SPRING/SUMMER 2016 VOLUME 10

GEORGIA | g HIST

Sustaining the Legacy RAY C. ANDERSON

Taking Your Place in the Next Century Initiative

Help Conserve a Georgia Gem

STRENGTH FOR THE AGES

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

n recent years, we have all heard and read stories about tremendous financial difficulties that have led venerable non-profit institutions to the brink of collapse. When this happens, we often ask, why didn't anyone see this coming and do something to prevent it? All too often, the underlying cause is an inadequate endowment.

A good rule of thumb is that the distribution from an institution's endowment should cover at least half of its annual operating expense. While this is no guarantee of success, it certainly makes it less likely that there will be a collapse due to financial problems. It's a lesson we all need to learn—and one not lost on the Georgia Historical Society.

As we prepare to enter our third century as Georgia's premier, independent statewide historical institution, GHS stands at a crossroads. Nearly twenty years ago, we took a voluntary state privatization, giving us control once again over our own destiny and producing the most explosive growth in the history of the institution. Now we need to secure that success and lay the foundation for even greater achievements.

To reach this goal, the Board of Curators has approved the launch of the *Next Century Initiative*, an ambitious campaign designed to propel the institution forward, create new opportunities for growth, and ensure its future stability and independence.

The Next Century Initiative has two components, capital and endowment. Of the \$13 million goal, \$1 million will be allocated for renovating the Research Center in Savannah. These funds will allow us to improve archival storage and enhance research services by implementing several deferred maintenance projects and repurposing space formerly utilized as administrative offices now transferred to the Jepson House Education Center.

The cornerstone of the *Initiative*, however, is a strong endowment. Currently, the GHS endowment stands at \$8 million, a good

beginning but hardly what we need to be truly independent and ensure the long-term financial security that will allow us to see our dreams become a reality.

The *Initiative* will add an additional \$12 million, bringing the endowment total to \$20 million. These funds will properly support current programs and incubate new ones. We can teach more students, train more teachers, create new knowledge through research, and improve the lives of all Georgians by offering them a deeper understanding of our past.

Many of the amazing programs and services we offer today were created with grants and operate on annual fundraising campaigns. Imagine what could be done—how many more students could be reached, how many more documents could be preserved and made accessible for research, how many more stories could be told through historical markers—with a secure stream of revenue that only an endowment can provide.

To achieve this goal we need your support. Whether it's a bequest in your will or a donation during your lifetime, by joining us in this noble endeavor you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will teach history and make it accessible to everyone.

Understanding our nation's history has never been more important than now. The challenges of the future require problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and an appreciation for our democratic ideals, all of which can be acquired by studying history. The rising generation needs to be prepared for the world they will inherit. Through the *Next Century Initiative*, together we will ensure they are ready.

W. TODD GROCE, PH.D.
President & CEO of the
Georgia Historical Society

GEORGIA BENEFIT OF THE STORY

GEORGIA

ON THE COVER

Ray C. Anderson, Founder and Chairman of Interface Inc. Photograph from the Ray C. Anderson Papers, MS 2603

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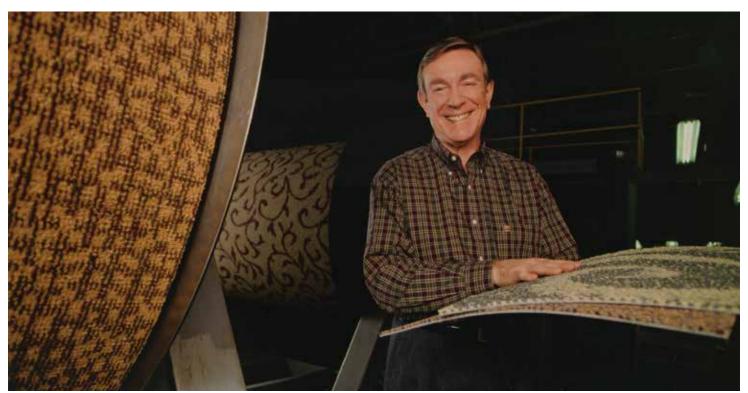


Photo by Caroline Joe, from the Ray C. Anderson Papers, MS 2603.

Feature Story Page 3 — Sharing the Story of Georgia's Greenest Manufacture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERSPECTIVES

OI | Strength for the Ages by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

FEATURE

O3 | Sustaining the Legacy of Ray C. Anderson by John A. Lanier

GEORGIA GEMS

07 | Help Conserve a Georgia Gem
by Lynette Stoudt

INSIDE GHS

09 | Georgia Southern Students Research
Georgia-Ireland Connection by Howard Keeley, Ph.D.

PROFILES

13 | Don Waters
by Stan Deaton, Ph.D.

MILESTONES

16 | GHS News

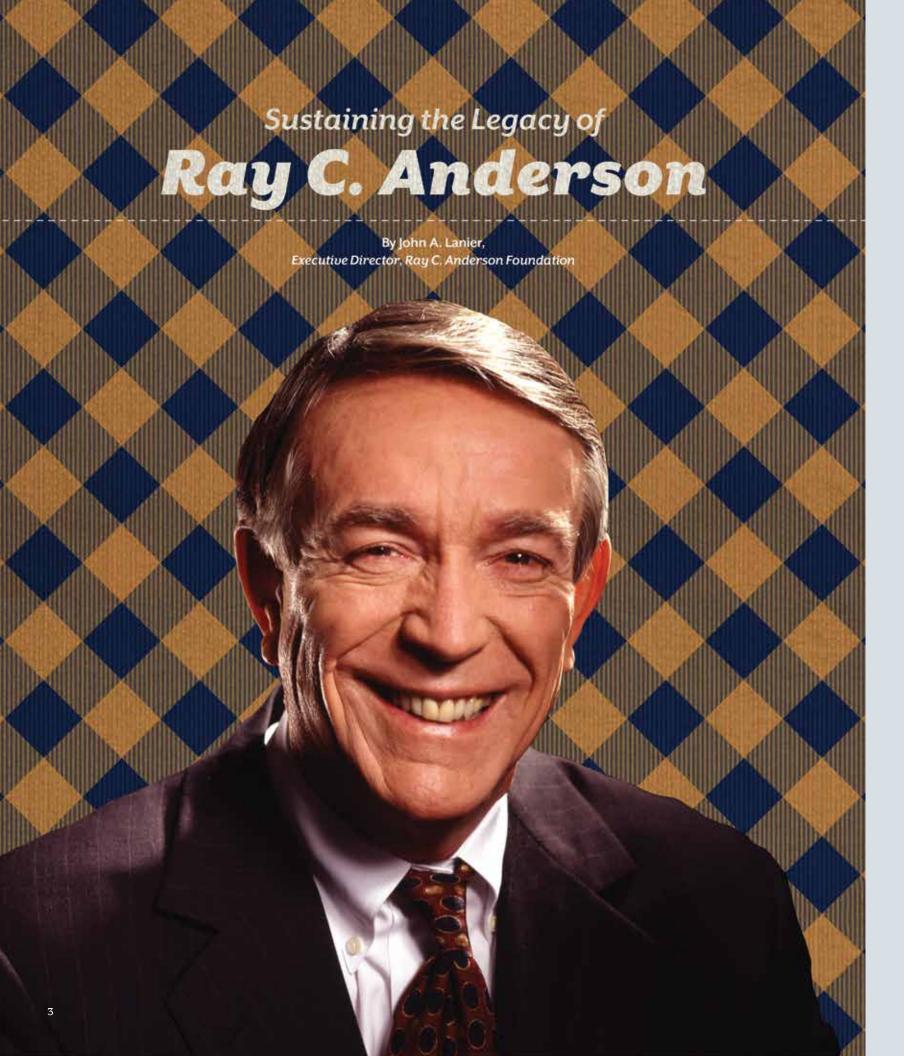
STATE OF HISTORY

17 | Taking Your Place in the Next

Century Initiative

by Caroline Stevens

1



s the Georgia Historical Society kicks off its

Next Century Initiative, seeking to ensure the
legacy of all Georgians who have shaped our
history, it is most appropriate to highlight the
Ray C. Anderson Collection, MS 2603. Few
other collections contain so compelling a story as this one—a
Georgia industrialist becoming an environmental champion.
It is the story of a company embracing a higher purpose and
becoming a force for good in the world. It is a story worthy of
being told and preserved.

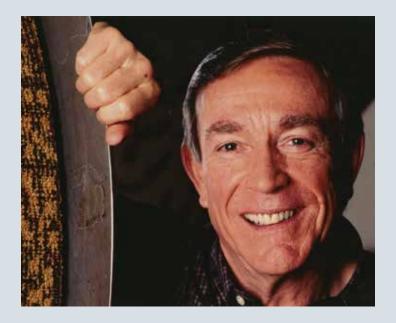
The Young Ray

Ray Christie Anderson was born in 1934 in West Point, Georgia, the third son of an assistant postmaster and a former schoolteacher. He was a strong student, driven to be the best in his class, and he also excelled as an athlete, earning letters in basketball, baseball, and football. Whatever Ray did, he did well.

As the youngest child growing up in a family of modest means, Ray's only hope of attending college was a football scholarship. As an avid Georgia Tech fan, he set his sights on becoming a Yellow Jacket. In 1952, his dream came true when Coach Bobby Dodd offered him a scholarship to play football at Georgia Tech.

Unfortunately, Ray's athletic career was short lived. An injury his freshman year left him unable to play, but Coach Dodd allowed him to keep his scholarship if he maintained his grades. Ray devoted himself to his studies, graduating with honors with an Industrial Engineering degree in 1956. He was a lifelong supporter of Georgia Tech from that day forward, always remembering the gift of education that Coach Dodd gave him. He was also the most die-hard Yellow Jacket sports fan you would ever meet.

After graduation, Ray returned to his roots in Troup County, Georgia, launching a successful career in textiles. He learned the carpet trade through fourteen-plus years at various positions with Deering-Milliken and Callaway Mills. While comfortable and successful in his young career, Ray was not content. He was a visionary without a vision.





Founding of Interface and Ray's Epiphany

In the early 1970s, Ray was passed over for a promotion that he thought he deserved. Feeling slighted, he tapped into an entrepreneurial spirit burning inside of him. All he needed was the kindling of a good idea.

On a business trip to Europe, Ray encountered the concept of free-lay carpet tiles—carpet that was cut into squares and laid much like floor tile. The technology captured his imagination, and he immediately saw the enhanced flexibility it offered compared to conventional broadloom carpet. Given that it was the beginning of the evolution of the "modern" office with all

of its attendant wires for computers and communication, he believed it would sell in the United States. So in 1973, he put his family's savings on the line and founded Carpets International-Georgia, Inc., the precursor to Interface, Inc.

Before long, the business took off. Interface became a publicly traded company in 1983, which fueled an aggressive global expansion. By 1994, Interface had succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Now the world's largest manufacturer of carpet tile, Interface pushed global sales close to \$1 billion per year. Now 60 years old, Ray thought about retiring. His story, however, was about to take him down a very different path.

That same year, Ray was challenged with a question that would define the rest of his life: "What is your company doing for the environment?" Seeking a good answer to that question, he read a book by Paul Hawken, *The Ecology of Commerce*. The book charged business and industry as the sector most responsible for the greatest environmental degradation in the world. It also challenged business and industry as the only sector capable of leading society out of its environmental crisis.

Reading this book was an emotional experience for Ray. He felt convicted as a plunderer of the earth, and he would go on to describe it as his "spear in the chest" epiphany. He now knew that Interface had to change and show the entire industrial world that environmental sustainability was a moral imperative. He soon learned that it was also good for business.

Climbing Mount Sustainability

Ray was the first to admit that Interface's associates and the company's investors thought he had gone "around the bend." His direct message and forceful personality made it clear, however, that he was not turning back. One by one, the company's stakeholders agreed to join in this new quest.

The vision was simple. To become truly sustainable, Interface would have to climb Mount Sustainability, a metaphorical mountain higher than Everest. The peak represented the point at which the company would do no harm to the environment. Beyond that point lay the dream of a regenerative enterprise, one that actually makes the world a healthier, better place as a result of its operations. To reach the summit, Interface would have to climb seven distinct fronts: Zero Waste, Benign Emissions, Renewable Energy, Closing the Loop (Circular Economy),

Resource Efficient Transportation, Engaging Stakeholders, and Redesigning Commerce.

As the company climbed, they discovered that sustainability was unlocking hidden value in the enterprise. Efficiency gains and innovation drove costs down, not up. The quality of the products increased, and customers willingly paid a premium for carpets made in a more responsible manner. Employee engagement and loyalty increased as well, with the entire workforce rallying around a shared higher purpose. Interface's profits rose and its stock price rebounded.



Between 1994 and 2011, Ray spoke to thousands of audiences around the world, sharing his sustainability story and demonstrating the concept of "doing well by doing good." He also published two books: Mid-Course Correction (1998) and Confessions of a Radical Industrialist (2009) with the latter re-released in paperback as Business Lessons from a Radical

Industrialist. He was named one of *Time* magazine's Heroes of the Environment in 2007, and he became known as the world's greenest CEO.

To this day, Interface continues its ascent of Mount Sustainability. Unfortunately, it does so without the leadership of its founder and greatest sustainability champion. In the summer of 2011, Ray lost his life to cancer.

The Creation of a Foundation

Ray's story did not end with his death, however. His legacy lives on through the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, the private family foundation to which he bequeathed the majority of his estate.

A legacy is, by definition, a gift, an inheritance, something handed down from the past—something to be cherished or revered. It is also a responsibility and an opportunity that can be passed on to those who follow after. In creating this Foundation, Ray has given both of these to his two daughters and their families: the responsibility of being committed and thoughtful philanthropists and the opportunity to make the world a better place, just as Ray did in life.

Ray's family has embraced this gift. Though he left no instructions on how his Foundation should be managed, his family knew that his values and vision should be the guiding light. Ray's was a legacy defined by seeking harmony with nature and leaving a healthy planet for "Tomorrow's Child," the representation of all of the generations still to come. Accordingly, the Ray C. Anderson Foundation is committed to philanthropy that harmonizes society, business and the environment for the present and future generations.

Preserving Ray's Legacy and Story

This Foundation is not alone in the task of advancing Ray's legacy. That responsibility is shared with Interface and its thousands of employees across the globe. It is also shared with the countless number of people who heard him speak and were moved by his message, and with those who even today learn of his story and are inspired to do their part in making our world a better place.

It was for this reason—continuing Ray's story and inspiring others—that the Foundation and Interface decided to donate his papers to the Georgia Historical Society in 2015. We are honored to have them as partners and fellow storytellers, and we take pride in knowing that Ray's collection will be made available to the public and forever preserved.

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's book collection, which focuses on the topics of environment, sustainability, and business. GHS staff is currently in the process of arranging and describing the collection and it should be open for research by the fall of 2016. A portion of the collection will be digitized and made available in the GHS Digital Image Catalog.

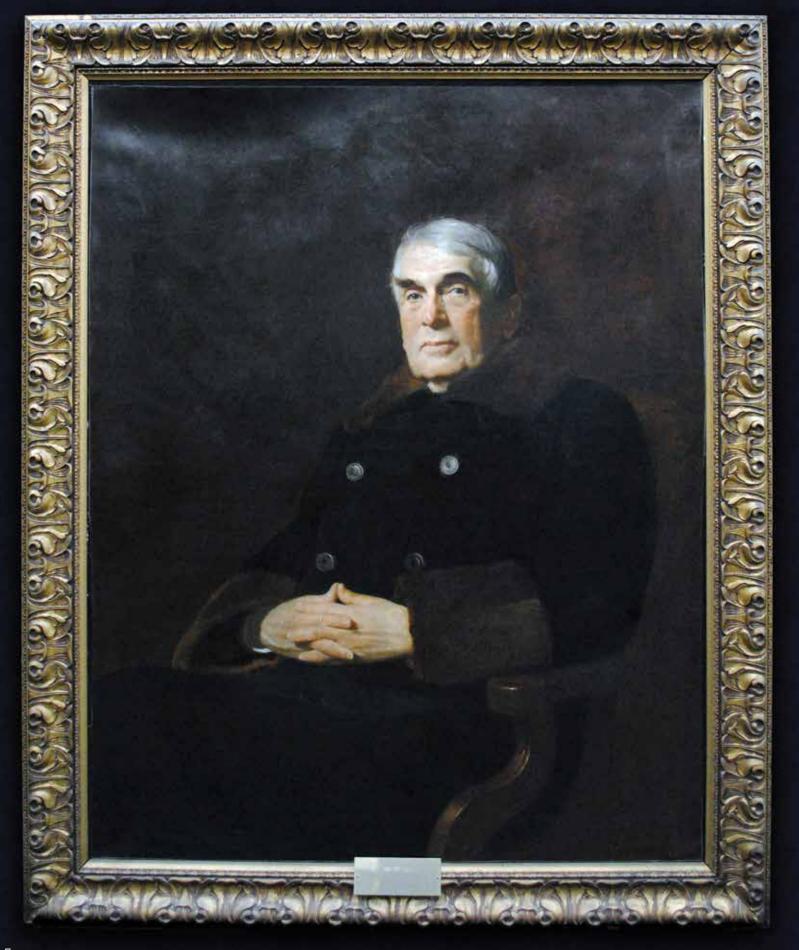
We invite you to visit the Georgia Historical Society Research Center to explore, investigate, and study the treasures that Ray left behind. Hopefully, Ray's legacy will inspire you and ignite your own passion for a more sustainable future for all.

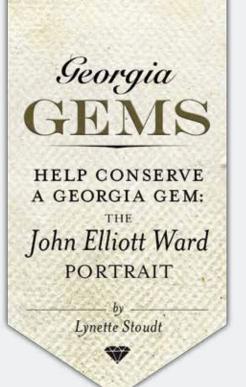
Ray Anderson's story will not be complete until all generations are assured of a healthy, sustainable future. We hope you will join us in creating that story.

From the editor:

The Ray C. Anderson collection was accompanied by a gift to the Next Century Initiative from the Ray C. Anderson Foundation to process and endow the collection — ensuring its care and accessibility for generations to come. If you would like to learn more about endowing a collection and the many other opportunities to give through the Next Century Initiative, see page 17.

Image Credits: GHS archivists Katharine Rapkin and Lindsay Sheldon processing a scrapbook in the Ray Anderson Papers, MS 2603. Photo by Elyse Butler. Collection images on pages 3 and 4 are from the Ray C. Anderson Papers, MS 2603.





HS staff works daily to accession, process, catalog, and make accessible the many rich collections we offer to researchers.

The collections are housed in a closed, climate-controlled environment to ensure lasting preservation and our archivists use various techniques to ensure the long-term care of our collections, including proper handling, rehousing collections in archival-quality enclosures, removing harmful fasteners, reformatting, and encapsulating damaged items to prevent damage.

In addition to daily preservation activities at the Research Center, we also have several special projects that involve hiring professional conservators. Conservation is different from preservation in that conservation work counters existing damage to a collection item and often takes place in the confines of a conservation laboratory. Conservators have specialized training in using chemicals and administering highly technical treatments to stabilize and protect collection items. As with most cultural organizations, GHS does not house a conservation laboratory, so conservation work is largely outsourced.

Many of our special projects have been successfully funded through grants over the years, but for some projects, particularly conservation work, few outside funding sources exist. One example of an important special project is the conservation of the Hon. John Elliott Ward portrait. A GHS founder, Ward was born in Sunbury, Liberty County, Georgia, in 1814. His father, William Ward, was a member of the Puritan colony established in Midway and

his mother, Annie McIntosh Ward, was the daughter of Major Lachlan McIntosh. Ward was admitted to the bar in 1835 and practiced law in Savannah.

Ward served in several key governmental positions, including Solicitor-General of the Eastern District, United States District Attorney, Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, President of the Georgia Senate, acting Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, Chairman of the Democratic National Convention, Mayor of Savannah, and was the first commander of the Irish Jasper Greens in 1842. He was also appointed as the U.S. Minister to China in 1859 and held the position until 1861 when he resigned after Georgia's secession from the United States. Ward was a Democrat but was strongly opposed to secession. During the Civil War, he served as an agent for the Confederate Navy acquiring ironclad ships to break up the U.S. blockade. He moved to New York in 1866, where he continued to practice law until relocating back to Liberty County, where he died in 1902.

Last summer, GHS invited a team of professional conservators to survey portraits donated to the Society. In many cases, the circumstances under which the portraits were cared for and stored before coming to the Research Center are unknown. Using special lights and survey tools they documented several problem areas on the Ward Portrait related to the canvas, stretcher, paint layer, and other components of the artwork that require professional attention.

The conservation estimate for this portrait is several thousand dollars, but any contribution toward this project will help. As we embark on the Next Century Initiative campaign with the goals of increasing collection capacity and enhancing storage for portraits and other large format items, we hope you will consider helping us fund the conservation of this important piece of Georgia history and help save it for future generations.

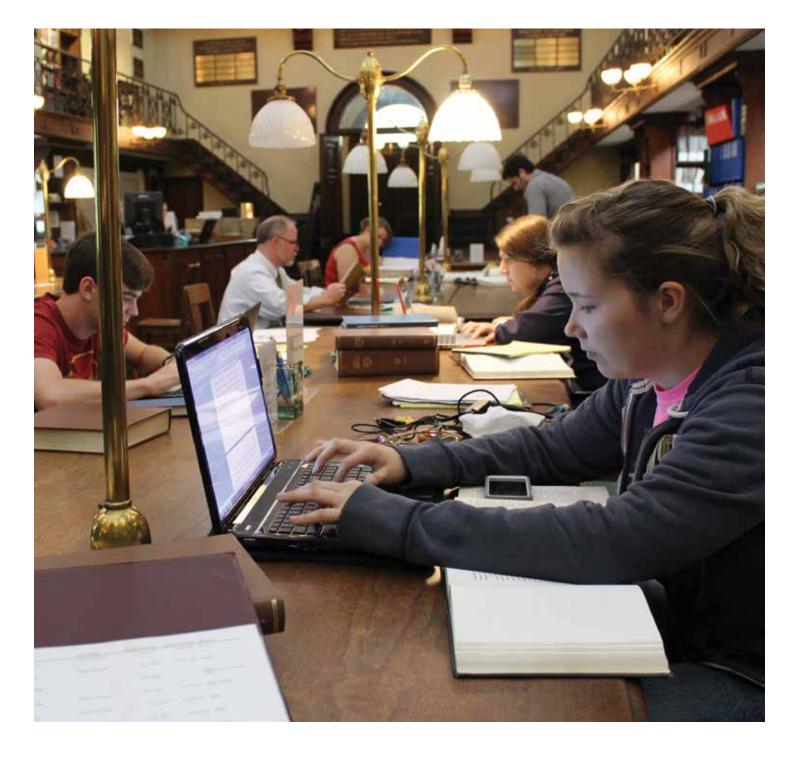
For further information about this and other special project funding opportunities ranging from digitization, creating online access tools, and conservation projects please contact the Research Center at 912-651-2128.

Lynette Stoudt is Research Center Director at the Georgia Historical Society. She can be reached at lstoudt@georgiahistory.com.

Image Credits: Oil on Canvas Portrait of John Elliott Ward by Jared Bradley Flagg, 1888. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-332.

Georgia Southern Students Research Georgia-Ireland Connection

By Howard Keeley, Ph.D.



Savannah obituary described the 1910 funeral of Richard J. Nunn as "one of the most largely attended ever held in this city." A renowned physician who insisted before a national audience that publichealth policy should know "no caste, no creed...no color," Nunn served prominently in the Georgia Historical Society—as a Curator and, later, as Second and then First Vice-President. Nunn was an immigrant, having been born in 1831 in Wexford, the most southeastern of Ireland's historic thirty-two counties. That fact put him in good company, for by 1860 Wexford constituted by far the principal county of origin of Savannah's Irish-

born residents, who in their turn accounted for almost a

quarter of the city's white population.

Wexford family names—such as Corish, Kehoe, Murphy, Rossiter, and Stafford—still abound in Savannah, so one naturally wonders why Wexford became disproportionately represented in the city. To investigate the phenomenon, Georgia Southern University's Center for Irish Research and Teaching (CIRT) and its Honors Program established a research project—the Wexford-Savannah Axis—on St. Patrick's Day 2014. From the beginning, the Georgia Historical Society has been a formal research partner in the work, which is helping Savannah—and Georgia—better understand its Irish heritage.

The Georgia Historical Society is transforming our students' educational experience by opening its Research Center to the undergraduate and graduate members of the Wexford-Savannah Axis research team. The Society's archives are critical to our painstaking reconstruction of the remarkable Wexford-to-Savannah migration pathway that emerged from the late 1840s. Aided by a \$35,000 diaspora-heritage grant from the Irish Government, the researchers have established that three shipping companies from two Wexford ports initiated direct goods-and-passenger lines to Savannah, operating in the fall and winter. They advertised Savannah as offering "immediate employment and good wages" and as possessing "a healthy and agreeable climate"!

Among other goals, the project seeks to understand how the newcomers—as they built lives in such Savannah neighborhoods as Old Fort, Yamacraw, and Frogtown—were likely influenced by their formative Wexford experiences: tenant-rights politics, agricultural progressiveness, an ethos of non-sectarianism, a legacy of bloody revolution. While the Great Hunger, the potato famine of the 1840s, would have counted as a "push" factor, Wexford was much less affected by that tragedy than other Irish counties.

The Georgia Historical Society's collection of naturalization papers, city directories, tax documents, minute books, and a host of other documents are revealing a story not merely of immigration but also of integration into the multiethnic city that was midnineteenth-century Savannah. Although they faced challenges—not least the large-scale yellow fever outbreak of 1854—the Wexford families quickly gained a significant measure of acceptance, a fact that complicates the received Irish-American narrative of "No Irish Need Apply."

Given that the Irish constituted one of the largest population influxes in Georgia's antebellum history, the research findings have resonance across the Peach State





and beyond. In addition, they provide data relevant to those formulating policies about present-day human migration. Memorable is a comment in the December 6, 1850, edition of the *Savannah Morning News* about "rarely...see[ing] a more respectable body of new comers from any portion of Europe" than "steerage passengers" from Wexford. The piece concludes, "May they realize their brightest anticipations of prosperity and happiness in their new home."

According to Dr. Steven T. Engel, Director of the Georgia Southern University Honors Program, the Wexford-Savannah Axis student-researchers have come to regard the Georgia Historical Society as an academic home.

"Mentored by the Research Center's Director Lynette Stoudt and her team," he says, "our students gain expertise in sourcing and analyzing relevant archival materials."

The young people subsequently travel to Ireland, where they apply their new skills in such venues as the National Archives of Ireland. It was there, in a box of uncataloged papers not touched for more than a century, that undergraduate James Devlin discovered key documents, namely, correspondence from the leading Savannah cotton factor, Andrew Low II, to the head of one of the Wexford shipping companies. Quite possibly, those letters precipitated the unique Wexford-Savannah link.

Compliment to Capt. English, of the Barque

We noticed, last Friday, the arrival at this port of the Br. barque Brothers, from Wexford, Ireland, with a respectable body of emigrants. We learn that the passengers on board the Brothers, on Friday last, presented to Capt. English a handsome Silver Cup, in testimony of their steem for him as an amiable and kind hearted gentleman and accomplished commander. The Cup bears the following inscription:

PRESENTED

BY THE PASSENG ERS OF THE BARQUE BROTHERS,

— TO —

CAPT. LAURENCE ENGLISH,

Savannah, Dec. 6th 1850.

The Brothers had a passage of forty-one days, during which time the passengers and crew enjoyed excellent health. The passengers all speak in the highest terms of the kindness of Capt. English and Mr. John Murphy, chief officer of the Brothers, to whose care and attention they were indebted for a pleasant and agreeable voyage to the country of their adoption-

EMIGRATION TO SAVANNAH.

HE Favourite Barque MENAPIA, JOHN
HATES Commander, burthen 500 Tons,
will sail from WEXFORD with Passengers for SAVANNAH, about the 21st NOVEMBER.

The MENAPIA landed ALL her Passengers at Quebec on the 26th of September, being the THIRD time that she conveyed Passengers to America in the present year, and each time landed all in good health, not a single death having occurred on board of her, which is sufficient proof of the care taken to insure the Health and Comfort of the Passengers.

The Menapia sailed from Quebec, on her return to Wexford, the 9th October, and may be expected here early in November—on her arrival, the EXACT DAY of Sailing will be announced.

Captain Haves's care and attention last voyage gave universal satisfaction.

For freight or passage, apply to

R. M. & R. ALLEN, or Mr. J. DEVEREUX, Enniscorthy. Wexford, Oct. 24, 1850.

As the Georgia Southern University researchers continue to work at and with the Georgia Historical Society, exciting outcomes are emerging from the Wexford-Savannah Axis research project. In mid-March 2016, responding to the historic transatlantic relationship now being revealed, a high-level delegation from Wexford visited Savannah to explore opportunities of mutual

benefit, from business and trade to cultural exchanges and tourism. On behalf of the people of Wexford, the delegation's members received the key of the city from the mayor. In addition, they visited the Research Center to express their county's gratitude to the Georgia Historical Society for its indispensable role in the project.

In prospect is the launch of a mobile-friendly web experience that will allow various audiences— schoolchildren, heritage tourists, and academic researchers—to explore aspects of the Wexford-Savannah Axis in a dynamic, compelling way.

Dr. Howard Keeley is Director of the Center for Irish Research & Teaching at Georgia Southern University. He can be reached at hkeeley@georgiasouthern.edu.

Editor's Note: Want to support innovative partnerships like the Wexford-Savannah Axis? Help GHS secure its commitment to serving the people of Georgia in the 21st-century and beyond by participating in the Next Century Initiative. Find out more on page 17.

IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE): Georgia Southern University students at the GHS Research Center, May 2014.

Georgia Southern University Honors student at the Research Center, May 2015.

Tybee Railway Company Script Number One, 1887 William-Kehoe Stock Certificate, MS 1148.

December 10, 1850 article in the Savannah Morning News.

Saturday, November 2, 1850 advertisement in Wexford newspaper. Courtesy of the Wexford-County Archives.

DON WATERS

By Stan Deaton, Ph.D.



on Waters, a member of the GHS Board of Curators, grew up on Anderson Street in Savannah when it was a thriving community in its own right. "Waters Avenue, nearby, was a baby Broughton Street," he recalls, "with schools, homes, businesses, churches, parks, all right there."

It's now all gone, but Don is leading the charge to revive his old neighborhood, taking a page from Tom Cousins' more famous Eastlake community project in Atlanta: "All I'm doing is stealing other people's good ideas," he says with a laugh. What he modestly leaves out, however, is that while anyone can steal an idea, Waters is acting upon it and succeeding.

Don Waters's day job is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Brasseler USA, Inc., an international manufacturer of dental and medical surgical instrumentation. While running a global business would keep most people busy, Don Waters isn't most people. He is a leading force, with fellow GHS Board member Reed Dulany, behind the Savannah Classical Academy, a charter school now housed in the former St. Pius X building in Don's old neighborhood, at 705 E. Anderson Street.

"The school's mission resonated with me," he says, "with its focus on reading, writing, speaking, and creating successful students by emphasizing core virtues like compassion, perseverance, responsibility, and diligence. It's a project I very much support and want to be part of."







"We wanted to create a school that delivers excellence to every student, regardless of economic background," Waters says. To do that, "we get these kids at a young age and hold them to high standards, and by doing so they will excel like any other child." The bonus for Don Waters: he's helping to rebuild his old neighborhood.

Don also serves on the State Board of Regents and is passionate about education and the role that it plays in changing lives. It's also why he's involved now with the Georgia Historical Society. "I believe all leaders must be renaissance leaders with broad interests that inform and positively impact the culture of their organizations and their communities," he says. "GHS is the depository of our history, in general, and our culture, in particular."

His involvement with GHS can be traced to his deep-seated belief in the power of education and history to change lives: "I believe it's important to who we are as a society to understand not just history, but also why and how Georgia is different in a good way from other states and other cultures. The Georgia Historical Society's motto, Non Sibi Sed Aliis—Not for Self but for Others—is a core precept of what's in the bones of most Georgians and what sets us apart. This is why education is so important to me. Improved education leads to economic prosperity. No welfare program will ever outpace a good job or a career."

Don has been impressed and inspired by the GHS's Trustees Gala and the ways in which it has brought together—and honored—the state's business and political leaders. "The year that Tom Cousins and Andrew Young were honored as Georgia Trustees, I was inspired listening to them talk about their work in Atlanta, particularly Tom Cousins's Eastlake project," he said. "I thought it could be a great model for what we're trying to do here, bringing together economic and community leaders in Savannah to bridge the racial and economic divide and create a new vision for our city. When civic and business leaders work together we can do and achieve incredible things."

Don's mission in his business relationships, his philanthropy, and board service is focused on one thing: bringing people together to create a more educated Georgia. As he says, "we're not competing with Alabama and Mississippi, we're competing on a national and global stage with New York, Illinois, California, and Texas. That's our competition. We need to ensure economic and educational prosperity for all Georgians going forward."

Don and his wife Cindy have two children and four grandchildren, so this is a personal mission for him as well.

Waters is a product of Georgia schools himself, beginning with Romana Riley Grammar School on Anderson Street, then Savannah High School (Class of '71), Armstrong College, and finally the University of Georgia Law School.

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.

Before taking over at Brasseler USA, Don practiced as a Certified Public Accountant, as a partner with Price Waterhouse & Co., and as an attorney with Hunter Maclean, where he worked with the legendary Malcolm "Mac" Maclean, the bridgebuilding mayor of Savannah during the city's turbulent Civil Rights years.



» Georgia Trustees Andrew Young and Tom Cousins, 2012. *Photo by Russ Bryant*.

Like many of us, his education began at home, with hard-working and loving parents. "My father, a combat veteran who fought in Europe soon after D-Day, was the greatest influence of my life," Don says. His father later was injured on the job, and his mother began working at the Savannah Public Library. She came home every night with an armload of history and biography for her son to read. It sparked a lifelong and intense love of history.

His parents and his early love of history both shaped his philosophy of management later on: "Look for great role models, like Malcolm Maclean, and try to be a great role model. My parents taught me the values of discipline and hard work and gave us a loving and supportive home, though they were challenged by great health and economic issues. Mac Maclean was one of my great role models, demonstrating the power of doing great things by bringing civic and business leaders together. Malcolm showed me that intellectual curiosity and intelligence applied in a practical way are an unbeatable combination. He trained me to be results-oriented and to demand excellence."

Don Waters is generous with his time and his resources. In addition to his service on the GHS Board of Curators and the Board of Regents, and his commitment to the Savannah Classical Academy, Don serves on numerous other boards, including as chair of the Chatham County Hospital Authority, which owns the operations of Memorial University Medical Center.

His commitment to education, philanthropy, business, and building community provides the rubric for Don's servant-based leadership: "As a lawyer, I believed that if you have to litigate, you've failed. I like to break down barriers and bring people together; we need to overcome the silo effect too often seen at so many levels of government. I'm working to build ethical servant-based leadership that embraces the business community, to break down factionalism, with the goal of creating a better life for Georgians through improved education and generating jobs."

Don's commitment to the Georgia Historical Society reflects not only his belief in GHS's educational mission, but is part of his philosophy of success. "Always try to make other people successful," he says. "If you'll do that, in every circumstance, with everybody you deal with, if you try to make them successful, then you'll succeed."

A lot of people are succeeding because of Don Waters.

Stan Deaton, Ph.D. is The Dr. Elaine B. Andrews Distinguished Historian at the Georgia Historical Society. Visit Stan's blog, deatonpath.georgiahistory.com.

Editor's Note: Don is demonstrating his belief in history by participating in the GHS Next Century Initiative. His generous gift will support current operations as well as the GHS endowment, thereby advancing research and education and strengthening GHS to fulfill its mission for generations to come. See page 17 to find out how you can follow Don's example and take your place in the Next Century Initiative.

MILESTONES



» Photo by Russ Bryant

2016 Georgia Trustees Muhtar Kent and James H. Blanchard Inducted

In commemoration of the 283rd Anniversary of the founding of Georgia, Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Historical Society inducted Muhtar Kent, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Coca-Cola, and James H. "Jimmy" Blanchard, retired Chairman and CEO of Synovus, as the newest Georgia Trustees. The induction took place Saturday, February 13 at the annual Trustees Gala in Savannah.

GHS Surpasses \$1 Million in Contributions for Annual Georgia History Festival and K-12 Educational Programming

The 2016 Georgia History Festival (GHF) has surpassed all previous milestones by raising more than \$1 million for educational programs in Georgia.

"We are grateful to our 2016 GHF co-chairs Alice Jepson and Bill Jones III, and the entire committee who worked so tirelessly to achieve this milestone," said Dr. W. Todd Groce, President and CEO of GHS. "It is because of their hard work and our corporate sponsors who support the Georgia History Festival each year that we will continue to bring exceptional Georgia history-based educational programs to future generations."

GHS Erects New Historical Markers Across the State

It has been a very busy season for the Georgia Historical Marker Program, with thirteen markers going into the ground since last April. GHS has administered Georgia's statewide marker program since 1998, erecting nearly 250 historical markers across Georgia on a wide variety of subjects. Search for Georgia historical markers and create your marker-based driving trail by visiting the GHS website: georgiahistory.com.

Newly Erected Georgia Historical Markers:

- Admiral John Henry Towers, Rome
- Albany Home of Governor George D. Busbee, Albany
- Birthplace of Coca-Cola, Atlanta
- Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, Talbotton
- Georgia Power, Atlanta
- Gov. John M. Slaton (1866-1955), Atlanta
- Primus King and the Civil Rights Movement, Columbus
- South-View Cemetery, Atlanta
- Sumter County in the Civil Rights Movement, Americus
- The Introduction of the Soybean to North America, Savannah
- The Sisters of Mercy and St. Mary's Home, Savannah
- United Distributors, Smyrna
- Vienna High and Industrial School—A Georgia Equalization School, Vienna

TAKING YOUR PLACE IN THE Next Century Initiative

By Caroline Stevens

Throughout this issue, you have learned more about the Next Century Initiative, GHS's \$13 million campaign to secure our commitment to serving the people of Georgia in the 21st century and beyond.

You may be wondering to yourself, "How can I be a part of this campaign and do my part to ensure a future for history education and research?"

To that end, we have listed several questions below that we typically hear from our supporters, along with our responses. Hopefully, these will resonate with you as you consider taking your place in this important campaign.

My family has deep roots in Georgia. I have family papers and materials in my attic that should be properly archived How can I ensure that these materials are cared for and preserved for generations to come?

Consider joining our Legacy Society. The Legacy Society invites Georgia families who have shaped our state's history to donate their personal collections of papers, photographs, portraits, and materials to be cataloged and archived. Participating families then make a gift to the GHS endowment to ensure the family's records are preserved and made accessible to researchers for generations to come.

I am working with my lawyers and financial advisors on my estate planning. I want to leave a legacy to GHS, but I do not have the liquidity to make a cash gift now. How can I support GHS's future?

Consider supporting the GHS endowment with a planned gift. Supporting the endowment is a visionary and generous act that provides perpetual support in fulfillment of GHS's educational mission. Planned gifts, such as bequests, charitable trusts, and many others, allow you to a support an institution you believe in while also enjoying advantageous tax benefits.

GHS's Research Center is a treasure in our state. Besides being a beautiful building, it houses an incredible collection of Georgia's history. How can I make sure this treasure is protected?

Consider making a cash gift to the Research Center renovation campaign. The Research Center is at the cornerstone of our mission to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history. Support for the Research Center renovation will safeguard this national treasure for years to come.

I look forward to reading every Georgia History Quarterly from cover to cover. How can I make sure this important journal continues to publish the finest scholarship on our state?

Consider creating an endowment to support the continued publication of the Georgia Historical Quarterly. To directly support a certain facet of GHS's mission, you have the option of endowing a position, program, or facility at GHS. Such restricted endowment gifts enable these important aspects of the institution to continue in perpetuity.

I believe that history education is crucial to our nation's future and that a strong endowment is imperative to securing GHS's future. How can I make an immediate, yet lasting, impact on this institution and its mission?

Consider making a cash gift to the endowment now. For a minimum of \$25,000, supporters 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 in the Research Center's Reading Room, and cast bronze plaques recognizing gifts of \$100,000 and larger are displayed prominently on the pilasters in the Reading Room mezzanine level.

Finally, please let us know if you have named GHS as a beneficiary in your estate so we may thank you and properly recognize your generosity now!

However you choose to support the Next Century Initiative, know that you will be creating an enduring legacy that will benefit Georgians for generations to come. If you have any questions about supporting the campaign, or would like to learn more about the options discussed above, please contact Todd Groce (ext. 110) or Caroline Stevens (ext. 116) at 912.651.2125.

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