



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

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localarrangements@soga.
org

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admin@soga.org

2008: A Big Year for SGA Scholarships by Luciana Spracher, City of Savannah Research Library and Municipal Archives

For the first time ever, SGA awarded a total of five scholarships during the calendar year, including the Brenda S. Banks and Anthony R. Dees educational workshop scholarships established in 2007. The addition of the workshop scholarships has rounded out an already rich scholarship program that has supported many new and veteran Georgia archivists over the years. During the fall, the Scholarship Committee awarded the last two scholarships of 2008, enabling two newcomers to participate in the annual meeting programs. Special thanks go to the 2008 Scholarship Committee members for all their hard work throughout the year: Chuck Barber, Laura Carter, Gilbert Head, Keith Hebert, Muriel Jackson, and Michael Nagy. Gilbert deserves an extra round of applause, raising a record \$1,692 as Auctioneer of the 8th Annual Scholarship Auction with the generous help of SGA donors and bidders. With 2009 comes a new round of SGA scholarship awards, and as a committee we look forward to serving the SGA membership in this endeavor under the leadership of incoming chair Courtney Chartier.

Past President and
Nomination Committee
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pastpresident@soga.org

Web Editor
Abigail R. Griner
webmaster@soga.org

Newsletter Editor
Renna Tuten
newsletter@soga.org

Provenance Editor
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provenance@soga.org

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SGA members enter the Taylor-Grady House, site of the Annual Meeting reception and scholarship auction. Photo courtesy of James Yancey.

The Society of Georgia Archivists each year awards the Carroll Hart Scholarship for attendance at the [Georgia Archives Institute](#) held each summer in Atlanta. The purpose of the scholarship is to enhance archival education and membership. The scholarship is named for Carroll Hart, former director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, founding member of the Society of Georgia Archivists, and founder of the Georgia Archives Institute.

The scholarship will cover an amount equal to the noncredit tuition for the Institute but not to exceed \$500, and a year's membership in the Society of Georgia Archivists. Individuals eligible to compete for the scholarship are those engaged in compensated or volunteer archival work at any level in an institution in the state of Georgia, SGA members employed outside the state of Georgia, graduate students preparing for a career in archives at a college or university in Georgia, or SGA student members studying outside the state of Georgia. Preferences will be given to applicants who do not have access to institutional support for attending the Georgia Archives Institute. Individuals may apply or be nominated by a supervisor or instructor. Please note that individuals must also apply separately to

the Georgia Archives Institute by April 1, 2009. To apply for the Carroll Hart Scholarship, please fill out and mail in our application, with all required supplemental materials, prior to March 1, 2009.



November has once more come and gone, this year with yet a little rain and chill, and with its passing, another successful SGA Annual Meeting has entered the rolls of history. As in recent years gone by, we again held an auction se-tenant with the reception on Thursday evening (this edition the 8th of that ilk), with the proceeds (as always)

going towards support, sustenance, and growth of the various scholarship programs administered by the Society of Georgia Archivists.

Left: SGA Members peruse the buffet at the Annual Meeting reception and auction. Photo courtesy of James Yancey

Our venue space for this endeavor was the antebellum front parlour of the Taylor-Grady House, in Athens, and a lovely and lively space it was. Thanks must herein be tendered to Laura Carter and Renna Tuten, both for securing this space, and for working so closely with us to ensure that the auction had all that it needed and more, from the standpoint of local logistical support. Thanks also to Elizabeth Russey, who was always there when needed.

First, the facts. This year's auction raised some \$1692.00 in items sold and generous contributions. We had 60 items (sold in 70 minutes!) donated by 20

donors. Forty-one folks signed up to participate in the auction, and 33 were winning bidders. What follows is a list of those who contributed in various ways, and our thanks to one and all for their generosity:

Donors included: Laura All and our friends at The History Press; Chuck Barber; Laura Carter; Deborah Davis; Linda Davis (official mother of the Line of Dandy, especially this year's addition, as yet unknown in name and gender); Carolyn Denton; Elaine DeNiro and the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Traci Drummond; Suzanne Durham and the University of West Georgia; Morna Gerrard; Abby Griner; Valerie Frey; Bob Henderson and our friends at Metal Edge/Hollinger; Muirel Jackson; Caroline Killens; Sheila McAlister; Tony Parrott; Jill Severn; Lynette Stoudt; and Renna Tuten.



Right: SGA Members ride a UGA bus to the reception. Photo courtesy of James Yancey

Winning Bidders were: Anna Appleman; Frances Bowden; Laura Carroll; Laura Carter; Deborah Davis; Elaine DeNiro; Carolyn Denton; Kristy Dixon; Morna Gerrard; G. Head; Bob Henderson (Metal Edge/ Hollinger); Susan Hoffius; Caroline Hopkinson; Cynthia Horne; Miriam Hudgens; Muriel Jackson; Elizabeth Keathley; Caroline Killens; Mary Linneman; Tina Mason Seetoo; Jeff Matthews; Sheila McAlister; Kara McClurken; Susan McDonald; Michael Nagy; Polly Nodine; Tony Parrott; Deborah Rouse; Elizabeth Russey; Jill Severn; Lynette Stoudt; Renna Tuten; Jim Yancey. We also had separate donations from Beverly Craton, Rosemary Fischer, and Michael Nagy.

Other bidders included: Teresa Burk; Christine de Catanzaro; Christian Dupont; Maureen Hill; Rich Jackson; Brittany Parris; Kassandra Ware; Christine Wiseman.

As always, there are a small handful of folks who make this event possible each year. Those folks present at the meeting from the Scholarship Committee were diligent in helping along the way, and again this year I thank them. Of particular help all

along the way, from set-up through the final event were Elizabeth Russey and Renna Tuten, whose assistance was invaluable. The usual round-up of folks at the center were again on hand this year, and again I state what is always true: without the support of Chuck Barber and Jill Severn, and the Emergency Registrar and Puller-of-Rabbits-from Hats, Renna Tuten, filling in for our multi-tasking Registrar, Sheila McAlister, this thing just wouldn't happen. I thank them for their continued support of this endeavor, and for their contributions to SGA's ongoing mission of scholarly support.



I think that folks had a good time with the auction again this year. This year's best total ever for an SGA auction has brought our total for eight years of auctions to \$10,236.06. I hope that everyone who has had a hand in the effort down through the years feels as good about that total as I do. It's just possible that folks will feel like doing another one next year during our 40th anniversary celebration in Savannah. If so, perhaps we'll saddle up and ride at least once more. Until then, I hope to remain,

*For the Scholarship Committee,
E. Gilbert Head Jr., Friend to Sock Monkeys Everywhere*

Left: Items on the auction block. Photo courtesy of James Yancey

Current SGA Scholarship Winners

Rebecca Morris, Winner of the 2008 Larry Gulley Scholarship

As historian and archivist for the Georgia Baptist Convention, mine is a many-faceted occupation. About a quarter of my job involves the traditional responsibilities of an archivist and includes training representatives from 92 associations and over 3600 churches in archival techniques for their own historical records. With a background in history and archaeology and only limited archival experience from an internship at a museum, I needed to fill in the gaps in my archival training. Reading through the Archival Fundamentals Series from the SAA gave me a foundation, but I wanted to develop upon that foundational knowledge. In addition, I sorely needed practical advice on various aspects of archiving

that were relevant to my particular needs.

Attendance at the 2008 SGA annual meeting, through the funding provided by the Larry Gulley Scholarship enabled me to fulfill those needs. Attending two workshops on photographs, Effective Photograph Arrangement and Preservation Strategies for Photographs, allowed me to broaden and deepen my understanding of how to deal with the thousands of photographs in our collection. The workshop on Disaster Planning Initiatives provided me with guidelines and resources to help me begin the development of an emergency management plan for our facility. In the Records Management for Archives workshop I was able to glean ideas on how to inform and educate the various departments of the GBC in retention procedures. Finally, during the break times and the roundtable discussion, I was able to ask the specific questions I had and receive practical, experienced advice from veteran archivists. The unexpected benefit that I received from attending the SGA annual meeting was the opportunity to be a part of a friendly and caring group of professionals who openly welcome newcomers!

Brittany Bennett Parris, 2008 Anthony R. Dees Educational Workshop Scholarship Recipient

As a first-time attendee, I certainly was impressed with the SGA Annual Meeting for 2008, the theme of which was "Archives in Focus: Describing, Sharing, and Caring for Photographic Collections." It was a wonderful experience in several ways: the sessions held on each day of the conference were pertinent and informative; the break-out discussions were great opportunities to connect with colleagues; and the keynote speaker, Ben Loeterman, was engaging and thought-provoking. While the conference itself was indeed an enriching experience, I must admit that also attending the pre-conference workshop truly helped me to "get the big picture." (Pun intended.) As the recipient of the Anthony R. Dees Educational Workshop Scholarship, I had the opportunity to attend the 2008 workshop. The workshop, held at the University of Georgia on Wednesday, November 12, was entitled "Standards and Best Practices for the Description of Photographs." Martha Mahard of Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science conducted the all-day workshop on describing photographic collections.

The workshop highlighted the fact that today's world is largely dominated by the flow of information in an online environment. Users of archives are informed and influenced by the ease of access to information in this online environment and in turn, they expect access to information about our archival collections—including individual photographic images. Providing access to users is largely dependent on the appropriate description of materials. Facilitating access to visual materials is no exception. Mahard stressed that, when describing photographs, we have to ask ourselves the following question: What is new about what we do in the online environment as opposed to what we used to do? In order to meet this demand for access to photographic materials, the workshop focused on key resources for archival description of visual materials and addressed challenges that are particular to describing photographs. It was recommended that each archivist should improve upon his or her "visual literacy." By better understanding, identifying, and describing the photographs under our care, we as archivists can provide improved access to users. Based on the information covered in the workshop, as well as the knowledge gained from the day's discussions and hands-on exercises, I feel that I will be able to take what I learned and apply it to my everyday work. I am very thankful for having been given the chance to attend the 2008 educational workshop and I would recommend that my fellow SGA members check out

future workshops to come!

Back to top

SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 3, Fall 2008

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Table of Contents

About Us

Calendar of Events



Marie Force
marie.force@delta.com

Institutional Profile

Greg Markley
marklgm@auburn.edu

Alabama Correspondent



Tim Pennycuff
tpenny@uab.edu

Washington Beat



Jim Cross
jcross@clemson.edu

Internet Corner



Pamela C. Nye
pam@soga.org

Membership Spotlight



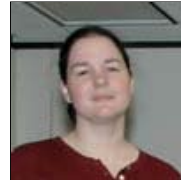
Nora Lewis
nlewis@georgiahistory.com

Preservation News

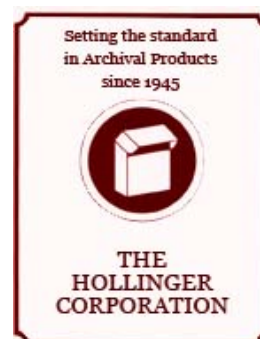


Kara McClurken
kmcclurken@solinet.net

Editor



Renna Tuten
rtuten@uga.edu



The Membership Spotlight column is on hiatus until the next issue while Nora Lewis is on maternity leave. Congratulations, Nora!

Specifics Regarding the SGA Newsletter

The Society of Georgia Archivists is a nonprofit organization established to provide an effective means of communication and cooperation among all individuals employed in archives and manuscript repositories in the state; to promote the preservation and use of the manuscripts and archival resources of the state; to increase the knowledge of archival theories and practices; to encourage the publication of finding aids; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines.

The SGA Newsletter is issued four times a year. All subscriptions are for the calendar year and are based on membership dues to the Society of Georgia Archivists.

Members of SGA and related associations are encouraged to send in announcements of jobs, workshops, conferences, or other information to share. Appropriate and newsworthy notices will be printed as space permits.

The SGA Newsletter invites advertisements for archival products and services as space permits and at the editor's discretion. Ads must be accompanied by a check made payable to the Society of Georgia Archivists. Deadlines for submissions for articles and camera-ready advertisements are March 28th, June 30th, September 30th, and December 19th.

For article submission and advertisement information, contact:
Renna Tuten, Project Archivist
Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies
University of Georgia Libraries
Athens, GA 30602-1641
TEL: 706-542-0618 Email: [newsletter at sogalibrary.org](mailto:newsletter@soga.org)



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Calendar of Events

This calendar includes exhibits and events at archival repositories and other institutions that could interest SGA members. Remember that schedules can and do change. Call ahead to confirm dates, times, fees, etc. Please send calendar items to Marie Force marie.force@delta.com

EXHIBITIONS

January 22-February 20, 2009. **Documenting Design: The Work of Alan Buchsbaum**, Neely Lobby, Georgia Tech Library and Information Center, <http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/>

January 23 - August 8, 2009. **Slave, Soldier, Citizen: The Journey of William H. Scott**, MARBL Gallery, 10th Floor, Robert W. Woodruff Library, <http://marbl.library.emory.edu/>

January 31 - February 8, 2009. **"How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book!": the First Editions of Jane Austen**, 2nd Floor, Robert W. Woodruff Library, <http://marbl.library.emory.edu/>

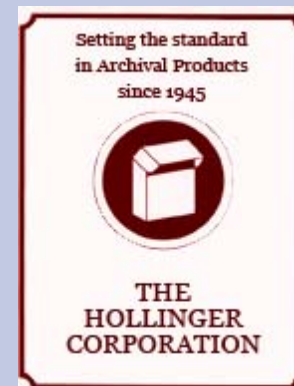
Through February 15, 2009. **Voice of the Crusader: The Life and Work of the Rev. Hosea L. Williams**, Auburn Avenue Research Center, Atlanta, GA, www.afpls.org/aarl

March 1 - March 31, 2009. **Just Stand Anyhow!** Cary-McPheeters Gallery, Auburn Avenue Research Center, Atlanta, GA, www.afpls.org/aarl

Through April 19, 2009. **Otis Redding: I've Got Dreams to Remember**, Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Macon, GA, <http://www.georgiamusic.org/otisredding.php>

Through April 19, 2009. **The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army**, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, www.high.org

Through May 25, 2009. **Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun**, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, <http://www.carlos.emory.edu>



edu/wonderful-things

January 23-February 20, 2009. **Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America.** Massie Heritage Center, Savannah, GA, www.massieschool.com/

Through Summer 2009. **Native Lands: Indians and Georgians,** Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia. <http://www.atlhist.org/template.cfm?cid=887>

Through May 25, 2009. **Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharoahs,** Atlanta Civic Center, www.kingtut.org

EVENTS

January 15 - 18. **From Freedom Riders to Freedom Writers Literary Festival,** Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA, www.afpls.org/aarl

January 16, 23 and 30, 2009. **Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Documentaries Screenings,** Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research Studies, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, www.libs.uga.edu/russell/calendar/

January 17, 2009. **Researching Southern Civil Rights Collections,** Auburn Avenue Research Center, Atlanta, GA, www.afpls.org/aarl

January 21, 2009. *Can We Have Peace in the Holy Land?* **Booksigning by President Jimmy Carter,** Carter Presidential Library and Museum, <http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/>

January - March 2009. **Discover Historic DeKalb Lecture Series.** Lectures will be held at 12:00 noon in the Harrison Room on the second floor of the Old Courthouse on the Square. For more information contact, Karen Kopanezos, Archivist, DeKalb History Center (404.373.1088 ext. 23) (archives@dekalbhistory.org) or visit http://www.dekalbhistory.org/images_features/Historic_DeKalb-lectures-2009.pdf

- January 27 - **Stone Mountain,** Dr. George Colletti
- March 24 - **Mak District,** Scott Leith

February 7 - 8, 2009. **Colonial Faire and Muster,** Wormsloe State Historic Site, 7601 Skidaway Road, Savannah, GA, <http://www.georgiahistory.com/events/71>

February 8, 2009. **Super Museum Sunday,** Savannah, GA. Art museums, historic houses and sites open free of charge to the public, www.georgiahistory.com

February 12, 2009. **Georgia Historical Society's 2009 Georgia Days Parade,** 10:30 a.m., Bull Street from Forsyth Park to City Hall, Savannah, GA, <http://www.georgiahistory.com/events/74>

February 14, 2009. **Talking Rights: A Dialogue with Women in the Movement,** Auburn Avenue Research

Library, Atlanta, GA, www.afpls.org/aarl

February 19, 2009. **Held in Trust: The Story of Lt. Flipper**. Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA, <http://www.boothmuseum.org/february.htm>

February - March 2009, second Tuesday of each month, **Lunch and Learn Series**, Georgia Archives, Morrow, GA. For more information call 678-364-3730 or visit http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/want_to_be_involved/Public_Programs/default.htm

- February 10 - **Auburn Avenue Research Library Resources**, AARL staff
- March 10 - **Georgia Women of Achievement**, Shelli B. Siebert, Executive Director

March 13-14, 2009. **Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale**. Georgia's longest yard sale covering 172 miles along US Hwy 341 from Perry to Brunswick GA, www.goldenislesparkway.com/

Thursday, March 19, 2009. **Mysteries of King Tut Revealed – A Special Evening with Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities**. Atlanta Civic Center Auditorium, www.carlos.emory.edu/tut

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

March 26-27, 2009. **SAA, Planning New and Remodeled Archival Facilities**, Georgia Archives, Morrow, GA, www.archivists.org

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

March 1, 2009. Deadline to apply for **Carroll Hart Scholarship**, SGA, for more information and application requirements, please visit <http://www.soga.org/scholarships/intro.php>

SOLINET CLASSES

See Preservation News for information regarding SOLINET class offerings.

Back to Top



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

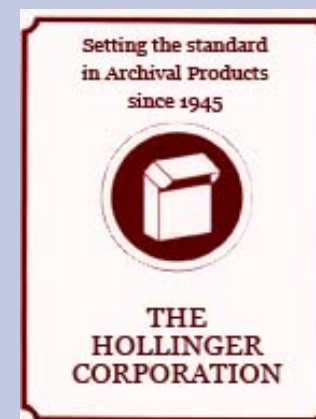
A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Healthy Collections Initiative Underway

By Christine Wiseman

The Healthy Collections Initiative, funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), will assess the level of collections care in Georgia's archives, libraries, museums and historical societies. The Georgia Healthy Collections Initiative Survey is an important opportunity for cultural institutions in Georgia to identify their collections care needs and to shape future statewide activities to meet these needs.

The planning grant for this initiative, based at the Georgia Archives, will develop and test a statewide survey of cultural institutions to measure the state of collections care and readiness for emergencies in Georgia. The survey and resulting database, will address key recommendations of the Heritage Health Index (HHI) including assessing and improving storage conditions for collections, strengthening statewide emergency preparedness, heightening visibility of cultural repositories, and serving as a model for other states in the southeast and beyond.





As part of the Healthy Collections Initiative, the Georgia Archives is updating and expanding its online *Historical and Cultural Organizations Directory* with the goal of including all cultural organizations in Georgia.

The *Directory* is free-of-charge and provides links and information about cultural and historical institutions and sites statewide. In addition, the Directory helps the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency respond with assistance during a natural or man-made disaster.

Participation in this project allows institutions to view their preservation needs in the context of their peers and acts as tool for elevating institutional awareness and promoting long-range planning for the care of their collections. In the future, the Georgia Archives hopes to ally for implementation grants to assist Georgia's cultural institutions in meeting their preservation needs.

To be included in this initiative, please visit the *Directory* at <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/GHRAB/> and select the link to add a new organization. If your institution is listed in the Directory already, you can help the Georgia Archives by keeping your entry up-to-date. By ensuring that your entry is up-to-date, The *Directory* can assist you as a safeguard for private emergency contact information for use during an emergency.

In addition, we are looking for organizations willing to test the survey instrument and provide feedback. It shouldn't require more than an hour of your time. The survey test will be conducted in early 2009. If you are interested or have questions please contact Meredith Torre or Christine Wiseman (contact info to follow.)

Meredith Torre, Project Assistant, Georgia Archives , 5800 Jonesboro Rd, Morrow, GA 30260
mtorre@sos.ga.gov, 678-364-3798 (phone), 678-364-3860 (fax)

Christine Wiseman, Preservation Manager at the Georgia Archives at cwiseman@sos.ga.gov or 678-364-3761 (phone).

Back to top





SGA Newsletter

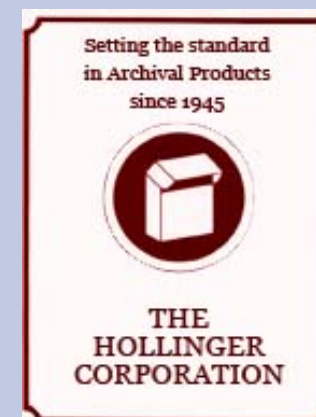
Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

SGA Annual Meeting Roundtables

The Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting added a new element to the program in 2008. Roundtables were hosted during the afternoon of the first day of the conference and allowed archivists from throughout region to gather informally and discuss some current issues in the field of archives.

Arrangement and Description 911: One on the first questions at the A & D 911 roundtable was from a participant interested in accessioning; in particular, the amount of preliminary processing that should happen and the amount of time that one should spend in this process. First, we all agreed that this depends on one's own time and resources, in addition to the type of repository. First, get a sense of the material. What types of records are contained in the collection? What is the general condition of the material? What are the date ranges? This information will be used in the accession record, and in more detail in the brief catalog record and preliminary finding aid. Depending on the size of the collection, it can also be useful to do a rough sort of the material into broad categories such as writings, correspondence, printed material, audiovisual material, etc; especially for collections that are not high up in the processing priority list. By doing this sort and then creating a box inventory; a researcher who is looking for a key piece of correspondence may only have to go through 2 boxes instead of 10. We also discussed the inadequacy of minimally arranged and described collections for some shops, such as association and corporate archives. This is especially true because of the nature of the research requests, according to one roundtable participant. This brought up the point that the way in which we process material depends on the type of user. In academic and public environments, it is more reasonable to leave more responsibility on the user to do the research and wade through numerous minimally processed boxes. However, at association or corporate archives, the archivist is also the researcher, and a minimally described collection just doesn't quite cut it.



Finally we discussed what to do when you inherit a mess - besides cry, that is! The roundtable leader, Susan Potts McDonald, gave some important advice for this circumstance that everyone can use: It is better to have a little description about a lot of material than a lot of description of just a few things. Every time that you have to touch something, whether it be for a reference request or another reason, try and do something constructive with it right then. Arrange, refolder, or write up a brief description. Your users will thank you!

- Susan Potts McDonald, Emory University

Forms Forum: The Forms Forum Roundtable provided interested members the opportunity to review all types of forms typically used in an archives: patron registration, processing, oral histories, loans, etc. Many members commented that they were glad to see all of the forms in one place, and felt it was a good resource for them and their repositories. The board has approved making the forms available online through the SGA site, so the Forms Forum will be a continuing resource for SGA and its members. Look for the website to be available sometime this spring.

-Traci Drummond, Georgia State University

Oral History: Representatives from both large and small institutions in the Southeast region discussed how we might communicate with each other better and share information about technology in creating and preserving oral history. There was also concern that repositories do a better job in sharing information about subjects/persons interviewed to better inform us in collecting oral histories. Members expressed an interest in starting an SGA oral history listserv to better facilitate communications.

- Paul Crater, Atlanta History Center

Mentoring: The mentoring roundtable discussion began with all participants briefly sharing what their previous experiences had been both as a mentor and mentee. A few people had taken part in the SAA Mentoring Program but felt that the match could have been better, either due to common interests or geographic location. The group then discussed the goals of an SGA-sponsored mentoring program, which including mentoring not only for young archivists but for those in the middle stage of their careers. It was thought that both general career advice and networking as well as specific technical advice were desirable to mentees. There would be much work required for SGA to establish and maintain an active mentoring program but the rewards of fostering loyalty to the organization and providing a way for more established archivists to stay active would be a clear benefit. Finally, there was a discussion of the application process regarding the need for it to be thorough to most effectively match mentors and mentees. The roundtable concluded with a look at other organization's programs, including the Society of Northwest Archivists and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

- Renna Tuten, University of Georgia and Bill Hardesty, Georgia State University

Healthy Collections Initiative: Participants had the opportunity to review and make comments on the draft of the statewide survey being developed as part of this project. They also provided very helpful suggestions about how to extend the reach of this survey so that all cultural repositories in Georgia can benefit and participate. See the article on the Healthy Collections Initiative for a more detailed description of the project.



- Christine Wiseman, Georgia Archives

Back to top





SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

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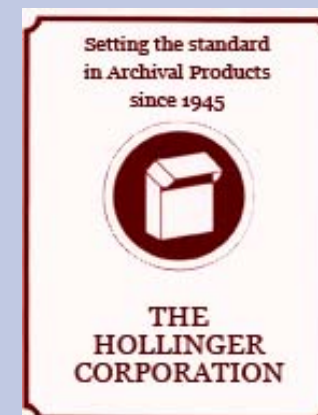
SGA News

Archival Refreshment: SGA Members Get an Exclusive Look at the Coca-Cola Archives

In honor of Georgia Archives Month 2008, the SGA Membership Committee organized a behind the scenes tour of the Coca-Cola Archives in early October. If ever there was a place to “Fall into the Archives and discover a Wonderland of Georgia History,” this is the repository. Coca-Cola, which is now the most recognized brand in the world, began in Atlanta and offers much to the history of the state. Around a dozen SGA members were a captivated audience as Jamal Booker and Shari Grantham walked us through the fascinating collections found in the archives.



Before even arriving in the stacks area, Jamal and Shari apprised the group of the many archival artifacts found on the floors of the corporate headquarters, which change according to season and highlighted themes. On this particular Friday, some of Coke’s 1996 Atlanta Olympic memorabilia of decorated



although, most bottles on the shelves retain their contents for artifact integrity.

Taking a tour with Jamal and Shari will certainly boost your trivia knowledge. One of the most surprising facts shared was that the company, in the early 1920s, created a convenient six-pack carton to transport

the bottles home. The sheer number of home appliances, children's toys and other gadgets emblazoned with the brand name is astounding. It is no wonder that Coke ties OK as the two most recognized words in the world.

The tour opportunity was an exclusive event for SGA members since the Coke archives are not open to the public. Surely, Coke connoisseurs would give their first collector's item to gain a glimpse at the treasures that fill the shelves. The group extends many thanks to Jamal and Shari for taking the time to show off their space to fellow SGA members. The tour was a great way to get to know other SGA members and see the repository's unique items. The Membership Committee found an effective and fun way to accomplish networking activities; the positive response from the participants is sure to bring more tours like this next year.

- *Amanda Brown, Georgia State University*

[Back to Top](#)



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Institutional Profile

by Luciana Spracher

Many thanks to Luciana for taking over the Institutional Profile!

Special Collections, Zach S. Henderson Library

Georgia Southern University

P. O. Box 8074,

Statesboro, Georgia 30460

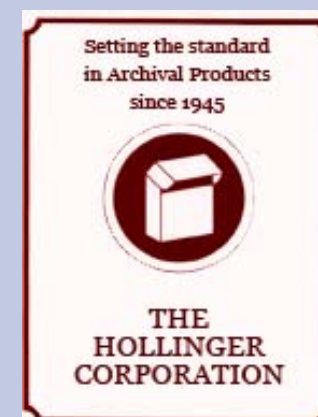
Phone: (912) 478-5029

Email: mgoss@georgiasouthern.edu

<http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/specialcollections/main.html>



Georgia Southern University's Zach S. Henderson Library in Statesboro has had a special collection of rare books for many years. During the 1970s, former director Dr. Richard B. Harwell received funding from local banks with which to purchase books through dealers in Boston. Harwell acquired many rare volumes by renowned printers tracing the evolution of printing. Since then, the Special Collections department has refocused on collecting printed materials concerning the southeastern region of Georgia. Until the 1980s, the unit held very few manuscript collections. Collecting efforts picked up through the work of members of the History Department, including Drs. Jay Walter Fraser, George A. Rogers, and R. Frank





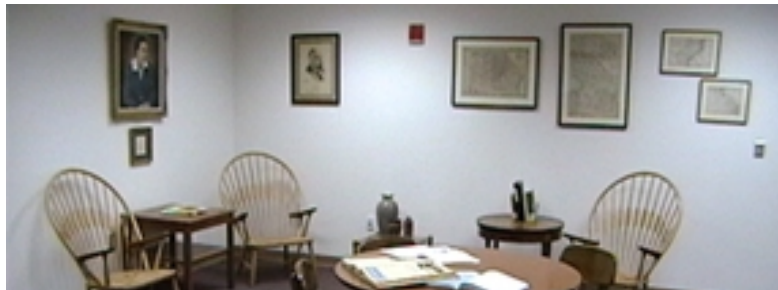
Saunders, who sought out collections focusing on the local region.

Left: Local merchants and bales of Sea Island cotton, in front of Bulloch County Courthouse in Statesboro, circa 1920s. Special Collections, Zach S. Henderson Library, Georgia Southern University.

Until 2000, Special Collections was still a unit of the Library's Cataloging Department. However, today it serves as the Library's recognized repository for materials in all formats determined to be of long-term value or in need of additional protection because of age, rarity or cost. Under Department Head Marvin Goss, collecting continues to focus on the southeastern region (the University Archives is a separate unit focused on collecting material by and about Georgia Southern). Special Collections maintains over 725 linear feet of manuscripts, books, brochures and cultural objects.

Of particular interest in the collections are: a large collection of early 20th century sheet music; an extensive collection of World War II rationing cards and coupons; a collection of World War II domestic posters; a large oral history collection primarily focused on World War II veterans in Bulloch County; correspondence between local editor Leodel Coleman and Margaret Mitchell; and materials on the "Cocking Affair," a 1941 scandal during which College President Marvin S. Pittman and several faculty members were dismissed from the school, then known as Georgia Teachers College (for more information on the "Cocking Affair" see James F. Cook's summary in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, www.georgiaencyclopedia.org).

Special Collections is also home to the papers of several prominent Georgians, including: Helen W. Coxon; Billy Evans; Peter Zack Geer; Bo Ginn; Dr. Curtis Hames; Walter Harrison; Joe Kennedy; Culver Kidd; Dr. Kemp Mabry; R. Lee Moore; and Jackie Strange. Representative Jack Kingston is depositing his papers with Special



Collections, though they can only be accessed with permission.



Right: *Special Collections Reading Room*

The Special Collections reading room is open to the general public Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Goss and Senior Secretary Maggie Horne assist about 200 patrons a year, including historians, genealogists, faculty and students. An increasing amount of patron services is conducted through email and the reading room is supplemented by several on-line exhibits and an on-line archive of the Georgia Southern newspaper from 1926 into the 1980s. You can view Special Collections' current exhibits, including "Marvin Pittman and Governor Talmadge's Political Intervention into Higher Education 1941" and "Words and Music - and War," at <http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/index.html>

Special thanks to Marvin Goss for providing images for this article.

Back to Top



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Georgia News

Georgia Historical Society Awarded Grants

The Georgia Historical Society recently completed an IMLS Museums for America grant project awarded in 2006. The project resulted in updating over 1,500 finding aids to current *DACS* standards, the cataloging of the described collections in the online catalog, and a redesign and launch of the GHS web site.

In September, GHS began an NHPRC basic processing grant to continue through August 2010. This NHPRC funded project will include the completion of an unprocessed collection backlog survey and the basic processing of a significant portion of GHS's backlog. Elizabeth Delmage, formerly of the Rhode Island Historical Society, has been hired as the Project Archivist for this grant.

The Georgia Historical Society has also been granted an NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for 2009. The grant funds a preservation assessment of GHS's collections. The assessment will contribute to both short-term and strategic planning for the Society.

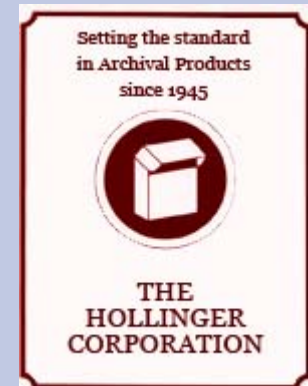
Encourage and Reward Excellent Work in Archives and Records Management

Call for Nominations

2009 GHRAB Archives Awards Program

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) invites you to nominate an individual or organization for the 2009 Archives Awards Program. Has your repository recently mounted an exciting exhibit in which you used materials from archives? Or have you published research based on such? Or has your local government established a new records center or developed a comprehensive records program? Or do you have volunteers, patrons, or citizens who have been strong advocates for the preservation of records and/or other historical materials?

GHRAB wants to encourage and reward their work. **So get involved and shine some of the spotlight on your good work or another's good work.** There are twelve different categories of awards for which you can nominate a historical society, library, museum, institution, local government, court, educator, student, researcher, or legislator. Awardees are honored by the Secretary of State and the GHRAB Board at



a ceremony during Archives Month (October).

Nominations may be submitted from February 1, 2009, through June 1, 2009, deadline. To nominate, complete a one-page form at www.GeorgiaArchives.org, click on 2009 GHRAB Awards Program. The web site also includes a list of award categories and previous recipients.

If you have questions, contact Elizabeth Barr at 678-364-3718 or ebarr@sos.ga.gov.

Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection Open for Research

The Archives & Special Collections of the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, Inc. is pleased to announce the recent release of a significant portion of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection. The collection was purchased in 2006 by a group of prominent Atlantans on behalf of Dr. King's alma mater, Morehouse College. As the sole academic library of Morehouse College, the Robert W. Woodruff Library was named custodian of this unique and valuable resource.

The collection consists of handwritten and typed manuscripts, correspondence, index cards and office files, and over 1,100 volumes from Dr. King's personal library. Materials span the length of Dr. King's career as a student at Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University, as a minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and Ebenezer Baptist Church, as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and as a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

Iconic documents include handwritten annotations to a first edition of "Letter from Birmingham City Jail"; an early draft of Dr. King's speech at the March on Washington titled "Normalcy Never Again"; several drafts of King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech and lecture. Major series are Correspondence, with letters, cards and telegrams sent to King after his stabbing in Harlem and to the King family after his assassination, and Writings by Martin Luther King, Jr., with handwritten and typed drafts of Dr. King's books, sermons and speeches.

To date, approximately 43 feet of collection material has been arranged and described on an item level. The finding aid has been encoded in EAD and is available at <http://www.auctr.edu/mlkcollection>

Manuscript items in the current release of the collection have been scanned and matched to concurrent metadata. Using a script to automatically harvest descriptive information from the EAD, metadata was then matched to the correct scans within CONTENTdm, the digital content management system already used by the Library. These digital surrogates are available only in the reading room of the Archives & Special Collections. The book collection has been catalogued, but not digitized, and is available for research in the original form.

The team working on the Morehouse King Collection (project manager, two archivists, an archives assistant, a cataloguer, and a digital technician) collaborated with multiple institutions across the country. Locally, the team has sought advice and technical support from the Digital Library of Georgia and the Archives and Records Management Department of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Nationally, the Library participates in a collaborative with the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center (HGARC) at Boston University and the King Papers Project at Stanford University. With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Archival Collaborative aims to create a website that highlights

the holdings of both the Morehouse King Collection and HGARC's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Archive via a search engine that will compile results from both institutions' finding aids. Undergirding this work are the extensive scholarly records already created by the King Papers Project.

For more information, please contact the Archives at (404) 978-2052 or archives@aucr.edu

[Back to Top](#)



SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Internet Corner

by Pamela Coleman Nye

Storing, Syncing, and Sharing Electronic Files

There is nothing more tedious than copying files from one computer to another, or trying to figure out ways to deliver a large file electronically without either side crashing. Factor in the human equation, and errors magically appear. File synchronization maintains the same version of files on multiple locations, normally directories on a computer or removable storage devices such as USB flash drives. In other words, when two locations are synchronized, the most current version of a file is available at both locations, regardless of where it was last modified. File synchronization is useful for mobile workers, or others that work on multiple computers.

File synchronization software is available in many forms for various platforms. Some programs also allow for file sharing with colleagues as well as automated backups and synchronization. In a few cases, online storage is provided as an additional feature. Here are just a few of the multiple software packages currently available.

FreeFileSync [open source]

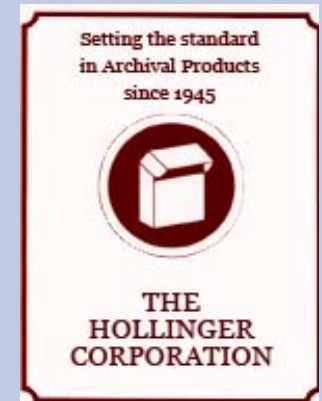
sourceforge.net/projects/freefilesync/

FreeFileSync is an folder comparison and synchronization utility. This program, created for Windows and Linux, is available for free download from the website. Available filters help the user decide whether to mirror the files (one-way copy), or synchronize the files (two-way copy). There is also an option to create your own custom synchronization rules. It can support file sizes up to 4GB. The last update to the program (as of this article) was on November 23, 2008.

DirSyncPro [open source]

<http://directorysync.sourceforge.net/index.html>

This is a smaller utility, intended to be used to synchronize files from one desktop PC to another, using a



portable device (USB key, PDA, or notebook). Like many of the other programs available, the product will only copy changes or updates to existing files in order to save time and memory space. It was developed in Java and is multi-platform (Windows, Mac, and Linux). It is compiled, however, to be run on JRE (Java Runtime Environment) 1.5.0 and higher. There is no scheduling function imbedded in this program, and no installation involved. Once the program is downloaded, you can immediately run it. A final version was released on November 5, 2008.

Windows Live Sync [freeware, closed source]

<https://sync.live.com/welcome.aspx>

Released on December 11, 2008, Windows Live Sync (replacing *Windows Live FolderShare*) is a free-to-use application by Microsoft. It's designed to allow files and folders between two or more computers to be in sync with each other on Windows and Mac OS X based computers. A maximum of 20 folders (or "libraries") may be synced, including libraries shared over the internet. Each library can contain a maximum of 20,000 files and each file cannot exceed 2GB. The developers note that FolderShare will be officially retired, and that current users will have to upgrade. While Sync will be able to automatically rebuild any personal libraries, it will not do the same for shared libraries.

Gbridge [freeware, closed source]

<http://www.gbridge.com/>

Gbridge is an extension to Google's Gtalk network service, although the company that developed Gbridge is not affiliated with Google. Requiring a Windows platform to operate, the program automatically forms a VPN (Virtual Private Network) between the user's multiple computers if logged in under the same Gtalk user account. The VPN can also be extended to Gtalk friends based on invitation. In addition, Gbridge has several built-in features which integrates functions such as folder synchronization, remote desktop share (VNC), automatic backup, live browsing, and chat. The initial release was in August 2008.

Dropbox [commercial]

www.getdropbox.com

Created in December 2007, Dropbox is still a relatively new company, but their product has gotten rave reviews from e-journals and users during the private beta testing period. Once downloaded, the product will synchronize your selected files and folders to any other computer on which you have downloaded Dropbox. You can also share with friends and families, create a public link to the file for viewing, and undelete files that have been lost, as Dropbox saves all previous versions. However, there is no automated utility as of yet. Dropbox is supported on Windows, Mac, and Linux. Currently, users can also store up to 2GB of records for free, and can upgrade for more space with a paid plan. The interface is very easy and intuitive as well. Their first public release was September 2008.

OpenDrive [commercial]

www.opendrive.com

OpenDrive is a Windows-based online storage system that also allows for synchronization among computers that have OpenDrive installed. The interface is simple, and the program acts as a remote drive for your files. As of December 2008, there is no automated function. This is a product from the online storage service BOXSTr (<http://boxstr.com/>) and if you are already a BOXSTr member, then you do not need to sign up for Opendrive again. It is currently in public beta, and new users can receive up to 1GB of storage for free. Paid upgrades are also available. A Mac version is reported to be coming soon.

Back to Top





SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 3, Fall 2008

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Preservation News

Preservation News is a quarterly column intended to disseminate timely and newsworthy information about preservation in libraries and archives. News items are collected from printed sources (newsletters, journals, press releases), information gathered at conferences and meetings, electronic mailing lists, and websites. Priority is given to items of particular interest to archivists and librarians in the Southeastern United States. Topics include reports on developments in the field, training opportunities, new publications and services, and information on funding sources and grant deadlines. Please submit your preservation news to Kara McClurken at 404-592-4876, or kmccclurken@solinet.net.

by Kara McClurken

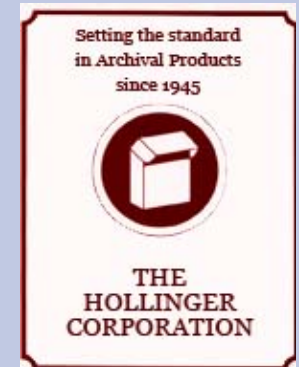
International Preservation News: Collections Security

The August 2008 edition of the *International Preservation News* focuses on Collections Security: Access versus Protection--Old Problems, New Strategies. Articles from this issue come from a seminar organized in the spring by the British Library and include topics such as lessons learned from stolen manuscripts, digital collections security and the roles of the Inspector General at the Library of Congress and INTERPOL in protecting cultural resources. The volume can be accessed electronically at <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/news/ipnn45.pdf>

Towards Interoperable Preservation Repositories:

The Cornell University Library, New York University Libraries and the Florida Center for Library Automation have been awarded IMLS National Leadership Grant funding for the demonstration project, "Towards Interoperable Preservation Repositories (TIPR)."

Responsibility for preserving digital cultural heritage must be distributed across a number of stewardship organizations running heterogeneous and geographically dispersed digital preservation repositories. For reasons of redundancy, succession planning and software migration, these repositories must be able to exchange copies of archived information packages with each other. Practical repository-to-repository transfer will require a common, standards-based transfer format capable of transporting rich preservation metadata as well as digital objects, and repository systems must be capable of exporting



and importing information packages utilizing this format.

The goals of the project are to:

- demonstrate the feasibility of repository-to-repository transfer of rich archival information packages;
- advance the state of the art by identifying and resolving issues that impede such transfers;
- develop a usable, standards-based transfer format, building on prior work;
- disseminate these results to the international preservation community and the relevant standards activities.

For more information, contact Priscilla Caplan at pcaplan@ufl.edu

U.S. Ratifies Treaty to Protect Cultural Property during Armed Conflict.

In September, the Senate ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. With this ratification, the United States joins 121 other countries to protect cultural sites, monuments, and collections during armed conflict and military occupation. For more on this story, see http://aic.stanford.edu/news/aic_news_nov_article.pdf

SOLINET Preservation Classes this winter:

SOLINET now offers several self-paced classes on demand, downloadable at any time:

NEW (coming in March): Preserving Family Treasures

Other downloadable classes available now:

Audiovisual Preservation on a Shoestring Budget

Fire Safety for Cultural Institutions

Risk Management: Knowing Your Responsibilities

Under Construction: Preservation Concerns during Construction and Renovation

Live online classes:

Basic Digital Stewardship: February 18, 2-4pm

Caring for Originals during Scanning Projects: February 26, 2-4 pm

Caring for Scrapbooks: January 20, 2-4pm

Digital Collections: Where to Begin, January 21, 2-4pm or February 27, 10am-noon

Digital Photograph Collections: Access and Standards: March 3, 2-4pm

Emergency 911: Decision-Making for Managers February 12, 2-4pm

Establishing Emergency Response Networks: March 17, 2-4pm

Hidden Treasures: Rare Books in Your Library, February 24-25, 2-4pm

Introduction to Grants for Preservation: February 20, 10am-noon

Metadata for Digitization and Preservation: January 14, 2-4pm or March 10, 10am-noon

Preservation Management, February 10, 17, 24, 2-4pm

Preservation of Photographic Materials: January 21-22, 2-4pm

Preserving Oral Histories: January 15, 2-4pm

NEW: Turning Outreach into Dollars, March 3, 10am-noon



Understanding Digital Photographs: February 17, 2-4pm

Face-to-face SOLINET classes in the region:

Digital Imaging of Library and Archival Materials, February 5, University of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)

Fundamentals of Book Repair, March 11-12, Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)

Intermediate Book Repair: February 25-26, Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)

Remember, students may register for any SOLINET class at fifty percent the member rate, with valid student i.d.

For more information about any of these classes, please see <http://www.solinet.net/Classes%20and%20Events.aspx>

Back to Top

SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Membership Spotlight

If you know someone who should be profiled in the Membership Spotlight or if you want a piece of the spotlight for yourself, email Nora Lewis at [nlewis \[at\] georgiahistory \[dot\] com](mailto:nlewis@georgiahistory.com)

by Nora Lewis

Name: Andrea R. Jackson

SGA Member since: 2005

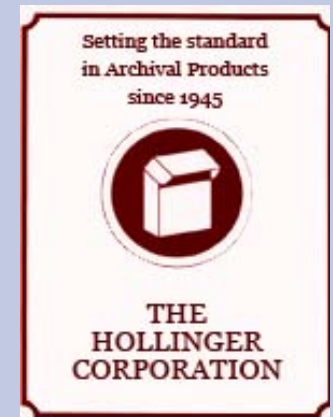
Job Title: Interim Head of Archives & Special Collections

Place of Employment: Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center

Time in Current Position: 3 Months; formerly Curator of Archives and Manuscripts for 3 years

Job Description: Provide leadership for daily management of the Archives & Special Collections department which houses manuscript and archival collections, Atlanta University Center institutional records, and rare and African diasporic book collections; Oversee acquisition, preservation, processing, and digitization of materials according to archival principals; Direct project development, program planning, and assessment of effectiveness; Formulate plans to administer accessioning, arranging, cataloging and research of processed collections; prepare grant proposals and participate in budgeting and fiscal management.

Other work experience:



- Fisk University: Project Archivist, 2003-2005
- New York University Archives: Graduate Assistant, 2001-2003

Education:

- Spelman College, 2001: *Cum Laude*, Bachelor of Arts in History, minor in Sociology
- New York University, 2003: Master of Arts in United States History and Certification in Archival Management and Historical Editing

Professional Memberships: Society of Georgia Archivists, Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, Society of American Archivists

Most Enjoyable Aspect of Your Job: Exposing students and researchers to African American History. I love the public history aspect of helping patrons discover treasures which provide meaning to their own life and culture.

Alternate Career Path if not in Archives: Broadcast Anchor

Favorite Pastimes: Fellowship and community service with my sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Friends of Washington Park organization. I also enjoy concerts and documentaries on music and/or African American history.

Comments on the profession today: Growing advances in technology continue to provide greater access to materials than ever before; although the rewards outweigh the challenges, the challenges are many. The need for preservation of social history and the histories of those who are under-documented is paramount, and I am glad to be a part of a team whose goal is to substantially fill that void.

BACK TO TOP





SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Alabama Update

Alabama Update reports on notable events involving the Society of Alabama Archivists for the benefit of interested readers of the Society of Georgia Archivist's newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about archival work in Alabama, or any of the news items mentioned in this column, please contact the author, Tim Pennycuff, at tpenny@uab.edu.

By Tim Pennycuff, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Alabama-West Florida Conference Methodist Archives Center, Montgomery

There has been a change in the Methodist Archives Center located at Huntingdon College in Montgomery. Former archivist, Mary Ann Pickard, retired July 1, 2008, and Sharon Tucker is now the archivist for the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and is the administrator for the Archives Center. Her telephone number is 334-833-4413. The e-mail address for the Center is archives@huntingdon.edu.

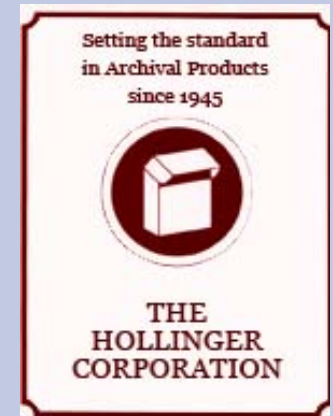
- *Mary Ann Pickard*

Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture, Troy University Dothan Campus

Hardy F. Scarborough lived in Baker County, Georgia, in the 1850s, moved to Barbour County, Alabama, in ca. 1855, then served with Brooks Battery at Camp Ashby near Savannah from 1862 until his death from disease in 1864. While in Savannah he posted letters to his wife, Malvina, of which she saved 16 full and two fragments. These offer a fascinating glimpse into the camp life and war experience of a Confederate soldier. Scarborough also sent an ambrotype of himself, "in the position of a soldier (sitting excepted)," which he describes in a letter of February 17, 1863.

In 2003 Dr. Jerri Watson Bass donated the letters and a digitized copy of the ambrotype to the archives. AWHC staff transcribed the letters and posted them to the web at <http://dothan.troy.edu/archives/inventories/018.htm>. Scarborough's materials form part of three series in the Jerri Watson Bass Collection.

- *Marty Olliff*



Trenholm State Technical College, Montgomery

The Trenholm Tech Archives has on display the “Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative Exhibit.” This exhibit features Alabama women who have made a difference in their communities. Anthony B. Knight, Jr., the curator, and Zoila Torres, exhibit designer, are with the Atlanta Museum of Fine Arts. One of the featured women in the exhibit is Idessa Redden, a voting/civil rights activist of Montgomery; her collection is housed in the Trenholm Tech Archives.

- *Gwen Patton*

University of Alabama at Birmingham

One of the newly processed collections available at the UAB Archives is the Dorothy E. Hart Papers. Hart (1924-2003) was a nurse in Birmingham and in 1956 she became one of the first master's graduates from the UAB nursing school. During her long career, Hart was licensed in Alabama, Louisiana, Connecticut and Georgia. In the early 1950s, Hart was a head nurse at St. Joseph's Infirmary in Atlanta, and, according to her obituary, she later taught at LaGrange College. In later life, Hart returned to Alabama to be near family.

- *Tim Pennycuff*

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Jessica Lacher-Feldman has been named Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections in the newly created department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama. Clark Center was named University Archivist and Curator for Southern History and Life Collections at the Hoole Library.

- *Jessica Lacher-Feldman*

University of South Alabama, Mobile

The University of South Alabama Archives has been awarded a \$5,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to bring in a consultant to survey two of its photographic collections. The collections comprise approximately 250,000 negatives from two photographers. Once the consultant's survey is complete, USA Archives anticipates using the results to apply for a much larger grant from the NEH that will be used to organize, describe, and disseminate the collections.

- *Carol Ellis*

Back to top





SGA Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 4, Winter 2009

A Publication of the Society of Georgia Archivists

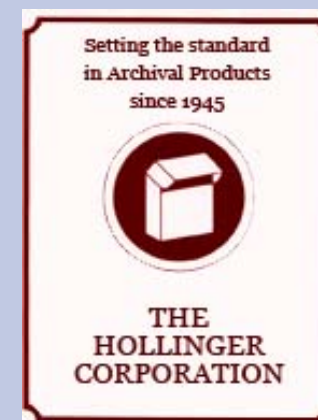
Washington Beat

Washington Beat is a collection of news items gathered by Clemson Archivist Jim Cross for the benefit of interested readers of the Society of Georgia Archivist's newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about archival work in our nation's capitol, or any of the news items mentioned in this column, please contact the author at jcross@clemson.edu.

By Jim Cross

ARCHIVIST RESIGNS: On December 7, 2008 Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein submitted his resignation to the President, citing health reasons (he has Parkinson's disease). His resignation will take effect on December 19, 2008; Deputy Archivist Adrienne Thomas will serve as Acting Archivist until President-Elect Obama nominates someone to take the post. Among Dr. Weinstein's accomplishments as Archivist are increasing the Archives' budget; the establishment of the National Declassification Initiative; preparation for the move of the Bush presidential material to Dallas, TX and the inclusion of the Nixon Library into the Presidential Library System; reducing the Archive's processing backlog by 20%; and the establishment of public-private partnerships to digitize and index major portions of the Archives' holdings.

OTHER ARCHIVES NEWS: On October 24, 2008 the Archives dedicated a new National Personnel Records Center Annex in Valmeyer, IL. The Annex is a retrofitted limestone cave and can store two million cubic feet of records. This facility, along with a planned new National Personnel Records Center (NPC) in St. Louis, will replace the current NPC facilities in that city. ... In November 2008 the Reagan Presidential Library released 20 audiotapes and 750,000 pages relating to the 1980 presidential campaign. ... The Nixon Presidential Library released 198 hours of White House tape recordings and 90,000 pages on December 2, 2008. The recordings were made between November and December 1972. The textual material includes the office files of White House Counsel J. Fred Buzhardt, Jr. and advisor Byrce Harlow, as well as materials from Jeb Stuart Magruder's Papers concerning the Committee to Re-elect the President. ... The Johnson Presidential Library released of recordings and transcripts of President Lyndon Johnson's telephone conversations from May 1968 to January 1969 on December 4, 2008. Topics discussed in this



final release include the assassination of Robert Kennedy, the riots and the Democratic Convention in Chicago, and the Vietnam War. ... On December 5, 2008 the National Archives and Footnote.com announced the release of the first interactive World War II collection. It includes the USS *Arizona* Memorial, WWII Hero Pages, photographs from the U.S. Army Air Force, and documents such as the Pearl Harbor muster rolls, missing aircrew reports, submarine patrol reports, and a Japanese air target analysis. The USS *Arizona* Memorial and WWII Hero Pages allow users to add letters, photographs, reminiscences, and other documents concerning those who served in the war. The site is available free for a limited time. ... As another election cycle winds down, just a reminder that the Electoral College is administered by the Office of the Federal Register in the National Archives.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS: On November 10, 2008 the Library obtained the papers of noted lyricist Howard Ashman. He is best known as the lyricist for the stage play “Little Shop of Horror” and the Disney animated features “Aladdin,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and “The Little Mermaid.” The papers include correspondence, lyric sketches, music, notes, posters, production materials, programs, screenplays, scripts, and recordings.

OTHER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS: On October 2, 2008 a dozen federal agencies launched an initiative to create common guidelines for digitizing historical materials by forming two working groups—one on still images (books, documents, photographs, etc.) and another on sound, video, and film. Among the agencies involved are the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Gallery of Art. ... H.R. 5893, which reauthorized the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, was signed into law by President Bush on October 2, 2008. ... S. 3477 which authorized a new preservation grants program at NHPRC for papers of former U.S. presidents who do not have libraries in the Presidential Library System; created an advisory committee to oversee completion of the Founding Fathers papers projects and authorized cooperative ventures to put them online; established term limits for NHPRC members; required the National Archives to create an annual capital budget for facilities in the Presidential Library System; and changed endowment percentage requirements for Presidential Libraries from 40% to 60% was signed into law by President Bush on October 13, 2008. ... Mission data on moon dust gathered by the Apollo program is being recovered thanks to the donation of a 40 year-old tape drive by the Australian Computer Museum Society. The tapes at NASA had been lost, but a back-up set was found at Sydney University—all that was lacking was a drive to read them.

DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA: On November 10, 2008 a federal district court judge rejected a motion by the Bush Administration to dismiss a lawsuit by CREW and the NSA to ensure the preservation of e-mail record before President Bush leaves office. ... In a December 2008 filing lawyers for Vice President Dick Cheney asserted the Vice President alone has the authority to decide which records will be sent to the National Archives when he leaves office. It asks that the lawsuit filed by CREW intended to prevent any of his records from being destroyed or made unavailable to the public be dismissed; a judge in September 2008 had ordered all records to be preserved while the suit continued. The Presidential Records Act of 1978, which includes the Vice President as well as the President, allows exceptions for material that is purely personal or partisan.

