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L A N T I C O C E A

English & French Leagues 20 in a Degree

Anyone traversing modern-day Georgia will find a land that both resembles and stands in stark contrast to the image of the state in popular culture. From the towering skyscrapers and traffic jams of Atlanta to the moss-draped oaks and quiet, historic squares of Savannah, the state seems a paradox in itself, comfortably straddling both the old and the new. Somehow, in that uniquely southern way, the past and the present merge into one. Georgians may not live in the past, to paraphrase the historian David Goldfield, but the past clearly lives in Georgians.

Understanding how our world was created—how the past and the present merge—is the mission of the Georgia Historical Society. Founded in 1839 as the independent, statewide institution responsible for collecting and teaching Georgia and American history, the Society has amassed an amazing collection of Georgia-related materials over the past 175 years, including over 4 million documents, letters, photographs, maps, portraits, rare books, and artifacts, enough to create a museum of Georgia history.

Today the GHS collection is the oldest in the nation devoted exclusively to Georgia history. It represents every part of the state and covers every period of time and subject, from Georgia founder James Oglethorpe and Girl Scout pioneer Juliette Gordon Low to former state supreme court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears and the legendary Vince Dooley. An original draft of the United States Constitution and the papers of a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 18 Georgia Governors, and the only two Georgians to serve as U.S. Attorney General—John Macpherson Berrien and Griffin Bell—are among its many treasures.

Georgia's first and oldest archival and museum collection continues to grow and is particularly strong in business history. In just the past few years, we have acquired the papers of business leaders Bernie Marcus, Jim Blanchard, and Neely Young; records from the Georgia Film Commission, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce; and the archives of such iconic Georgia corporations as AGL, Great Dane, and the Sea Island Company.

In honor of its 175th anniversary as the oldest continuously operated historical institution in the South, the Georgia Historical Society has published this history of our state using 25 objects from its collection. This is just a sampling of the amazing materials we have collected since our founding in 1839 that tell us who we are as Georgians and that help us to gain the knowledge and context for creating a better future.

Accompanying each object is text written by Georgia Historical Society Senior Historian, Stan Deaton, the Emmy® Award winning host of the radio and television program, *Today in Georgia History*, produced in cooperation with Georgia Public Broadcasting. As one of the most esteemed public historians in the nation, Dr. Deaton is imminently qualified to make each object come to life and to explain why the stories they tell matter to this day. Some of what he relates here will inspire you; some of it may make you uncomfortable. But we must take the past on its own terms, not as we wish it to be, and study both our successes and failures, if we are to create a better tomorrow.

For 175 years through education and research the Georgia Historical Society has enabled Georgians to make sense of the ever-changing world in which they live. By sharing a few treasures from our vast and growing collection, we hope this special anniversary publication demonstrates our commitment to making history accessible—and how the future we shape will depend upon a greater understanding of our shared past.

W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.
President and CEO

The Colony

Savannah is one of the world's premier tourist destinations, home to the largest urban National Historic Landmark district in the country. Its stately squares and moss-draped oaks offer one of the most scenic and historic landscapes in America. Its origins lie in the vision of its founder, James Edward Oglethorpe, and in the artifact seen below—the brass surveyor's compass used by Oglethorpe to lay out the city. Oglethorpe and the Georgia Trustees began the thirteenth colony as a haven for the destitute and as a military buffer from Spanish Florida. With a charter from King George II, Oglethorpe arrived with the first colonists in February 1733. Oglethorpe remained for 10 years, working tirelessly to ensure political, military, and economic stability. He left behind a colony that grew to become the largest American state east of the Mississippi, a city of incomparable beauty, and a unique artifact. His vision and handiwork still draws and inspires millions.

*Brass Surveyor's Compass, circa 1730s.
Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection,
A-1361-393.*



The Revolution

The men and women who sacrificed so much in carrying out the American Revolution are all long gone, but their legacy is all around us in our democratic institutions and the hard-won freedoms that we all enjoy. Though we don't know who carried it, or whose hands beat out the call to arms, this rare drum from that era is a more material legacy and evokes the violence and martial spirit of that conflict that resonates with us still. The inscription states: "This Drum was used in the American Army of the Revolution, at the Battles of Eutaw, Saratoga and Cowpens. Presented to the Georgia Historical Society by General Charles R. Floyd in 1841." It was one of the first artifacts donated to the Society and remains one of the rarest and most venerable in the collection, a tangible link to the first "Greatest Generation" and the birth of the Republic.

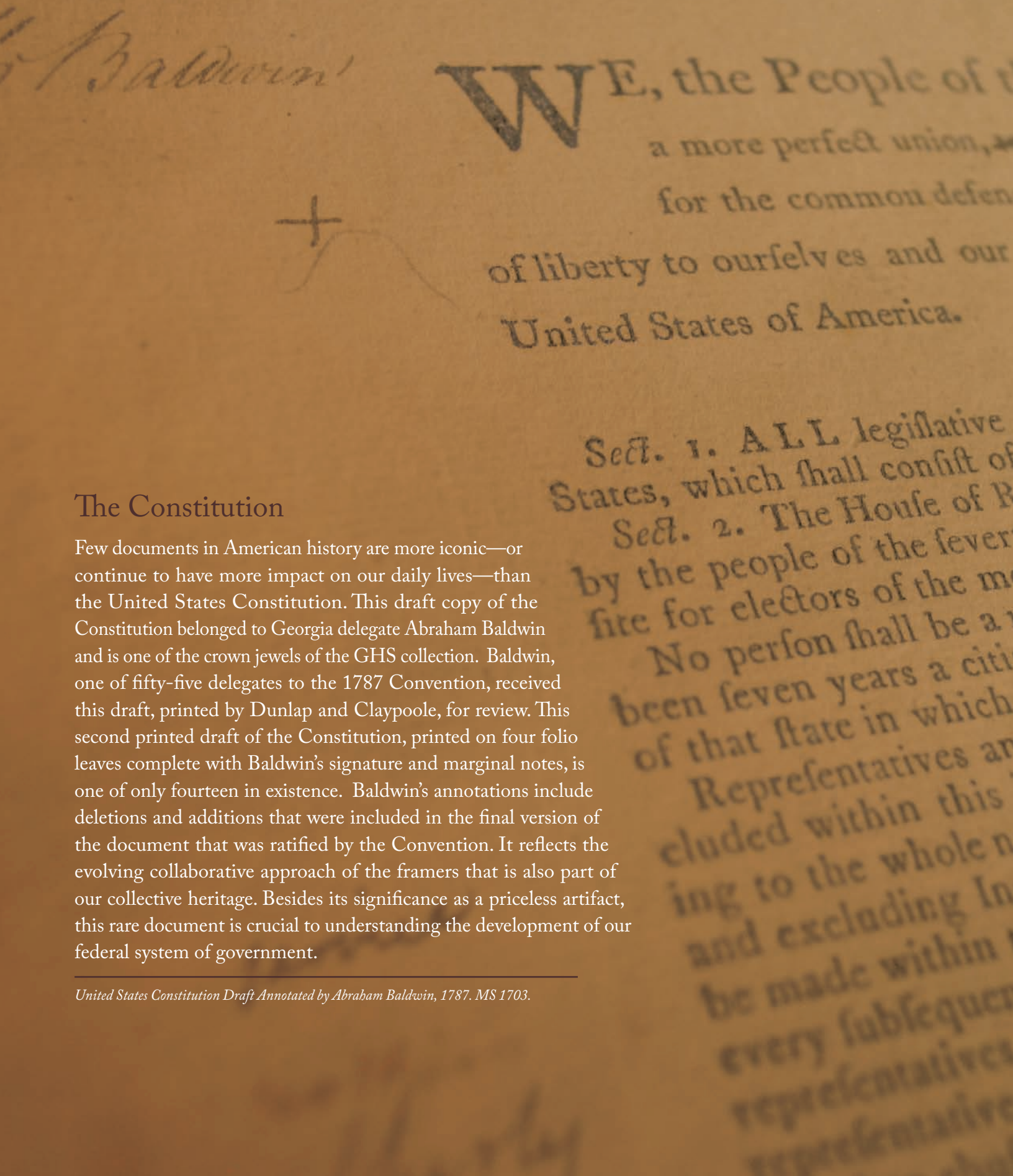


Revolutionary War Drum, circa 1775-1783. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-107.

The Constitution

Few documents in American history are more iconic—or continue to have more impact on our daily lives—than the United States Constitution. This draft copy of the Constitution belonged to Georgia delegate Abraham Baldwin and is one of the crown jewels of the GHS collection. Baldwin, one of fifty-five delegates to the 1787 Convention, received this draft, printed by Dunlap and Claypoole, for review. This second printed draft of the Constitution, printed on four folio leaves complete with Baldwin's signature and marginal notes, is one of only fourteen in existence. Baldwin's annotations include deletions and additions that were included in the final version of the document that was ratified by the Convention. It reflects the evolving collaborative approach of the framers that is also part of our collective heritage. Besides its significance as a priceless artifact, this rare document is crucial to understanding the development of our federal system of government.

United States Constitution Draft Annotated by Abraham Baldwin, 1787. MS 1703.





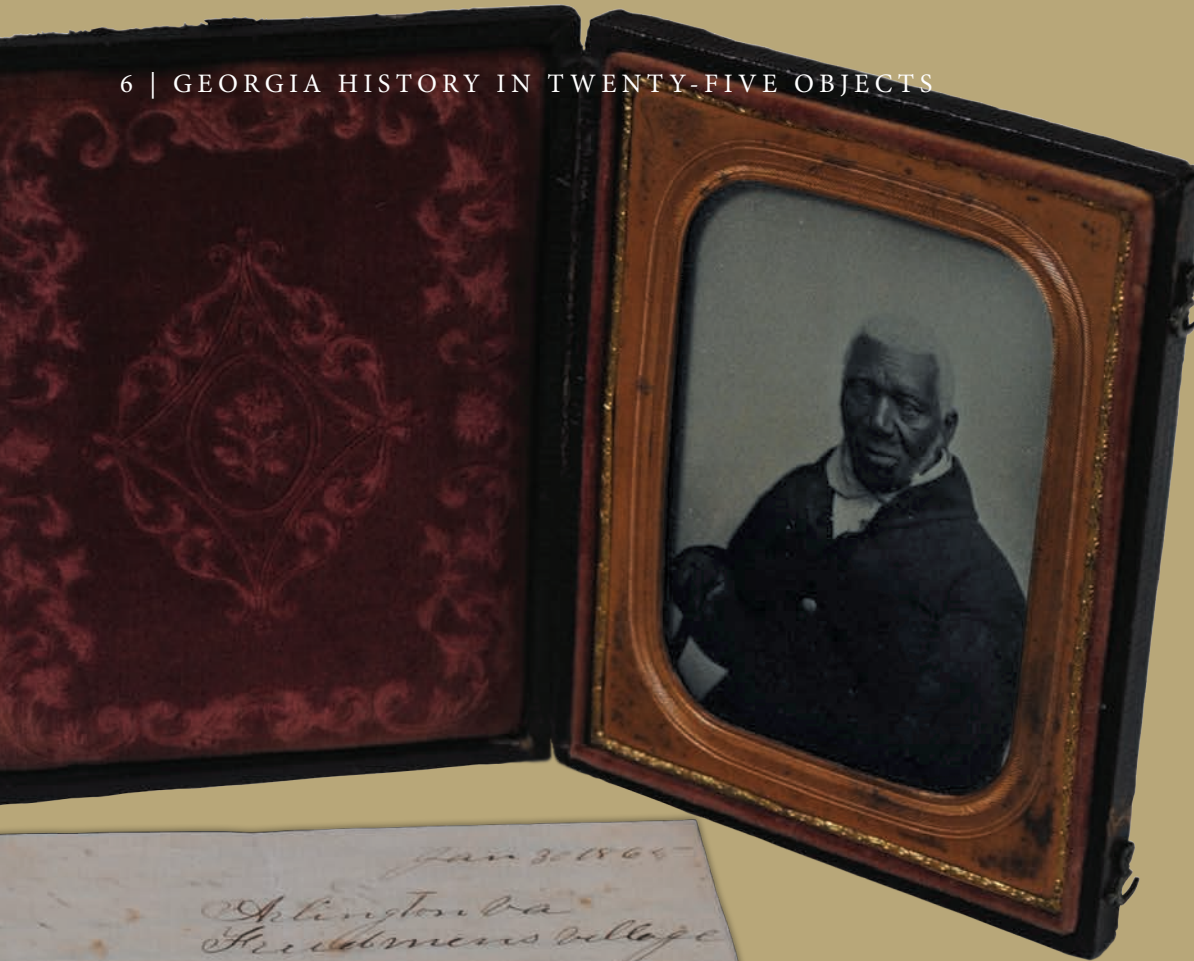
Antebellum Georgia

The Trail of Tears, in which the Cherokee were forcibly removed from Georgia, remains one of the most infamous acts in American history. The discovery of gold in North Georgia (an 1852 Dahlonega gold coin is pictured above) led to the Cherokee Removal Bill in 1830, and whites swarmed over Cherokee land. Major John Ridge and a few other Cherokee signed the Treaty of New Echota without authorization from Chief John Ross and agreed to removal west of the Mississippi in exchange for \$5 million. Though ratified by one vote in the U.S. Senate, the Cherokee Nation rejected the treaty, leading directly to forced removal by the federal government in 1838. This volume (right and below) contains 423 claims made by the Cherokee of property taken from them during this period. It is the first of three volumes, two of which are held by the National Archives.



Above left: Five Dollar Half Eagle Gold Coin, Dahlonega, Georgia, 1852. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-2403-003.
Above right and below: Record of Spoliations, Volume 1, 1836-1838. Cherokee Indians Relocation Papers, MS 927.





Jan 30 1865
 Arlington Va
 Freedmens Village

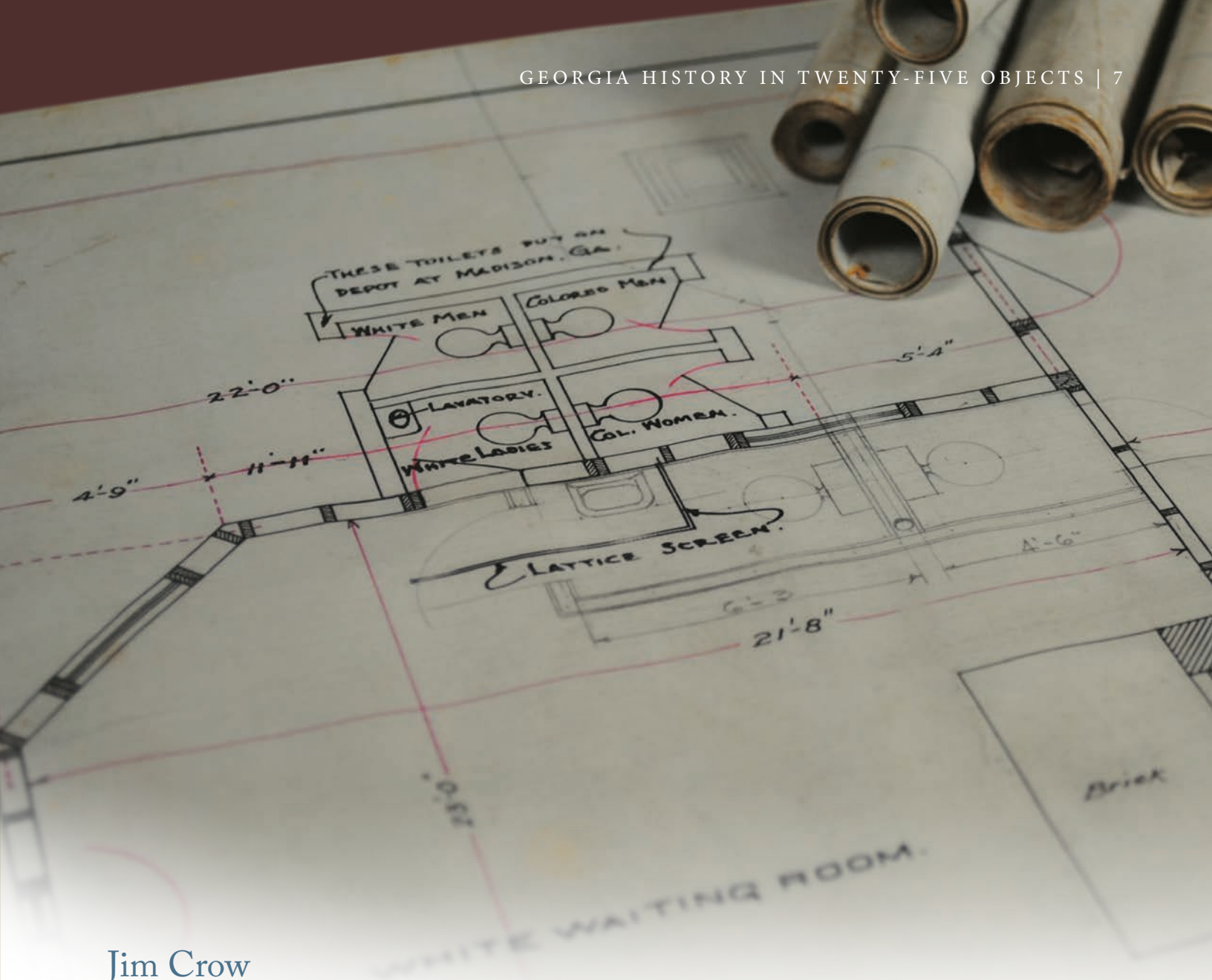
dear Husband
 I have waited
 longed and longed and
 waited for a letter from
 you but seems all in vain
 I dont see you write to me
 I let me hear some
 thing from you not since
 the last time I heard
 a word from you
 anything the matter
 with you do write and
 I know to relieve
 my anxious mind the
 children are all anxious
 to see you and hear from
 you William is living not
 far from me he is waiting

The Civil War and Emancipation

The Civil War repudiated the doctrine of secession and destroyed the institution of slavery. It also brought African Americans into the armed forces of the United States. Over 200,000 served in the U.S. Army and Navy, including former slave William Butler, in Company H, 2nd U.S. Colored Troops. This poignant letter from his wife Ann, dated January 1865, begs for news from William. She longs for his safe return, and sends news of their children, who are attending school. The letter was found in a knapsack near a dead soldier's body, presumably William, at the Battle of Natural Bridge in Florida in March 1865. There were three quarters of a million casualties in the Civil War, including one newly freed soldier, beloved by his family, who died to help preserve the American Republic and extend the promise of the Declaration of Independence to all Americans.

Top: Unknown African-American Man Ambrotype, circa 1851-1865. Georgia Historical Society Collection of Cased Photographs, 1361CP-02-01.

Above: C. Ann Butler Letter, 1865. MS 114.



Jim Crow

The indignities of Jim Crow seeped into every facet of social, political, and economic life in segregated America. That reality is nowhere better illustrated than in the architectural drawing of a segregated waiting room in the Central of Georgia Railway station depot in Monticello, Georgia, dated 1901. The harsh and humiliating realities of Jim Crow are sanitized in the precise architect's handwriting denoting the White and Colored bathrooms. Note that white females are referred to as "Ladies," a social distinction denied to all black women. It was no accident that the movement to destroy the institutionalized dehumanization of African Americans in this country—and the violent white backlash it provoked—would begin in places of public accommodation like the waiting rooms rendered so bloodlessly here in black and white.

C. OF GA. RY CO.
GROUND PLAN
PROPOSED COMBINATION DEPOT,
MONTICELLO, GA.
MAY, 1901. SCALE - $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'$
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER.

Central of Georgia Railway Depot in Monticello, Georgia, 1901. Central of Georgia Railway Records, 1362-068-51-263.

Progressive-Era Georgia

Few people had the impact on young women that one Georgian has for over a century. Juliette Gordon Low was partially deaf and suffered from depression, with no children of her own, yet she founded the Girl Scouts of the USA. The Savannah native married William Low, a wealthy British merchant, but their marriage was falling apart when he died suddenly in 1905.



Girl Guides Troop Crest, circa 1914-1927. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-0318-019.

Above right: Juliette Gordon Low Autographed Photograph, undated. Gordon Family Papers, MS 318.

Six years later, Juliette met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of the Boy Scouts, and the meeting changed her life. In 1912 she returned to Georgia and started the Girl Scouts of the USA (a 1920s-era fuchsia Girl Guides troop crest on a black background is pictured), which grew to become the largest voluntary association for women and girls in the United States. By 1925, there were 90,000 Girl Scouts. Today there are 3.2 million, still influenced by the vision and dream of the Georgian known as Daisy.



The Rise of the Railroad

The railroad transformed antebellum Georgia. It revolutionized the way that people and goods moved from place to place, reconfiguring Georgia's economic and social landscape. The railroad made Atlanta a transportation hub and the target of Gen. William Sherman's U.S. Army in 1864. As Georgia's first railroad, the Central of Georgia (founded 1833) linked Savannah with upland cotton plantations. The C of G grew into one of the most significant rail and banking corporations in the American South, serving as a vital part of Georgia's transportation and financial infrastructure for more than a century. By the 20th century, there was no more elegant means of travel between places like Birmingham and Augusta. This art deco style sugar bowl, created in 1915 by Wallace Silversmiths, Inc. and engraved with a Central of Georgia insignia, is symbolic of the company's power and status and was used to serve the railroad's president and his guests.

Central of Georgia President's Car, Number 100, Silver Sugar Bowl, circa 1915. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-2403-019.

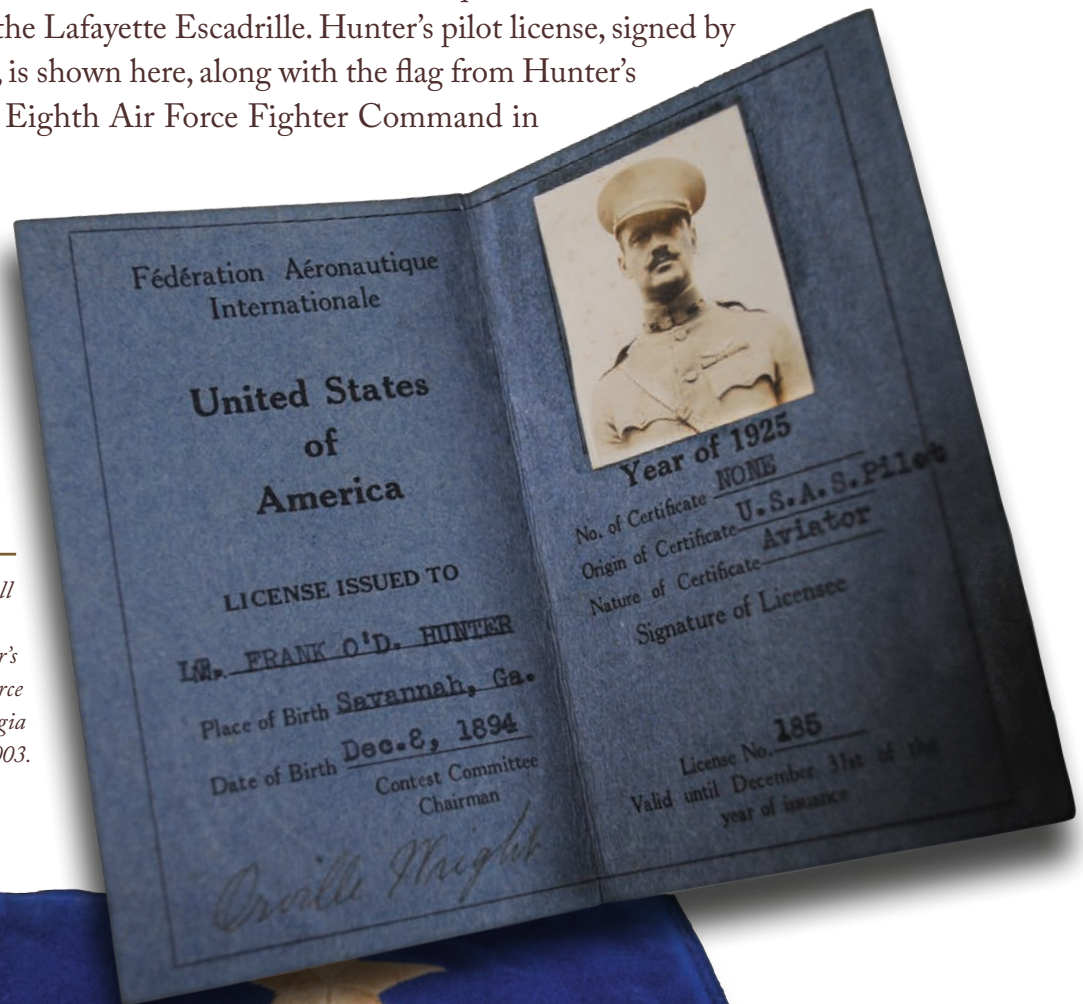
World War I

World War I cast a long shadow over the 20th century, launching America onto the world stage for the first time. One Georgia native, Frank O'Driscoll "Monk" Hunter, played an important role in that conflict and the larger one to come. Hunter was Georgia's only World War I flying ace, shooting down nine German planes as part of Eddie Rickenbacker's 94th Aero Squadron and the 103rd Aero Squadron, known previously as the Lafayette Escadrille. Hunter's pilot license, signed by aviation pioneer Orville Wright, is shown here, along with the flag from Hunter's staff car he used as head of the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command in England during World War II.

He later took command of the First Air Force. Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah honors the native son for his service in two world wars and his skill and heroism as an aviator. His own rise mirrored that of his country as a world power.

Right: Pilot License, 1925. Frank O'Driscoll Hunter papers, MS 1342.

Below: Flag from Frank O'Driscoll Hunter's Car While Commanding the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command in England, 1942. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1342-003.





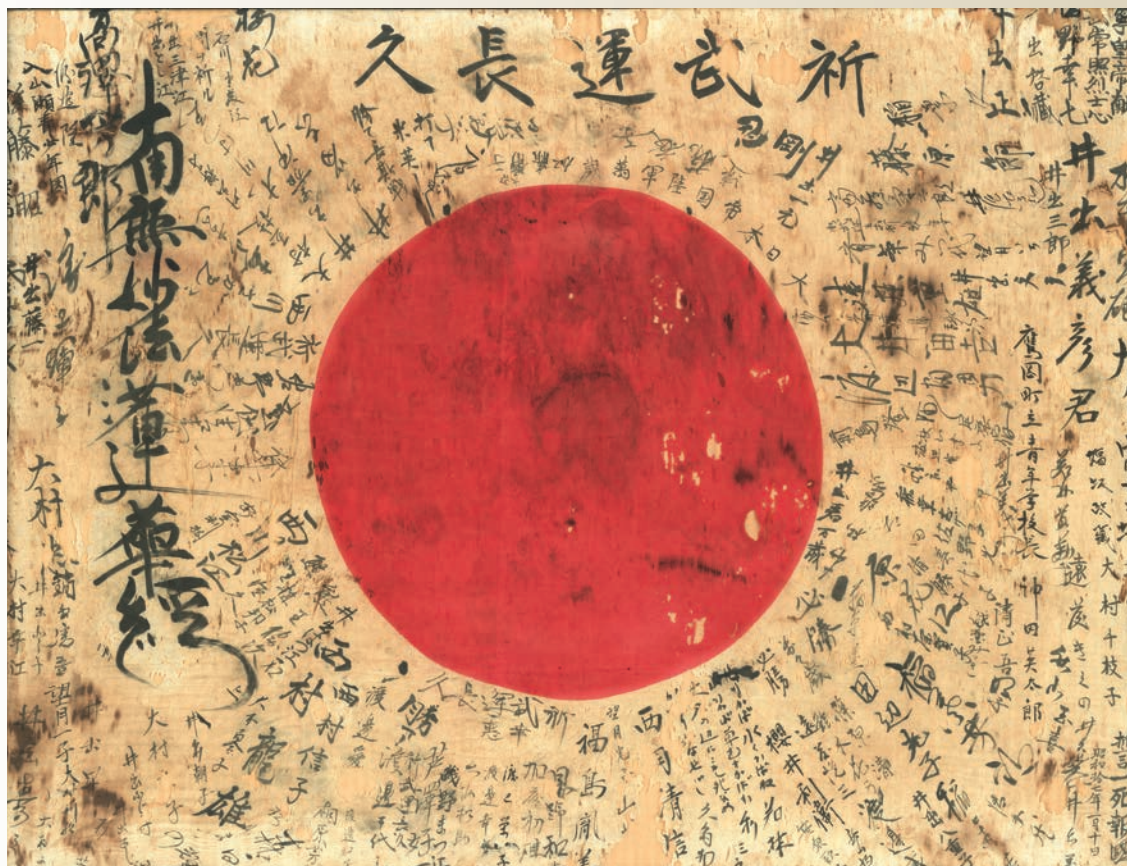
World War II on the Homefront

World War II brought women into the work force in record numbers, including a young woman from Athens named Evelyn “Lois” Dozier. During the war, Dozier sent and received letters from men and women in military service, and she published a monthly newsletter, *Letters from Lois*, about these soldiers. *The Atlanta Journal* published her popular column, “The Boys Write Home.” Dozier, whose Georgia Press Association name badge is shown here, also wrote for the *Newnan Herald* and the *Cobb County Times*. She served for ten years as assistant editor and advertising manager of *The Coca Cola Bottler* in Atlanta, the company magazine for the Coca Cola Company. The war was a turning point for the country—and for one young woman who symbolizes the changing gender roles in the workplace that transformed American economic and social life.



Above: Lois Dozier Norvell Photo, undated. Lois Dozier Norvell Papers, MS 1690.

Right: Nametag for the Georgia Press Association's 58th Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, July 20-22, 1944. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1690-003.



World War II on the Battlefield

GHS holds materials related not only to Georgia, but also to Georgians who served on the world stage. Frederick Mingledorff, one of 320,000 Georgians who served in World War II, was a U.S. Marine and participated in some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Theater. As a 19-year-old amphibious tractor driver, PFC Mingledorff ferried troops to the landing beaches at Roi-Namur during the Kwajalein operation. Under intense enemy fire Fred “learned for the first time what it meant to really be afraid.” During the invasion of Guam he picked up this Japanese “Good Luck Flag” (which Fred is holding in a wartime photograph below) and a wrist watch belonging to a dead Japanese soldier. Fred contracted malaria in Guam and was evacuated to a hospital at Pearl Harbor. It was a fortuitous illness for Fred: months later at Iwo Jima his entire unit was virtually wiped out.

Above: Japanese “Good Luck” Flag, circa 1939–1945. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1991-002.

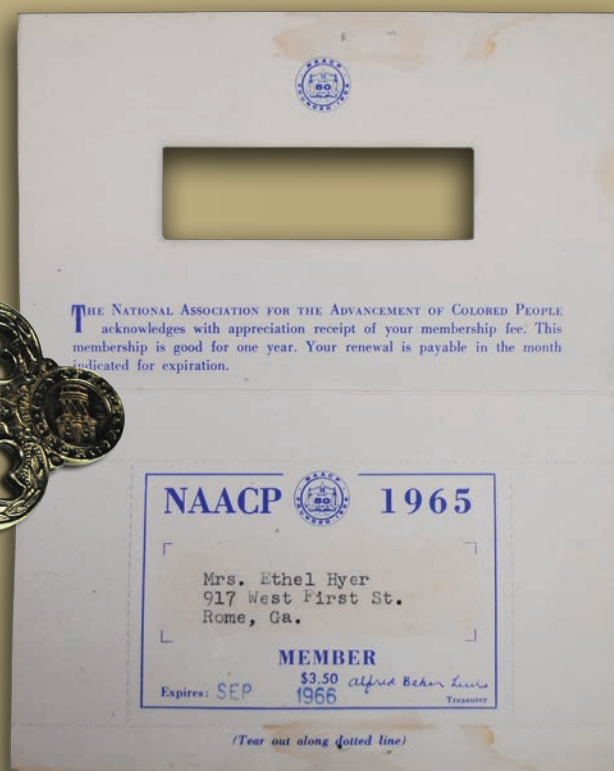
Above right: Wristwatch on a Leather Strap, circa 1939–1945. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1991-020.

Right: Frederick Mingledorff Photograph with Japanese “Good Luck” Flag, circa 1939–1945. Frederick William Mingledorff, Jr. Family Papers, MS 1991.



Civil Rights Movement

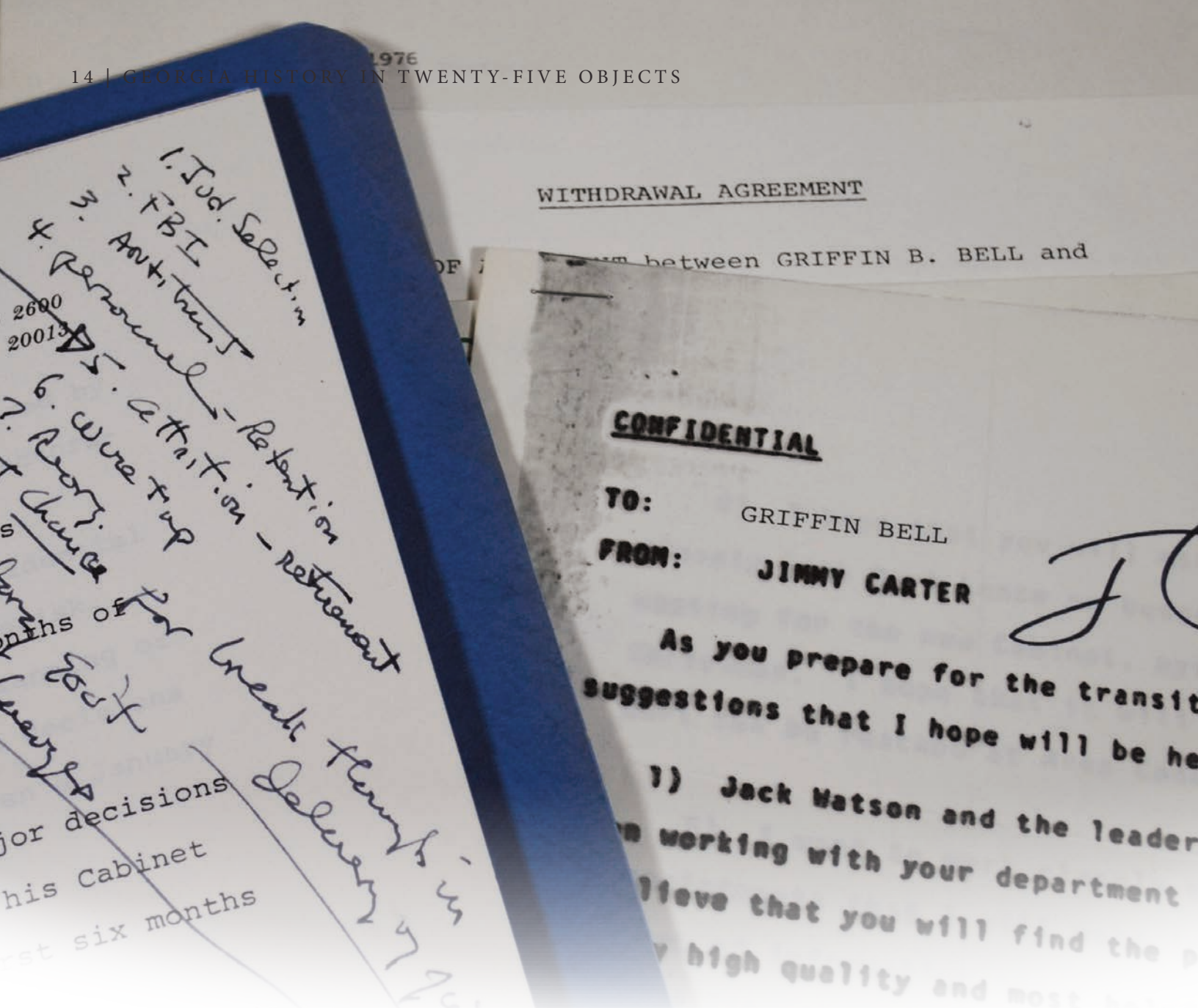
The Civil Rights movement was accomplished in large places and small, by the famous and those from everyday walks of life. Ethel Hyer, like many women in the 1950s and 60s, served her community of Rome in a variety of religious, civic, and social organizations. She attended Spellman College and was a member for 65 years of Thankful Baptist Church. She was also a trailblazer. Hyer was the first female president of the Rome Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a position she held for 15 years. For her service on behalf of human equality, Hyer was honored by the city of Rome in 1973 and given the key to the city (pictured here, along with her membership card and an NAACP flyer). She represents the untold number of Georgians who served as foot soldiers of a movement that would not have succeeded without them.



Above: "A Grim Reminder" NAACP Flyer, circa mid or late 1960s. Ethel Hyer Family Papers, MS 2117.

Left: Key to the City of Rome, Georgia, 1973. Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-2117-001.

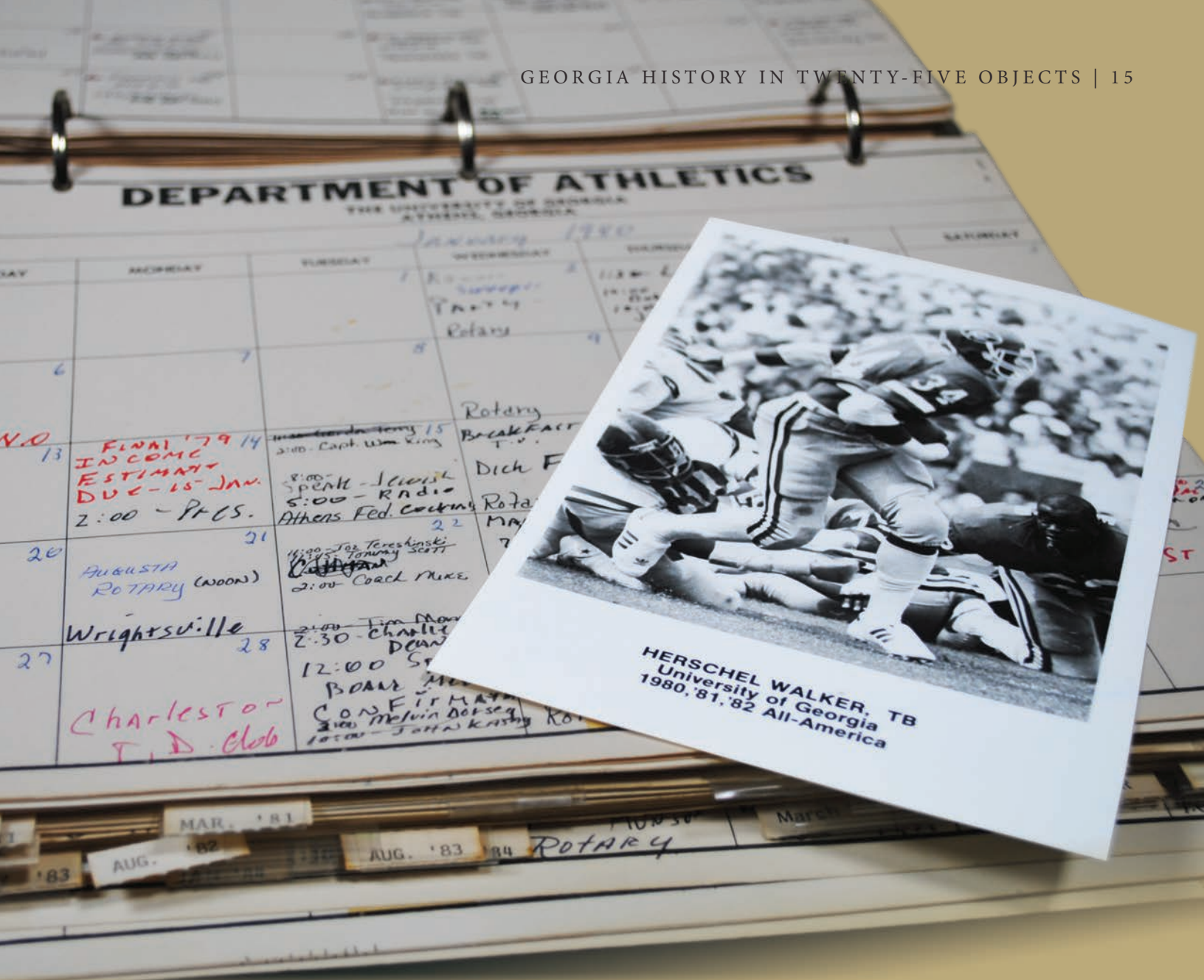
Right: NAACP Membership Card, 1965. Ethel Hyer Family Papers, MS 2117.



Georgians on the National Stage

There have been two United States attorneys general from the state of Georgia—John Macpherson Berrien and Griffin Bell—and GHS holds the papers of both. Born in Sumter County in 1918, Bell went to law school at Mercer University and in 1958 became Governor Ernest Vandiver’s Chief of Staff. Bell moderated Georgia’s response to the Civil Rights movement and facilitated desegregation. President Kennedy appointed Bell to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, where he continued to act as a voice of moderation while implementing desegregation across the South. Bell was already a legal legend when he agreed to serve as Jimmy Carter’s attorney general in 1977 (a sampling of transition team papers are shown here). As Attorney General, Bell restored public confidence in the Department of Justice after Watergate. He died as the dean of Georgia lawyers and one of the most respected legal minds in the country.

United States Attorney General Transition File, 1976–1977. Griffin B. Bell Papers, MS 2305.



Georgia Legends

In his long and storied career, Vince Dooley has become the living embodiment of Georgia's flagship university. In 1963, at age 31, the Alabama native was hired as head football coach at the University of Georgia and led the Bulldogs to 201 victories over a 25-year career, including six SEC championships and 20 bowl games. His most memorable season was 1980, and as his appointment calendar above shows, that was due in large part to a young man he recruited in Wrightsville on Monday, January 21, 1980. The trip paid off big for Dooley and UGA: Herschel Walker was one of the most outstanding players in college football history. That fall the future Heisman Trophy winner and Coach Dooley led the Bulldogs to an undefeated season and the national championship. One Monday in January changed Georgia sports history.

University of Georgia Department of Athletics Appointment Calendar, 1975-1984. Vince Dooley Papers, MS 2363.

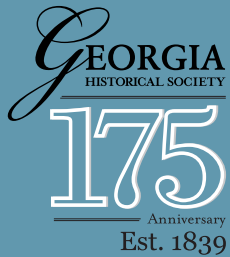
Right: Herschel Walker Photograph, circa 1980s. Vince Dooley Papers, MS 2363.

Modern Georgia

Coca Cola, Delta, and Home Depot are three of the most important global economic engines that powered Atlanta's rise in the late twentieth century. Home Depot's iconic orange apron became a symbol of the home improvement store and the two men who made it happen—Arthur Blank and Bernie Marcus, whose personal Home Depot apron is pictured here. Marcus and Blank were both fired from a home improvement company in California and decided to start their own business. After a nationwide search, they chose Atlanta, and the first two Home Depots opened in 1979. Those original stores have grown to more than 2,200. Following his retirement Marcus helped create the Georgia Aquarium, while Blank bought the Atlanta Falcons. The company they founded revolutionized the home improvement industry and helped transform Atlanta and Georgia into an economic powerhouse.



Home Depot Apron, undated. Bernie Marcus Papers, MS 2456.



Georgia History in 25 Objects

Editor
Patricia Meagher

Design and Layout
Brendan Crellin

Research and Writing
Stan Deaton, Ph.D.
Lynette Stoudt
Katharine Rapkin

Photography
Lindsay Sheldon
Russ Bryant

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