lives in letters, their latest works, and a question-and-answer period. They will be available to autograph books following their presentations. *G*

The Georgia Historical Society is proud to be a sponsor of the inaugural Savannah Book Festival. For a complete list of events visit [www.savannahbookfestival.org](http://www.savannahbookfestival.org). Madison Parks Prickett is the Executive and Creative Director of the Savannah Book Festival. He can be reached at [mattprickett@savannahbookfestival.org](mailto:mattprickett@savannahbookfestival.org).

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## MILESTONES



**NEW GHS WEB SITE:** GHS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF our comprehensively redesigned Web site and online public access catalog (OPAC). A centerpiece component of GHS's Expanding Audiences for History technology initiative, the new Web site is content rich and user-friendly, offering users instant, online access to GHS's unique library and archives collection and wide-ranging educational offerings. We invite you to explore and be engaged in Georgia's story through new online exhibits, a history education resource center for school teachers, an interactive historical marker tour, online articles and publications, calendar of events, advanced research tools, and much, much more! Visit us online today at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com)!

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the Web site do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

With additional support from: The Broadfield Foundation, the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and the Wormsloe Foundation.

Web site designed and developed by Smack Dab Studios. Visit [smackdabstudios.com](http://smackdabstudios.com)

**EXPANDING AUDIENCES FOR HISTORY:** GHS THANKS THE Burton Family Foundation for its generous support of our Expanding Audiences for History: Access for a New Century technology initiative. GHS was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant for the acquisition of two new digital microfilm readers and a laser printer for our Library and Archives Reading Room. The new equipment has replaced two older readers, enabling us to provide improved researcher access to Georgia's rich history.

To learn more about the Expanding Audiences for History technology initiative, or to make a donation in support of the effort, please contact the Georgia Historical Society toll free at 1.877.424.4789 or via e-mail at [ghs@georgiahistory.com](mailto:ghs@georgiahistory.com).



**LECTURES:** GHS FEATURED AUTHORS EDWARD BALL AND Elizabeth Brown Pryor at separate events last fall as they discussed their new books, Ball's *The Genetic Strand: Exploring a Family History Through DNA* and Pryor's *Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters*. Our thanks to Congregation Mickve Israel and First Baptist Church, Savannah for hosting these programs.



**ENCOUNTER & EXCHANGE:** NEW ONLINE EXHIBIT FOR GEORGIA Teachers: GHS is pleased to announce the launch of a new online exhibit featuring highlights from our collections. Based on the 2007 GHS Lecture Series, the exhibit is designed to provide an online teaching aid for educators. Focusing on three themes—colonial settlement of North America, the first two hundred years of slavery in North America, and human interaction with the environment—the exhibit applies these themes to Savannah and Georgia history. Digital images of artifacts and documents offer a visual aid and exemplify the ways the GHS collections can serve to educate researchers and students alike. Teaching tips and additional reading suggestions follow the explanatory text to help Georgia's teachers incorporate state history into related curriculum in accordance with professional standards.

Visit our new website at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) and follow the Education links to explore Encounter and Exchange, GHS's newest online exhibit!

Project funding provided in part by the City of Savannah.



## FOOTNOTES

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR  
BY STAN DEATON

IT WAS A BUSY FALL HERE AT GHS AND it's full speed ahead this winter. Others may slumber, but February is jam-packed with exciting history and cultural programs that GHS is sponsoring or partnering with other institutions to bring you, with more to come this spring and summer. Check out our website at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) for more information.

**NEH Landmarks Grant:** GHS was pleased to learn last fall that we were one of six institutions nationwide to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for Community College Faculty Grant. GHS's workshops are entitled "African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands, 1750-1950." The workshops are open to any community college faculty member (including adjuncts) currently teaching in a humanities field in the United States. Workshops will feature on-site visits as well as lectures from scholars and will be held here in Savannah July 13-18 and July 20-25, 2008. For more information check out our website at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) or contact Charles Snyder at [csnyder@georgiahistory.com](mailto:csnyder@georgiahistory.com).

**GHS 275th Birthday Bash and Awards Gala:** The Georgia Days celebration is always special, but 2008 is especially so. GHS is pulling out all the stops to mark the 275th anniversary of the founding of Georgia, culminating on Saturday, February 16 with the Birthday Bash and Awards Gala at the Hyatt Regency here in Savannah. Michael Beschloss, NBC's renowned Presidential historian, will deliver the Keynote Address, while Archie Davis of Savannah and Bradley Hale of Atlanta will both be honored with major awards. GHS's prestigious Bell Award for the best book in Georgia history will also be presented

that evening. It will be very special occasion. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of it—call GHS today or go to [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) to purchase your tickets. They're going fast.

**Savannah Book Festival:** GHS is proud to be a co-sponsor of the inaugural Savannah Book Festival on Saturday, February 2, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Festival's mission is to promote reading, writing, and civil conversation, and it will feature more than 30 authors in History & Biography, Fiction, Poetry & Songwriting, Contemporary Issues, and Lifestyle venues in Telfair Square and Franklin Square. The Festival is free and open to the public and promises to be yet another don't-miss event in our state's rich cultural life. For more information on this unique celebration of the written word visit the Book Festival's website at [www.savannahbookfestival.org](http://www.savannahbookfestival.org).

**Ossabaw Symposium:** GHS is also co-sponsoring a scholarly symposium on "The Atlantic World and African American Life and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: 18th to the 20th Century" with the Ossabaw Island Foundation on February 27-29, 2008. This Savannah conference will spotlight ten of the best historians in the field—including David Brion Davis, Philip D. Morgan, Betty Wood, Jacqueline Jones, and Erskine Clarke—as they explore new directions and new scholarship on Georgia's role in the larger Black Atlantic World. To register online visit [www.ossabawisland.org](http://www.ossabawisland.org).

Stan Deaton is the Vice President for Programs and Scholarship and the editor of *Georgia History Today*. He can be reached at [sdeaton@georgiahistory.com](mailto:sdeaton@georgiahistory.com).



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GHS memberships make wonderful gifts! Members are encouraged to share the benefits of membership with others. For information call 912-651-2125 or visit [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com)

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