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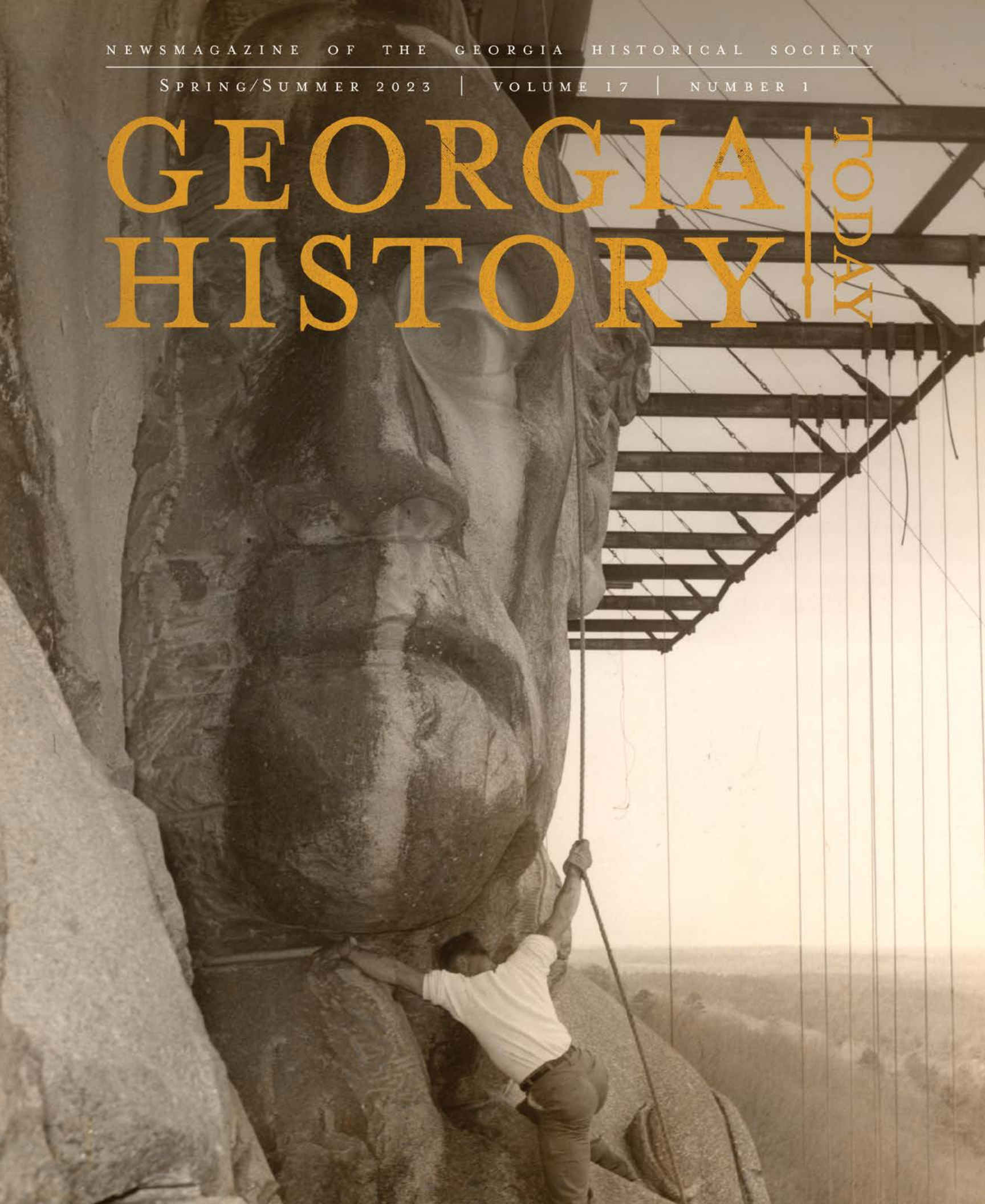
GEORGIA HISTORY TODAY



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Kathelen and Dan Amos, along with the entire Aflac family of employees, sales force and Board members, applaud Donna Hyland, fellow Georgia Trustee honoree, and the entire medical and supporting staff of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for making a difference in the lives of the patients and families entrusted in their care.

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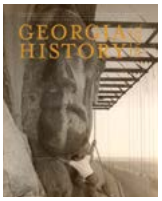

ON THE COVER

Completing the modern carving, March 8, 1964. Photo courtesy of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

The Confederate Monument on Stone Mountain. Photo courtesy of Larry Winslett and the Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

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Vincent Joseph Dooley

September 4, 1932 – October 28, 2022

He is Still with Us

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

Like many of you, I remember the day I met Vince Dooley. In the fall of 2003, I was part of the graduating class of Leadership Georgia. The speaker at the graduation ceremony was the legendary Coach Dooley. My ears perked up when during his introduction I heard that he held a master's degree in history.

Immediately after the program, I rushed to the podium, introduced myself, and thrust a membership application in his hand. "Coach, with your interest in history, you need to be a member of the Georgia Historical Society." To our everlasting good fortune, he agreed.

Little did I know the impact that first meeting would have on GHS—or on me, personally. From that chance encounter, Coach would go on to become Chairman of our Board and make us the guardian of his documentary legacy when he donated his papers to GHS. He launched the largest capital campaign in our institution's history, expanding the campus and doubling our endowment. Today a fellowship program and two endowment funds at GHS bear his name.

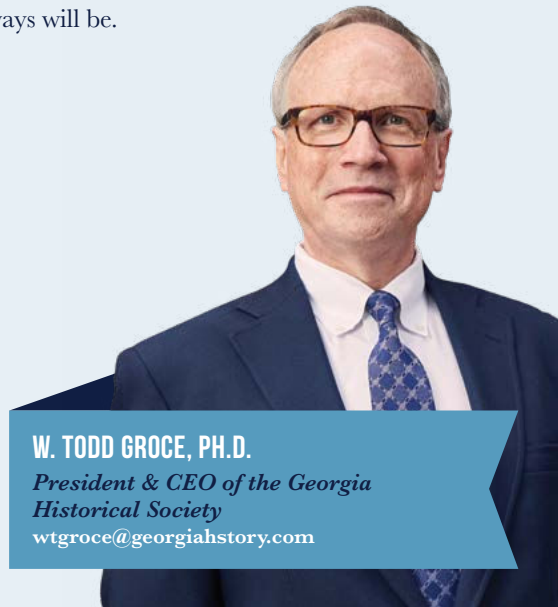
Most importantly, he made his friends our friends. I quickly learned that there was no one at the state capitol—from the Governor on down—who would not agree to a meeting if you brought along Vince Dooley. By associating himself with us, he expanded our sphere of influence and raised our visibility to new heights. If he believed in us and our mission, then others did, too. The relationships Coach engrafted on to GHS would become some of the most long lasting and consequential in our institutional history.

But his impact went beyond just networking. I learned so much about leadership, integrity, graciousness, and commitment, lessons that I now try to pass on to the next generation. While I could never have played for Vince Dooley, having him as board chairman was like being coached by him, a point I made when he stepped down from office. He thanked me and then said to the whole board, "You're right about one thing, Todd—you could never have played football for me!"

We often think of charisma as something overwhelming. But Coach possessed a quiet charisma and a sense of humor that drew you to him like a magnet. He easily and genuinely connected to people and made you feel special. It was always about you, never him.

Coach loved to tour battlefields, a passion he and I shared. He once asked me which were on my bucket list, and I said those from the First World War. He replied that when I retired, we would go together. I reminded him of that invitation when we said our goodbyes just ten days before his death.

One day, I will get to those battlefields in France. Coach Dooley will be there with me in spirit. The lessons he taught me made me a better leader, just as the time and resources he gave to GHS made us a better institution. You need only look at what we built over the past decade to realize that Vince Dooley is still with us—and he always will be.



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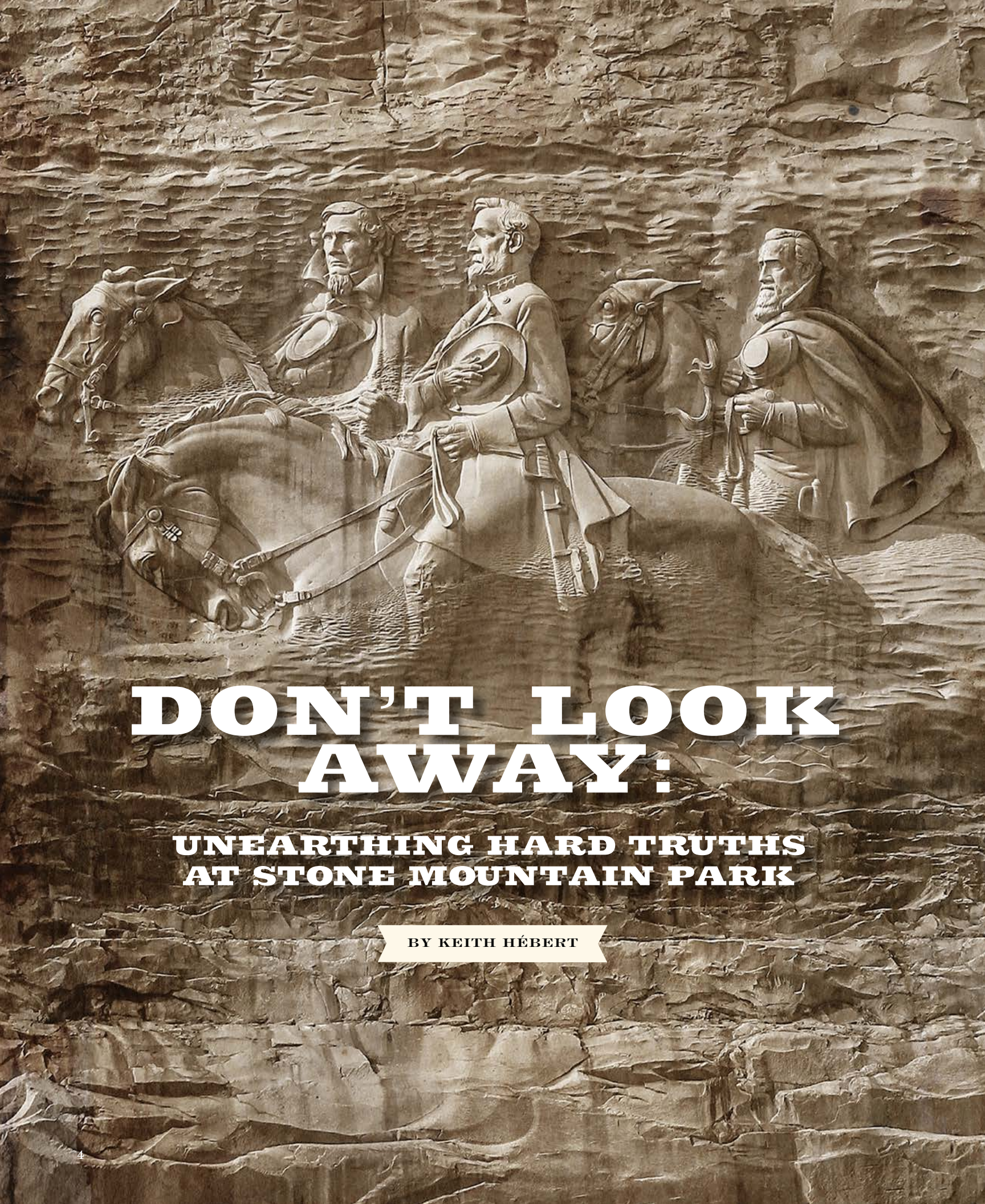


DON'T LOOK AWAY:

UNEARTHING HARD TRUTHS AT STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

BY KEITH HÉBERT

As a child I sat for hours on the Memorial Hall lawn at Stone Mountain Park awaiting the start of an Atlanta summertime tradition, the Laser Show. I enjoyed people-watching as the large crowd gathered as dusk approached. The event's audience reflected Atlanta's growing diversity and middle-class affluence. By the late 1980s, one could hear Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, French, German, and more floating above the multi-ethnic gathering. Meanwhile, large groups of Black families also gathered, often wearing colorful matching t-shirts created to celebrate their family reunion.

Together we sprawled out on the lawn to watch high-tech lasers project images on the mountain's face to a thundering soundtrack of popular and sentimental favorites. While I enjoyed show mainstays such as Ray Charles's stirring rendition of "Georgia On My Mind" and the Charlie Daniel Band's raucous "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," my favorite part came in the show's climactic finish. As the unmistakable voice of Elvis Presley, the iconic "King of Rock-n-Roll," sang the opening line of "Dixie" I naively felt a chill of excitement down my spine.

Gradually, Presley's tempo accelerated as "Dixie" gave way to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic's" chorus in a climactic display that contradictorily celebrated the Confederacy's "honorable" defeat and America's national survival. Meanwhile, millions of lasers traced the massive carving of Confederate leaders Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and "Stonewall" Jackson that had adorned the mountain's granite face since 1972. With the soulful pipes of Elvis filling the thick night air, the lasers animated the revered Confederates as they rode off the mountain toward some imperceivable distant past. Since the Laser Show's 1983 debut, millions of visitors have watched this summertime performance.

As a child, I never questioned the monument's meaning or why anyone would attend a show whose backdrop featured carvings of three antebellum-era enslavers whose dedication to the preservation and expansion of slavery led them to betray America. Their actions sought to destroy the very nation whose stars and stripes flag was displayed at the park alongside the Confederate battle flag. Nearly four decades later, I now recognize that Stone Mountain Park, the memorial carving, the laser show, and many other aspects of this commemorative landscape were part of one of the most destructive lies in American history: the Lost Cause.

Contrary to "Dixie's" sentimental lyrics, White southerners developed the Lost Cause to purposely forget, distort, and ignore many facets of Civil War history. Coined by Richmond journalist Edward Pollard, the Lost Cause began as an effort to explain the war's causes and outcomes. Told from a Confederate partisan view, the Lost Cause ignored slavery's role in both the Confederacy's creation and defeat.

Likewise, most Lost Cause advocates interpreted the war as a fight over states' rights that pitted an industrializing North against an agrarian South. According to Lost Cause writers, the Confederacy lost due to the North's overwhelming population and materiel. Consequently, the war destroyed the South's way of life—a prosperous and unique civilization superior to its northern counterpart.

Numerous ex-Confederate civil and military leaders and southern sympathizers around the world shaped these Lost Cause mythologies. A deep undercurrent of White supremacist rhetoric and White-on-Black domestic terrorism helped White southerners attract support from others, nationally and internationally, who also resisted Black equality.

While the war may have ended slavery, the Lost Cause played a significant role in bringing the nation together on a platform of White supremacy and opposition to Black civil liberty. By the early 20th century, the Lost Cause not only dominated public discussions of the war's memory but had emerged as one of the most influential schools of historical scholarship, the Dunning School. Bound by their shared defense of the Lost Cause and assertions of Black inferiority, Dunning School scholars such as Columbia University's William Archibald Dunning and Vanderbilt University's Walter Lynwood Fleming helped this distorted history emerge as the orthodox account of what they referred to as the "War Between the States" or the "War of Northern Aggression."

Stone Mountain Park's Laser Show illustrated the Lost Cause's success in shaping how Americans remembered the Civil War. Presley's "American Trilogy" climaxes with an emotional rendition of select lyrics from "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." In the transition from "Dixie" to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," lasers projected images of Confederate leaders breaking their swords and reconciling their differences with their northern enemies as they forge newfound expressions of American nationalism and patriotism. As Elvis belted out the final line "His truth is marching on," fireworks filled the sky and the crowd headed for the park exit warmed by a false narrative projected on the face of the world's largest Confederate memorial. Many observers likely believed that they had enjoyed a dramatic telling of history rather than the amalgamation of more than a century of Lost Cause lies.

Few visitors likely ever considered why the world's largest Confederate memorial was created on Stone Mountain. The

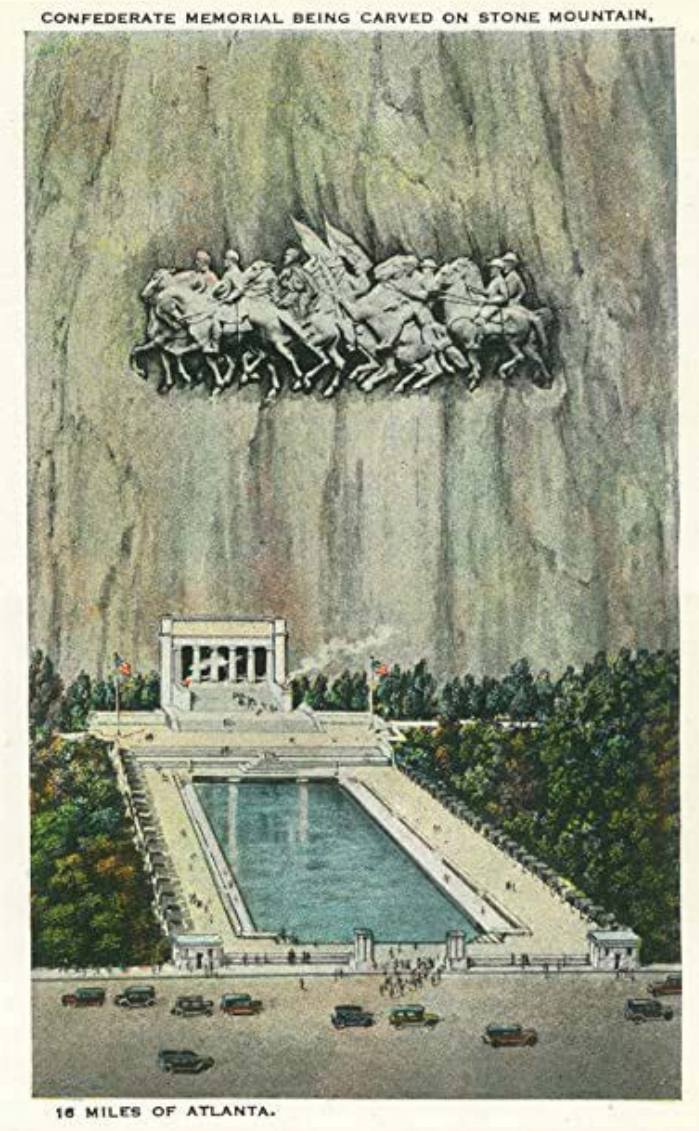
mountain itself played no role in the Civil War. No battles or major events happened here between 1861 and 1865. Lee, Davis, and Jackson never visited the mountain during the war. Arguably, the most significant event to happen on the mountain occurred on Thanksgiving eve 1915 when Atlanta insurance salesman William Simmons and sixteen other White men announced the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan, a domestic terrorist organization, by igniting a large cross atop the massive granite outcrop.

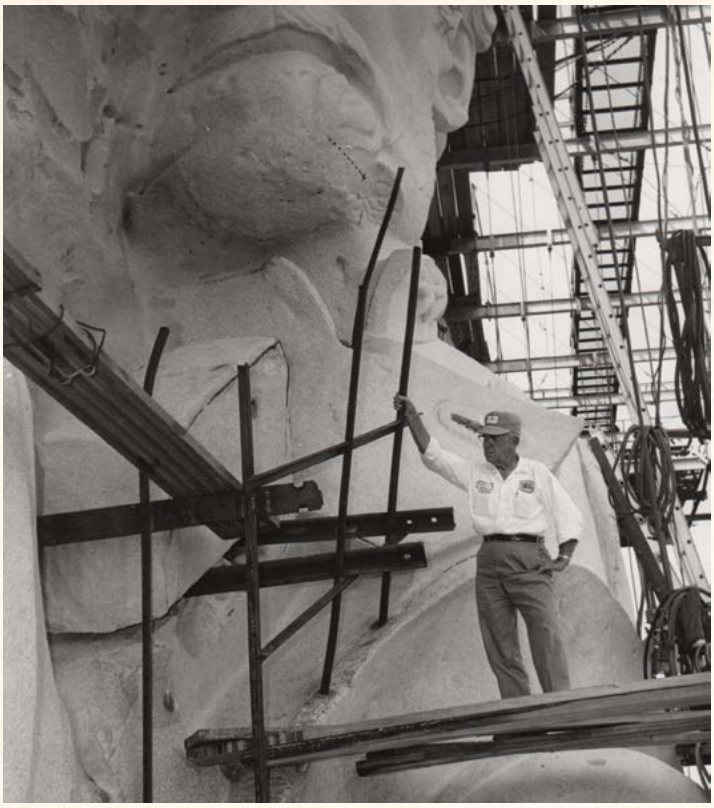
Inspired by the 1915 film *Birth of a Nation*, Simmons adopted a Lost Cause/Dunning School view of the Klan as a noble social organization formed to protect White women and southern civilization from the Reconstruction-era depredations committed by Black men and their White carpetbagger and scalawag allies. A few years earlier, Helen Plane, a Confederate widow who helped found the Atlanta chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, unsuccessfully advocated for the creation of a Confederate memorial at Stone Mountain.

The Klan's resurrection breathed new meaning into the granite dome that had nothing to do with the Civil War but everything to do with the continued White resistance to Black equality. Under Plane's leadership, the newly chartered Stone Mountain Confederate Monumental Association approached sculptor Gutzon Borglum to carve a memorial on the mountain's granite face. By 1925, Borglum managed to carve Lee's head but abandoned the project after disagreements with association leaders. Augustus Lukeman, Borglum's replacement, blasted off Borglum's work but also struggled with the project's sheer size and association members before also abandoning the project in 1928.

Between 1928 and 1964, work on the Stone Mountain Confederate memorial stalled. Activity resumed, however, as Georgia and the nation prepared for the Civil War centennial. In 1958, Georgia purchased Stone Mountain for the purpose of creating a Confederate memorial park.

Meanwhile, as the Civil Rights Movement resumed longstanding demands for Black civil equality, including the racial integration of public schools and facilities, the memorial became a symbol of the White southern massive resistance to those demands. Thanks to the introduction of a new technology, the thermo-jet torch, the carving was dedicated in 1970 and completed two years later. The carving became the centerpiece of a larger commemorative landscape that included additional memorials to the Confederate dead located at the mountain's base, a large reflecting pool, and a Confederate Memorial Hall with exhibits that honored Confederate history.





The Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial has sparked controversy from its inception. Today, organizations such as the Stone Mountain Action Coalition have demanded the removal of all Confederate symbols, including the renaming of the park's streets. Others have demanded the carving's removal. Some have suggested that the park add new monuments that celebrate the achievements of Black activists such as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Motivated by declining revenues once provided by corporate-sponsored events at park facilities, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association now seeks to transform Memorial Hall into a series of "truth telling" exhibits that expose visitors to the park's deep connections to Lost Cause lies and White supremacist terrorist organizations. In an age when differentiating fact from propaganda remains as challenging as ever, the park's efforts to transform the memorial into an educational resource contrast sharply with Georgia's new law to protect Confederate monuments. Can the truth find its way out of the long shadows cast by the world's largest Confederate monument?

In 2017, Dekalb County CEO Michael Thurmond became the first person of color added to the Stone Mountain Memorial Association board. A published author and historian, Thurmond has long been an advocate of telling the full story of Georgia's past and examining the creation and impact of the Lost Cause. That trend towards diversity and honesty continued when in 2021 Governor Brian Kemp appointed Rev. Abraham Mosley as chairman, the first Black Georgian to hold the position.

Recently, following a national search, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association hired Warner Museums to redevelop Memorial Hall's exhibits. The Birmingham-based exhibits firm's resume includes notable sites such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and the Medal of Honor Museum. Warner is collaborating with local community members to build an inclusive and honest interpretative experience that will offer a frank examination of the Lost Cause's impact on Civil War memory. The exhibits are scheduled to open by the end of 2024.

Meanwhile, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association has also retained me to serve as a public history consultant throughout the process. Our goal is to seek out advice and feedback from historians throughout the exhibit redesign. Stone Mountain's forthcoming exhibits represent a step in the right direction toward a much longer and overdue journey. As we engage in this mission, the sounds of Elvis belting out that famous line from "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," *His truth is marching on*, rings in my ears. May the truth of Stone Mountain's sordid past prevail.

Keith Hébert is Draughon Associate Professor of Southern History at Auburn University and the author of Cornerstone of the Confederacy: Alexander H. Stephens and the Speech that Defined the Lost Cause *(University of Tennessee Press, 2021), winner of the Georgia Historical Society's Malcolm Bell, Jr., and Muriel Barrow Bell Award for the best book in Georgia history published in 2021.*

Images in order of appearance:

A postcard commemorating the connection between the Ku Klux Klan and Stone Mountain.

Sculptor Gutzon Borglum's original design for the Stone Mountain carving, 1923-1925.

A preliminary design for the carving, with memorial hall at the base.

Completing the modern carving, March 8, 1964. Photo courtesy of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

Thank you, Georgia Historical Society

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It is our pleasure to support your organization and its mission to preserve and share the history of our home state

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Dale Critz, Sr.,

John Macpherson Berrien Award Winner

By Keith Strigaro

Dale Critz, Sr., a pillar of the Savannah community since the 1950s, who helped build a family-owned car dealership that has spanned three generations and more than 80 years, is the recipient of the 2023 John Macpherson Berrien Award, presented by the Georgia Historical Society for lifetime achievement in Georgia history.

Dale was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on September 21, 1932, and attended Asheville School from 1949-1951. He graduated from Duke University in 1955 with a B.A. in Political Science. While at Duke he was in the Contract Officer training program. Upon graduation he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy and served on destroyer escorts in the Atlantic until July 1957.

Dale met his wife Lila in 1953 while both attended Duke, and they were married in Tallahassee on March 9, 1957. They then moved to Savannah, and Dale joined his family's automobile business, Critz Inc., in August 1957. Dale had a successful 45-year business career amassing dealerships in Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida and was honored by *Time* magazine as the Quality Automobile Dealer of the Year in 1998. He retired in 2002, succeeded by the third generation, Dale Critz Jr.

Dale is also active on the volunteering and fundraising front. He helped establish the endowment committee of the Telfair Academy in 1989 and still serves on it today. He is also on the endowment committees at the Georgia Historical Society, the Savannah Community Foundation, and the George Washington Foundation. He is a 25-year member of the United Way's Tocqueville Society and served as chairman multiple times. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah for 60 years. In 2004 he was inducted into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame. Dale was instrumental in creating an organizational plan for the Forsyth Farmers Market in 2010. He is also Past-President of the Historic Savannah Foundation and in 2017 was awarded the Davenport Trophy, their highest preservation achievement award.

Dale and his family are committed to making Georgia a better place to live, dedicating their time and resources through their family foundation. The family established the Critz Family Fund at the Georgia Historical Society in 2019, ensuring that their commitment to Georgia history will continue in perpetuity.

Regarding his work and community service, Dale says he has always believed in "making the world a better place to live by investing in the history of Savannah and to give what you can give."

Non sibi sed aliis.

Keith Strigaro is the Director of Communications at GHS. He can be reached at kstrigaro@georgiahistory.com.

Dale Critz (right) receiving the John Macpherson Berrien Award from Robert S Jepson Jr, November 17, 2022.

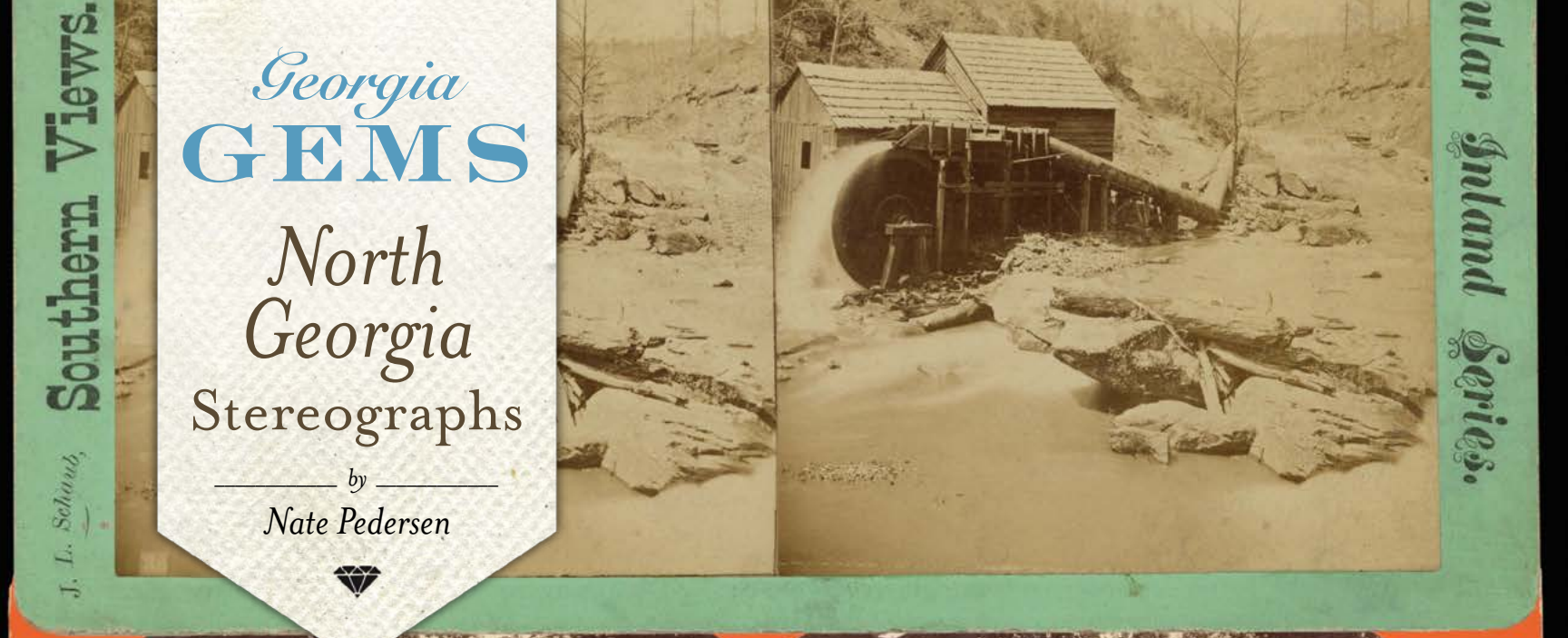
Lila and Dale Critz, Sr. Couresty of Dale Critz, Jr.

Georgia GEMS

North Georgia Stereographs

by

Nate Pedersen



Stereographs, those curious photographic survivals of another era, can be seen as a trifling curiosity to the modern viewer, but they are rich in historic depth. By offering a glimpse into the daily lives of individuals in the mid to late 19th century, stereographs provide fascinating insights into a time otherwise little documented in the photographic record.

At the Georgia Historical Society, we have an extensive collection of Georgia stereographs, depicting people and places from across the state, everything from Bonaventure burial plots to ships docked in Brunswick, from middle-class Black families on picnic excursions to Augusta war memorials. Three rare north Georgia examples highlighted here hint at the wealth of information and historical insight that can be contained in these photos.

John B. Almond Hermitage cabin (GHS 1361-SG-04-04-05): Just like Georgians of today, Georgians of the 19th century—if they could afford to do so—tried to escape the heat of the summer. These stereographic images offer a rare glimpse of life at a modest mountain retreat. The photos depict John B. Almond, a resident of Elberton, Georgia (Elbert County), reading next to his mountain cabin, called "The Hermitage." Almond was a farmer and Confederate veteran who had served in the 38th Georgia Infantry during the Civil War. According to property digests, after the war Almond purchased additional property in Nacoochee, Georgia (White County), which is likely where the cabin in the photograph was located.

Benning Gold Mine on Tallulah River (GHS 1361-SG-04-01-G-02): These very rare images show an operational gold mine near Tallulah Falls, in Habersham County, Georgia, the same county where the first gold strike was reported in what would become the Georgia Gold Rush. From *The Georgia Journal*, a Milledgeville newspaper, on August 1, 1829:

"GOLD.—A gentleman of the first respectability in Habersham county, writes us thus under date of 22d July: "Two gold mines have just been discovered in this county, and preparations are making to bring these hidden treasures of the earth to use."

Prospective miners flooded the north Georgia mountains by late 1829 in what was still recognized as the Cherokee Nation, one of several contributing factors to the subsequent Cherokee removal remembered today as the Trail of Tears. By the 1840s, the Georgia mountains had largely been tapped out and prospectors were tempted westward by the riches promised in the California Gold Rush. This undated stereographic image likely dates from the decades between 1850 and 1890, depicting a mine still lingering in operation long after the rush concluded.

Artists at the bottom of Toccoa Falls (GHS 1361-SG-04-01-E-02): These late-19th century images show people admiring Toccoa Falls in Stephens County, Georgia. Just as today thousands of tourists stop each year to admire the 186-foot drop of Toccoa Falls, so too did tourists 150 years ago. An artist can even be seen in the photos, temporarily resting from his labors, his rendition of the waterfall clearly visible on the canvas before him.

These stereographs are of course visually interesting, but they are far more than that. They are valuable primary sources that document the culture, economy, and society of mid- to late-19th century Georgia, offering us in the 21st century a window on a long-lost world that mere written descriptions cannot provide. The Georgia Historical Society stereograph collection (GHS 1361-SG) is an artificial collection created by GHS by compiling stereographs from various sources into a single collection. GHS continues to actively build this collection. Subjects include agriculture, buildings, daily life, events, geographic locations, industry, military, monuments and memorials, people, plants and animals, politics, tableaux and vessels.

The GHS stereograph collection is currently one of our featured collections. You can browse the collection online by selecting the "Research" tab of our website, then selecting "Search Our Archives," then clicking on "Georgia Historical Society Stereograph Collection" under "Featured Collections."

If you have any questions about the collection, please contact the Research Center at library@georgiahistory.com or 912-651-2128.

Nate Pedersen is the Manager of Archival and Reference Team at GHS. He can be reached at npedersen@georgiahistory.com.

The High Price of Preserving the Past

By Christy Crisp and Leanda Rix

Georgia began not only as a military and economic enterprise for England, but also as a philanthropic experiment. Though the noble ideal upon which the colony was founded—*Non Sibi, Sed Aliis*, "Not for Self, But for Others"—was arguably never fully realized, there has remained among many Georgians, across generations, a deep sense of responsibility to serve others, to contribute to the public good. The Georgia Historical Society (GHS), established in 1839, has remained committed to advancing the public good through steadfast fulfilment of its mission to collect, examine, and teach Georgia history.

At the heart of all that GHS does—its most valuable asset and the foundation upon which all else is built—is the nation's oldest and most distinguished library and archival collection of Georgia history. It is from this collection that all else emerges – from award-winning public programs and publications to teacher trainings and the vast array of primary source-rich educational resources created for classroom use.

No one reading this likely needs to be convinced of the importance of basing programs and scholarship on sound historical research, rooted in original primary sources. With history education so much in the news this past year, the importance of focusing squarely on original sources in the development of all materials for Georgia students and teachers is well established. As standard practice, GHS leverages primary sources within its collection across its programming, including the creation of classroom resources to engage students in hands-on, interactive learning as well as in the design of professional development opportunities for teachers.

Not surprisingly, caring for this most important asset is also among the costliest of everything we do. Preserving and sharing original archival materials with scholars, authors, journalists, filmmakers, teachers, students, and even GHS staff is essential to carrying out the GHS mission, but the price of professional processing, preservation, and creating access is high. In addition, the extremely meticulous work of the archivist is

largely hidden from the public eye, making it somewhat uncelebrated and, in turn, challenging to raise funds for. Even still, arranging and describing collection items and including that information in the GHS online catalog ensures researchers have access to the unique materials that enable discovery of new historical evidence and advance public understanding.

So, where do we secure support for collections care and operation of the Research Center? GHS receives a modest appropriation from the State of Georgia and actively applies for competitive grant funding from federal and private sources, though these opportunities are limited.

We are fortunate to have a few donors keenly interested in supporting specific activities such as conservation and project-based digitization. Last year, targeted funds in support of the GHS Research Center covered just 9 percent of its operating expenses. Overwhelmingly, unrestricted gifts and GHS's endowment fund distribution support Research Center activities.

Nearly half a century ago, the Georgia Historical Society created an Endowment Fund to ensure the future of GHS. Governed by an independent Board of Trustees, the purpose of the GHS Endowment is twofold: to provide perpetual care for, and access to, the GHS collection, and to ensure the delivery of educational and public programs for teachers, students, and general audiences. As with unrestricted gifts, funds from the endowment support core aspects of the GHS mission that are not as public facing as our educational initiatives and public programs. This makes endowment support crucial to ensuring the accessibility of the GHS collection—now and for generations to come.

In 2015, GHS launched The Next Century Initiative, a $15.5 million campaign designed to expand our campus and double our endowment. In 2022, GHS completed the renovation and expansion of the GHS Research Center. Today, we are just $1.5 million shy of our campaign goal intended to grow the endowment, the primary means by which GHS is able to preserve and share its incredible collection. If you wish to make a lasting investment in the work of GHS, please consider a gift to the GHS Endowment Fund. Doing so will help ensure that this most vital part of the Georgia Historical Society's core mission will continue in perpetuity.

Christy Crisp is the Marilyn Memory McMullan Director of Programs at GHS and can be reached at ccrisp@georgiahistory.

Leanda Rix is the Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives at GHS and can be reached at lrix@georgiahistory.com.

SUSIE KING TAYLOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AND ECOLOGY CENTER

By Hermina Glass-Hill, M.H.P.

As a young, enslaved girl born in antebellum Georgia in 1848, Susie King Taylor was empowered by her grandmother's wit, love, and the risks she took to triumph over slave laws that denied enslaved people the right to literacy. After 22 years of living in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1902 she decided to write and self-publish a memoir titled *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd United States Colored Troops*. The goal of this short, descriptive 82-page narrative was to persuade Americans to remember slavery, the Civil War, and the price of freedom.

Taylor's use of flashback as a literary device to jump between time periods was a brilliant writing strategy, especially for writing about events that happened so long ago in her childhood. The flashbacks that describe her relationship with her grandmother Dolly Reid and her deep sense of place in Savannah are most compelling.

To understand the context of their early lives together in Savannah is to appreciate their beginnings in rural Liberty County. Around 1846, Dolly's owner, Valentine Grest, had purchased approximately 73 acres of mostly marshland on Liberty County's Isle of Wight. By 1850, they owned 4,000 acres of land with only 300 cleared for farming. They also owned 5 horses, 10 milch cows, 30 other cattle, 19 sheep, and 20 swine, Dolly, Susie and her parents Raymond and Hagar, 5 younger siblings, and 13 other enslaved people. The yield from the sole crop planted that year was 300 bushels of Indian corn, which hardly made a profit.

Dolly was sent Savannah to improve Grest's economic predicament. He utilized the 'hiring out system' during the antebellum years to profit from her labor as both a

washerwoman in private homes in the vicinity of Bay Street and as a huckster at Market Hall. While this contractual arrangement may have earned cash for Grest, it did so much more for Dolly, facilitating mobility and opportunities to earn money for herself and to meet people of varying social stations and different countries. At five feet,seven inches tall and dark-complexioned, the Geechee-speaking widow proved to be shrewd, gregarious, and garrulous. She was likely exceptional at *playing fool and catching smart* with buckras like her owner and hirers.

In 1855, Dolly convinced Grest that he could earn more cash if the little ones could join her in Savannah, perhaps learning a trade fetching wood or helping the mistresses of the homes that she cleaned, washed, and ironed daily. Before long, six-year-old Susie, her brother, and her baby sister Dolly were residing with their grandmother on South Broad Street one block from the courthouse. Susie King Taylor notes in *Reminiscences* that her grandmother negotiated with trusted friends to make her dreams of literacy come true. Before the Civil War, young Susie had attended a total of four secret schools in Savannah:

There were three of us with [grandmother], my younger sister and brother. My brother and I being the two eldest, we were sent to a friend of my grandmother, Mrs. Woodhouse, a widow, to learn to read and write. She was a free woman and lived on Bay Lane, between Habersham and Price streets, about half a mile from my house. We went every day about nine o'clock, with our books wrapped in paper to prevent the police or white persons from seeing them.

In *Reminiscences*, Susie King Taylor's flashbacks provide incredibly accurate, detailed insights about specific people, places, and events in antebellum Savannah that made indelible marks on her memory. This remarkable woman died in 1912.

The Susie King Taylor Women's Institute and Ecology Center illuminates Taylor's life by facilitating conferences, lectures, college scholarships, and heritage eco-tours. The Center, located in Liberty County, produced the first exhibit in the United States solely focusing on the life of Susie King Taylor. One of the Institute's primary goals is to create an Underground Railroad Park dedicated to Susie King Taylor's memory in her hometown in Liberty County.

The Susie King Taylor Women's Institute and Ecology Center was awarded the Georgia Historical Society's 2022 Affiliate Chapter of the Year award for its efforts to educate the public about Susie King Taylor. Hermina Glass-Hill is a public historian and the foremost scholar in the nation on Susie King Taylor. In 2017, she organized the Susie King Taylor Women's Institute & Ecology Center in Liberty County, Georgia, and in 2019 she received the Governor's Award for Arts and Humanities for her research and preservation of African-American history and culture. For more information about Susie King Taylor, visit www.susiekingtaylorinstitute.org.

Susie King Taylor image from Library of Congress.

MILESTONES

Field Trips Return to the GHS Research Center

GHS is excited to welcome students back to the newly renovated GHS Research Center for field trip programs!

GHS offers unique field trip experiences where students explore primary source materials from the GHS archival collection and learn about the work of historical archives, research, and preservation.

Pictured: St. Andrew's School and Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School.

MILESTONES

Georgia History Festival 2023 Georgia Day Statewide Art Contest Winners

Overall High School Winner:
Nicole Prudchenko,
Georgia Connections Academy,
Statewide Virtual School

Overall Middle School Winner:
Kaylee Williams,
General Ray Davis Middle School,
Rockdale County Public Schools

Overall Elementary School Winner:
Aarav Dharmaraj,
New Hampstead K–8 School,
Savannah–Chatham County Public School System

Georgia History Festival 2023 Georgia Day Banner Competition Winners

First Place:
Robert W. Gadsden Elementary School
Photo by Russ Bryant

Second Place:
Hancock Day School

Third Place:
Herman K. Hesse K–8 School
Photo courtesy of Herman K. Hesse K–8 School

EQUIPPING GEORGIA'S EDUCATORS

INSPIRING GEORGIA'S FUTURE LEADERS

From school board meetings to state legislative halls around the country, controversies around history education have been ever-present this past year. The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) has remained firm in its position that teaching and studying the full and complete story of America—critically examining our nation's successes and failures—is essential to our ongoing quest to create a more perfect union.

The essence of what it means to be an American is contained in the full story of our nation's past.

The Founders gifted America with an indelible framework built upon aspirational ideals—freedom, liberty, equality, and opportunity—that have inspired the evolution of a great nation. Our once-fledgling country has experienced great change throughout its history and change will undoubtedly remain a unifying theme of our nation's story into the future.

As our nation continues to evolve in the 21st century, GHS remains committed to fulfilling its educational and research mission and will continue to serve as a reliable source for Georgia and American history and a resource partner to teachers, students, and researchers.

As a person who cares deeply about history education, please consider making a year-end, 100% tax-deductible contribution to the GHS Annual Fund. Every gift matters!

With your support, GHS will continue to teach and share the inspiring story of America and the American people for generations to come.

Ways to Give to the GHS Annual Fund

- Online – visit https://georgiahistory.com/annual-fund
- By Check – mail to Georgia Historical Society, 104 W. Gaston Street, Savannah, GA 31401
- By Phone – call 912.651.2125, ext. 110
- By Transfer of Stock or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) – please consult your financial advisor

To notify GHS of a gift made via stock or through QCD, please contact us at 912.651.2125 ext. 116.

MILESTONES

Georgia Historical Society Inducts Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author & Historian Annette Gordon-Reed as 2022 Vincent J. Dooley Distinguished Teaching Fellow

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) inducted Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed of Harvard University as the 2022 Vincent J. Dooley Distinguished Teaching Fellow on November 17, 2022, during a public program in Savannah. The Dooley family, presented the honor to Gordon-Reed. Pictured here are GHS President CEO Dr. Todd Groce, Barbara Dooley, Daniel Dooley, Annette Gordon-Reed, Suzanne Dooley, Deanna Dooley Rogers, Destry Rogers.

Annette Gordon-Reed is the award-winning historian and author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (1997, University of Virginia Press), *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* (2008, W.W. Norton & Company), which won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize and 15 additional awards, and *On Juneteenth* (2021, Liveright), her latest book.

"This year's recipient, Annette Gordon-Reed of Harvard University, is especially deserving of this recognition," said W. Todd Groce, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society. "Over the past 25 years, Professor Gordon-Reed has participated in multiple educational programs sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society, including public lectures, televised roundtable discussions, and federally funded workshops for college and university faculty. This service along with her highly original and game-changing research on topics ranging from Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings, the Hemings family, President Andrew Johnson, and most recently, the newly created national holiday of Juneteenth, has advanced the mission of the Georgia Historical Society and shaped the way Americans understand the past and see themselves in the present."

Photo By: Russ Bryant

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For 32 years, Donna Hyland has helped shape the delivery of healthcare to children in Georgia and beyond. First as chief financial officer, then chief operating officer, and now as president and chief executive officer, Donna has overseen monumental growth and achievement at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, one of the nation's top pediatric hospitals. Her dedication to helping others is also reflected in her community service through several groups that make Atlanta a better place to live and work.

2023 GEORGIA TRUSTEE

DAN Amos

Dan Amos became chief executive officer of Aflac Incorporated in 1990, and is one of the longest serving CEOs in the Fortune 200. In 2000, Dan launched the popular Aflac duck advertising campaign, transforming Aflac from a successful supplemental insurance company in Columbus, Georgia, to one of the most recognizable brands in the world. His philanthropy has focused on healthcare, and one of his proudest achievements is the establishment of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, ranked among the best in the nation.


Georgia Historical Society presents
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Indelible
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Savannah, GA

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2023 TRUSTEES GALA

The Trustees Gala is the Georgia Historical Society's premier annual event and the culmination of the 2022-2023 *Georgia History Festival*. The Trustees Gala reigns as one of Georgia's most successful non-political black-tie events, bringing together business, philanthropic, and community leaders from across the state and nation. The Office of the Governor and the Georgia Historical Society will induct the 2023 Georgia Trustees, Dan Amos, Chairman and CEO of Aflac Inc., and Donna Hyland, President and CEO of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

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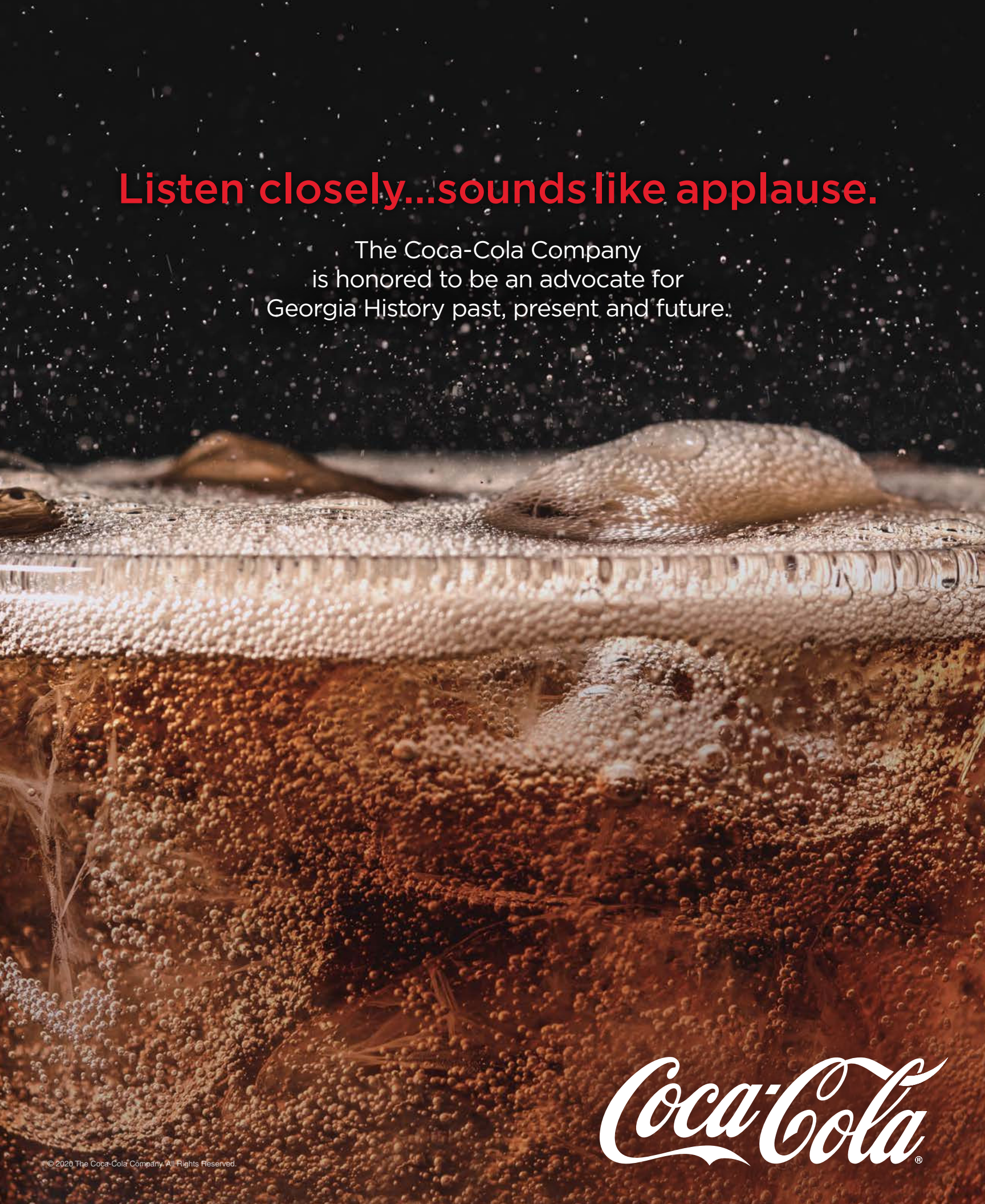

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