

# Society of Georgia Archivists Magazine

Atlanta Corona Collective:

Creative Solutions for Documenting a Pandemic

Reflections on the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

Welcome the SGA 2021 Board!

2020 Year in Review



# The 2021 SGA Board

## WELCOME 2021 BOARD!

SGA welcomes its continuing and newly elected and appointed individuals for 2021--thank you for your willingness to serve.

**President:** Holly Croft

**Vice President/President-Elect/Membership**

**Committee Chair:** Cathy Miller

**Secretary:** Louanne Heintz

**Treasurer:** Rose Marie Kimbell

**Assistant Treasurer:** Jina DuVernay

**Administrative Assistant:** Tamara Livingston

**Communications Director:** Brittany Newberry

**Assistant Communications Director:**

Megan Kerkhoff

**Archivist:** James Irby

**Local Arrangements Chair:** Feechi Hall

**Assistant Local Arrangements Chair:**

Jennifer Wyatt

**Provenance Editor:** Michael Law

**Website Manager:** Mandy Ryan

**Assistant Website Manager:** Kate Daly

**RAAC Liaison:** Cathy Miller

**Assistant RAAC Liaison:** Sheila McAlister

**GA Archives Month Subcommittee Chair:**

Caroline Crowell

**Education Committee Chair:** Leah Lefkowitz

**Assistant Education Committee Chair:** Mike

Santroek

**Mentoring Program Coordinator:** Laura

Starratt

**Assistant Mentoring Program Coordinator:**

Sauda Mitchell

**Scholarship Committee Chair:** Tamika Strong

**Outreach Manager:** Becca Brown

**Assistant Outreach Manager:** Helen Thomas

**Annual Meeting Program Chair:** Autumn M.

Johnson

**Assistant Annual Meeting Program Chair:**

Allison Galloup

**Nominating Committee members:** Angela

Stanley (Past President Chair), Daria Labinsky,

Brittany Newberry

**Vendor Coordinator:** Jenn Bielewski



### A Look Back at 2020

By Angela Stanley

Past President (Ex-Officio)/ 2021 Nominating Committee Chair

We are in a season of transitions: cultural, political, celestial, biological. While a new year is never a promise of a clean slate, it is an opportunity to reflect upon the achievements and challenges of the previous year, and we, SGA, have much to be proud of.

This year's Board work began with a Strategic Planning survey of membership and a Board Member retreat, which took place in January 2020 at the Georgia Archives. The process was rooted in specific actions the Board could take to advance its mission and vision. The plan was developed with member input and careful consideration by Board members, with guidance and oversight from Stephen Houser and Andrea Jackson Gavin.

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Thanks in large part to the efforts of previous SGA Boards and, in particular, the work of 2014 President Courtney Chartier and 2015 President Sarah Quigley, we were well-positioned to build off the foundational and comprehensive work accomplished during the 2015-2020 plan. The result is a new, lightweight, nimble, and outcome-driven plan to carry us into 2025, a plan that is focused on advocacy, outreach, and inclusion, and centers SGA's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion and SAA's Statement on Black Lives and Archives in all aspects of our work. The [2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) can be viewed in its entirety on our website.

In addition to our strategic planning work, our biggest challenge by far this year was to respond adeptly to the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue to advocate for the rights of archival workers. To that end, we formulated our pandemic response plan, which included a listing of archives around the state that were closed to the public or operating under new restrictions; creating a pandemic-specific resource list for archival workers; issuing a strong [statement on the closure of archives](#); and hosting weekly virtual coffee breaks through the early days of the pandemic. I co-wrote a [letter of support for Federal COVID-19 relief funding](#) for Georgia cultural heritage organizations alongside the Presidents of the Georgia Library Association and the Georgia Library Media Association.



On June 3rd, the Board voted to adopt the [Salary Transparency Statement](#) and to endorse SAA Council's [Statement on Black Lives and Archives](#). On August 25th, the Board approved a proposal to offer this year's virtual meeting for free to all SGA members, and at a vastly reduced cost to non-members. In September we issued a [statement on the passing of Dr. Gracy](#).


On June 12th, the Board voted to approve the hiring of a Certified Professional Accountant to assist the Treasurers with reconciling our bank and Quickbooks accounts, and to assist with the creation of budget lines corresponding to Board leadership roles. These steps will help SGA on its path to being increasingly transparent and fiscally responsible. The Board also approved the transition of the SGA Blog from the Blogger platform to its current home on Wordpress. The cleaner, friendlier, and brand-aligned new [SGA Blog](#) can be seen at the link.

Additionally, the Board approved and sought ratification for four amendments to the by-laws, including:

1. The creation of the Vendor Coordinator role, assumed by Cristina Zamon;
2. The adjustment of term lengths and creation of the Treasurer Ex Officio role, so that we always have two financial offers available to conduct SGA Business;
3. A merger between the Outreach Committee and the Georgia Archives Month Committee, so that their work may be more aligned with our overall advocacy efforts;
4. A change to the term length for the RAAC Liaison to be inline with RAAC's own requirements.

Of course, our biggest challenge and largest success this year was our first-ever virtual Annual Meeting, whose theme, "Building Partnerships and Dismantling Barriers," was especially timely. Beginning in March, your Annual Meeting Planning Committees were meeting with the leadership team to determine an early strategy forward for this conference. I am proud to say that because of their swift and decisive action, SGA did not lose a single dollar as a result of changes to our contract with the Jekyll Island Club Resort.





I am grateful to all of you who attended the pre-conference workshops and the three days of sessions, which included:

- 200 Annual Meeting and 31 pre-conference workshop attendees;
- 26 presentations delivered by 58 presenters;
- 7 vendors generously contributing over \$2,000 in sponsorships

This represents a **60% increase** in our average Annual Meeting attendance, which is astounding in any year, but most especially in 2020. At the annual Business Meeting, Board committees presented a number of honors to a deserving slate of awardees, a complete listing of which can be found on pages 5-6.

The Annual Meeting is truly an all hands on-deck endeavor, and each of your Board and Committee members contributed to its success in their own specific ways. In a year rife with tumult and challenges to every aspect of our personal and professional lives, your 2020 Board and Committee members remained steadfast in their commitment to this organization.

I am grateful to each and every one of you who ran for elected office or volunteered for an appointed position or committee in 2021, and share my hearty congratulations to our incoming Board, which will be guided by the great and good Holly Croft. We have no way of knowing what challenges this new year will bring, but with our shared commitment and goals in hand, we remain hopeful that better days are ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Angela Stanley  
2020 SGA Past President and 2021 Nominating Committee Chair





# LOOKING TOWARDS THE YEAR AHEAD: SGA PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

To say that 2020 was an unusual year would be an understatement. As I was preparing to write this address for the magazine, I went back and read the words Angela Stanley, our past president, wrote for last year's address. It's so easy to forget today that last January was what she now humorously calls "the Before Times." At the first board meeting, we planned for a completely normal year, albeit one marked with a banner anniversary for the society, where we would hold at least two workshops and a conference – all in person, because that is simply how it was done.

Because we prepare for conferences so far in advance, we discussed plans that were nearly complete for our 2020 annual meeting, which was to be held at the Jekyll Island Club, and we were ready to sign a contract for 2021. Our Education Committee had already developed plans for workshops in the spring. We held a special training session for board members as we worked through updating our strategic plan.

And then COVID changed the world as we knew it.

Angela doesn't like to toot her own horn, so I'll take a minute to do it for her. Under her leadership – and the hard work of many dedicated board and committee members – we were able to extend our contract for the annual meeting due to special circumstances, and we moved the 2020 meeting successfully online, offering free registration for SGA members. We updated our strategic plan for 2021-2025. We changed the term of the treasurer position so that there is always an assistant preparing to take on the role of treasurer. We hosted Friday sessions at the beginning of the pandemic as many of us were trying to navigate working remotely for the first time in our careers.

What a year!

For much of last year, I held onto the hope that we'd get the pandemic under control, and 2021 would be "normal" again. However, as spring turned to summer and fall, it became more obvious that COVID would keep us apart for longer than originally anticipated.

This year, all of our board meetings through the summer will be virtual. We still are not sure how the fall is going to look. What had been such a promise at the end of 2020 with two vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration has turned to frustration as the rollout has been haphazard and slow. Will we be at a point where meeting in person is again feasible this fall? I just don't know.

What I do know is that we have an excellent guide in our strategic plan, which we will begin implementing this year. We have dynamic workshops lined up, and the mentoring program is ramping up to provide pairings for all stages of an archivist's career. We have dedicated and capable people planning our annual meeting, with the understanding that we may not get to be in person for a second year. I look forward to advocating on behalf of our archives and related entities throughout the state of Georgia, and I am currently monitoring items important to our field as they are introduced and considered in the General Assembly.



## 2021 President's Address continued

A few weeks ago, I reread Anne J. Gililand's address to the 2017 SGA annual meeting, "Trust Matters," for inspiration. Quite honestly, I returned to it because of its title, which is a simple, two-word statement of fact I've been told since childhood so many times that for most of my life it became almost an afterthought. These days, however, the importance of trust has become paramount.

In this address, Dr. Gililand states:

"[W]e must continually demonstrate and support our trustworthiness to our various publics by committing to transparency through documentation of all decisions and actions; by exercising personal and institutional reflexivity, compassion, and altruism, for example, by speaking up on behalf of those who cannot and by sharing resources and expertise freely; by approaching participatory developments with an open mind and through a mutually respectful, consultative process; and by refusing to participate in problematic projects."

In this one sentence, Dr. Gilliland lays out for us how we as archivists can embody trust – to ourselves, our patrons, our colleagues, our institutions, and our communities. As I helm this organization this year, I'm first of all humbled that you've put your trust in me to do right by us all. I intend to honor that trust by ensuring that our meetings are open to members who are not currently serving on the board, ensuring that all committee and board minutes are available through our intranet on the website, and seeking input from members in our decision-making process. I also intend to increase our advocacy imprint both at the state and federal levels. Finally, I hope to increase our imprint beyond our membership by seeking out and supporting participatory projects.

I hope you, fellow members, will find inspiration in Dr. Gilliland's words as well. How might they influence your work or studies? How can we help restore trust within our communities and beyond? I know 2021 isn't starting off the way any of us had hoped, but it presents us with the opportunity to return trust to something so normal that it again becomes almost an afterthought.

Many thanks to all of you in advance for the work we will do this year, particularly on behalf of SGA, to embody archival trust.

**By Holly Croft, 2021 SGA President**



# 2020 Year in Review

## Congratulations to the 2020 SGA Scholarship Recipients!

Terri Lynn Hatfield, Public Relations  
Coordinator/Program Coordinator, Institute of Women's  
Studies at University of Georgia  
Carroll Hart Scholarship  
For 2021 Georgia Archives Institute

Sierra King, Photo Archivist, Eldridge and Kathleen Neal  
Cleaver Family Archives  
Brenda S. Banks Educational Workshop Scholarship  
For 2021 SGA Educational Workshop

SGA has a vibrant and active scholarship program to enable students and archivists to attend the Georgia Archives Institute and other local and national conferences and annual meetings. Monetary donations to SGA's scholarship funds are always welcome. For information on how to apply for or donate to a scholarship, please email [scholarships@soga.org](mailto:scholarships@soga.org).



## Provenance Awards Two David B. Gracy II Awards

This year SGA *Provenance* Editorial Board awarded two awards, the David B. Gracy II Award and the David B. Gracy II Legacy Award. The editorial board of *Provenance* selected Sarah Carlson for the David B. Gracy II Award. Sarah Carlson is the Advertising and Exhibits Coordinator at the University of Texas Press. Sarah won the award for her article, *Chain of Custody: Access and Control of State Archival Records in Public-Private Partnerships*, published in Volume XXVI, Issue 1 of *Provenance*. The case study explores the partnership between the Georgia Archives and Ancestry.com.

The David B. Gracy II Legacy Award is a one time prize to celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Gracy. The award was to honor a *Provenance* article that has enduring value. The editorial board awarded the David B. Gracy II Legacy award to Jeremy Brett and Jasmine Jones for their article, *Persuasion, Promotion, Perception: Untangling Archivists' Understanding of Advocacy and Outreach*, published in Volume XXXI, Issue 1. Jeremy Brett is Associate Professor and Curator of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Collection at Texas A&M. Jasmine Jones is Head of Processing for Library Special Collections at UCLA.

The David B. Gracy II Award recognizes a superior contribution to the SGA journal: *Provenance*.

To learn more about the award and *Provenance* visit:

<https://soga.wildapricot.org/publications/provenance>



# SGA President's Award Presented to Dr. Hector Montford

Dr. Hector Montford is an Assistant Professor of History at the College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick, GA. Dr. Montford was nominated by Jerry Mullis, Director of the Marshes of Glynn Library System in Brunswick, GA.

Dr. Montford's resume demonstrates his use of, passion for, and commitment to archives, as well as the ways in which he facilitates his students' hands-on experience with the foundational archival concepts of preservation and intellectual control.

In her nomination letter, Jerry writes, "it is obvious from his work that history and especially preserving history is dear to his heart, but Hector has taken this one step further for our community by instilling love and respect for the past and his students. His work with the internship coordinator for American Studies at CCGA has been to accomplish a multitude of projects in a very short amount of time. One of these has been helping archive materials located within the heritage at the Brunswick Library. This space was a beautiful cacophony of priceless gems hidden in a mountain of debris. Due to Hector's persistence, he ignited his students to handle a task that even librarians shuttered against completing. This seemingly thankless job has single-handedly saved pieces of Glynn County history. Hector's innate drive to preserve and teach others to preserve goes deeper than saving a public library collection. This summer he began conducting oral history interviews to collect stories from the African American community in Brunswick, specifically focusing on events and experiences in the 1950s to the 1970s. Much of this history in our area does not exist on paper, but thanks to him it will now. And like the heritage room project for the library, he incorporated internship work into the project. His students have now achieved firsthand experience of what it was like for the African American in a Deep South town during Jim Crow and Civil Rights. And of course, he is sharing the completed [project] with the public library to keep these precious memories conserved for the next generation."

## Congratulations Dr. Montford!

The SGA President's Award recognizes individuals or organizations from outside the archival profession who make significant contributions to it. To learn more visit:

<https://soga.wildapricot.org/presidents-award>

To nominate someone, email [president@soga.org](mailto:president@soga.org) with the name of your nominee and a brief description of their contributions to the archival profession by August 1st.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

By Katherine Fisher, 2020 Annual Meeting Program Chair

When the Program Committee began planning the 2020 Annual Meeting last January, COVID-19 was barely on our radar. Excited about the prospect of a conference on Jekyll Island, we dove into making committee assignments, brainstorming new session types, and crafting a theme and call for proposals. By the time our CFP went out in mid-March, the World Health Organization had declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic, and conferences large and small were being canceled and postponed. By April, we knew there was a strong chance that conditions would not have improved enough by the fall for SGA members to safely meet, so, along with the Local Arrangements Committee, we began contingency planning. Our meeting venue allowed us to extend our contract and postpone our reservation until the following year, which gave us the ability to consider various scenarios without worrying about burdening SGA and its members with a significant financial loss. In May, SGA's Executive Board, feeling strongly that the safety of meeting participants and venue staff should be our top priority, voted to cancel the planned in-person meeting.

None of us, however, wanted to lose the opportunity to join together as an SGA community, talk about the future of the organization and our profession, and learn from each other in the midst of uncertain circumstances, so instead of canceling the annual meeting entirely, we decided to move online. We had the advantage of several months' time in between the pandemic's onset and our annual meeting dates, which meant we could pivot to an entirely virtual conference without having to simplify our program and, along the way, benefit from the advice of other archivists and librarians who put on virtual meetings earlier in 2020. As we revamped our existing plans, the Program Committee and SGA Board hoped to ensure the meeting would be affordable and accessible to as many members as possible, particularly in a year marked by precarious employment and lost incomes; reminders of continuing violence against Black individuals and communities and the need for reparative archival work; threats to physical and mental health; and political and social unrest broadly related to the pandemic. We were fortunate to have financial reserves, generous sponsors, and significantly reduced expenses, which allowed the SGA Board to waive our usual registration fees for all SGA members and presenters.





## Reflections on the Annual Meeting continued

Many aspects of program planning remained the same as in previous years: the Program Committee met regularly via video conference to discuss potential keynote speakers, review submitted proposals, put together a schedule and program booklet, and prepare a post-meeting survey. But we also consulted with the Local Arrangements Committee on virtual conference platforms, researched fee structures for online meetings, revised participant contracts to address technological requirements, advised on sponsorship models, workshopped proposals to help presenters translate their plans from an in-person to an online setting, wrote technical guidelines and scripts for presenters and moderators, hosted Zoom troubleshooting sessions, and edited session recordings. When we weren't trying to simply keep ourselves, our coworkers, and our families afloat (a familiar feeling in 2020!), these new Program Committee responsibilities helped us clarify priorities, focusing our attention on the most important aspects of a successful annual meeting, and try out new ideas that emerged in response to immediate needs but might be worth continuing when we return to in-person events.

The virtual conference had its challenges and downsides, from varied levels of technical expertise and Zoom experience among organizers, presenters, and attendees to occasional screen-sharing glitches and dropped connections to complications with group interaction and community building. The online format also had advantages. Among these were affordability; ease of access for those unable to travel to an in-person meeting; perhaps our highest-ever attendance numbers (more than 200 registered participants); presenters from across the country; flexibility for attendees to come and go through each day, choose the sessions most interesting to them, and revisit those they missed by watching the recordings afterward; and multi-modal social and networking opportunities. Whatever the future of SGA meetings might look like in 2021 and beyond, 2020 was an exercise in adaptability, a crash course in new modes of conference delivery, and a chance to develop strategies and documentation that will enable SGA to support wide-ranging virtual programming in the future.

*To view recorded sessions from the 2020 Annual Meeting, visit [bit.ly/SGA2020AnnualMeeting](https://bit.ly/SGA2020AnnualMeeting). Thanks to the stellar 2020 Program Committee (Autumn Johnson, Ashley Shull, Brandon Wason, Helen Thomas, Mary Willoughby, and Paige Adair), Virginia Angles and the Local Arrangements Committee, and the rest of SGA's board members for their creative thinking, diligent work, and responsiveness as we planned, scrapped plans, and planned again throughout the constantly changing conditions of 2020.*



# Atlanta Corona Collective: Creative Solutions for Documenting a Pandemic

By Kate Daly and Leah Lefkowitz

When the Atlanta History Center (AHC) closed our doors in the middle of March 2020, staff were sent home to work on various digital projects, but we quickly started looking for ways to connect with the Atlanta community while we couldn't be physically present. In April, the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center saw an opportunity to document this historic moment in real-time. We created the Corona Collective, a community-based collective initiative for Atlantans to submit their stories, photos, videos, and more to illustrate how they were experiencing and responding to life during the COVID-19 crisis. Since we reopened in June, we also started collecting physical items through this initiative, though on a lesser scale due to restrictions on in-person contact.



*Image Courtesy of Kenan Research Center  
at the Atlanta History Center.*



*Image Courtesy of Kenan Research Center  
at the Atlanta History Center.*

The Corona Collective officially launched with a website for donors to submit digital content promoted by our marketing team. Our Collections Manager, Erica Hague, wrote a blog post introducing the project and providing prompts for the types of materials we were interested in collecting. We saw an influx of submissions during this first pass, for which archives staff wrote basic metadata. There were a few challenges we ran into, including the need to cull materials and to follow up with donors who didn't provide adequate metadata. For example, some community members wanted to remain anonymous even though image submissions clearly showed their identities, donors submitted content to which they didn't possess copyright, content quality was poor, or the donations didn't have sufficient research value.



Currently we are also facing technical challenges such as the need to standardize image file sizes and to address the complexity of preserving submissions that include multiple web links. In November 2020 we published a second blog and social media posts which resulted in a small increase in submissions, though these quieted down by the end of 2020. As of January 2021, we have received over 900 individual items through 191 donors. We intend to upload many of these items to our online collections' portal, Album, by the middle of 2021.



*Image Courtesy of Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.*

As archivists work on uploading submissions to Album, we're looking ahead to a new collecting initiative to continue to engage with this historic time in diverse ways and to grow the collection. The Atlanta History Center is partnering with StoryCorps to include an oral history component to the Corona Collective. We created a StoryCorps Communities page, which hosts individuals' stories and interviews pertaining to life under COVID-19. Members of our team conducted a webinar that was advertised to potential partners; this webinar introduced to the project, taught techniques for conducting oral histories, and explained how to use the various virtual interviewing tools on StoryCorps. We concluded 2020 by reaching out to previous donors who we thought might be interested in expanding upon their story. As we look forward to the new year and post-COVID, we see this project as an example of how AHC can engage with our community in a new way that allows us to better tell the varied stories of Atlantans more effectively as history occurs in real time.



*Image Courtesy of Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.*

## Resources to Explore:

**Blog 1:** <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/blog/coronavirus-collective/>

**Blog 2:** <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/blog/check-on-your-people-an-atlanta-corona-collective-update/>

**Oral History Webinar:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOGbeJzX2ok&t=529s>

**StoryCorps Communities page:**

<https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/corona-collective/>

# A Window into the Breach: Theology and the Economy of Slavery at Columbia Theological Seminary, 1842-1899

By Brian Hecker

This past fall, the C. Benton Kline Special Collections and Archives at Columbia Theological Seminary released a timeline looking at racism and slavery within institutions in the 19th century: [A Window into the Breach: Theology and the Economy of Slavery at Columbia Theological Seminary, 1824-1899](#).

The timeline is a bird's eye yet narrow look at racism and the institution of slavery in the 19th century as it relates to the history of Columbia Theological Seminary. Many of the slides focus on the earliest and largest donations that the seminary received prior to emancipation, as well as events and individuals who did much to shape the life of the institution. Multiple individuals discussed in the timeline were very influential in areas of commerce, religion, and education throughout Georgia and South Carolina beyond the immediate bounds of the seminary. Some of the recommended resources in the final slide invite audiences into this world where these fields often overlapped in the 19th century Antebellum South.

Enslaved Africans and African Americans contributed their lives while in bondage to the flourishing and growth of Columbia Theological Seminary in the Antebellum South and it is to this end that their names have been given when available.

After the release of [To Count Our Days: A History of Columbia Theological Seminary](#) in August 2019 by faculty emeritus Erskine Clarke, there were several discussions amongst the seminary board members resulting in the seminary's [Repairing the Breach](#) initiative (where the title of the timeline is taken), directly confronting the seminary's participation with racism, slavery, and other racial injustices.

Due to the limitations of creating a physical exhibit, we decided to release this timeline together drawing primarily from material that was used in an earlier social media campaign covering archival material used or related to the first half of Clarke's book.





**NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUDGET:** On February 10, 2020 the President released the proposed FY2021 budget for the Federal government. The President requested \$367.3 million for the National Archives, a 2.8% decrease from FY2020. The President also recommended the elimination of NHPRC. ... On December 21, 2020 the FY2021 budget was passed by the House and Senate; it was signed by President Trump on December 27th. In the budget the National Archives received \$377 million, of which \$9.23 million was allocated to electronic records; \$2 million to implement the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act; \$4.823 million for the Inspector General's office; and \$9.5 million for repairs and restoration. The NHPRC received \$6.5 million.

**OTHER ARCHIVES NEWS:** On January 27, 2020 the National Archives announced it was closing and selling off the Seattle Records Center at the recommendation of the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) and with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget. The Archives expects the sale process would take up to 18 months and the Archives would request to stay in the building for an additional three years after the sale. The sale has proved controversial and is opposed by indigenous groups and historians in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. News in October 2020 that the PBRB was expediting the sale led to the Washington State Attorney General announcing on December 4, 2020 that he was filing suit to block the sale. Earlier in 2020 the Attorney General's Office had filed four FOIA suits for documentation relating to the sale. ...



The National Archives released its Digital Preservation Framework on June 30, 2020. It will help the agency determine the risks faced by electronic files and its plans to preserve different file formats. The documents are available at <https://github.com/usnationalarchives/digital-preservation>. The Framework helped the Archives win the 2020 National Digital Stewardship Alliance's Organization Innovation Award on November 12, 2020. ... On September 17, 2020 the National Archives announced that the first five volumes of the Selected Papers of John Jay had been added to Founders Online (<https://founders.archives.gov/>). Volumes 6-7 will be added in 2021. ... In collaboration with the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture in Santa Fe, NM and with funding from the National Archives Foundation the National Archives announced on October 12, 2020 that it had digitized and made available online 374 ratified Indian treaties. They are available through the National Archives Catalog and additional historical and contextual information can be found at the Indigenous Digital Archives Treaty Explorer or DigiTreaties (<https://digitreaties.org/treaties/treaties/>). ... On December 1, 2020 the National Archives released a proposed rule for public comment in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would add standards for digitizing permanent paper and photographic records. The deadline for comments is February 1, 2021. It can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/01/2020-26239/federal-records-management-digitizing-permanent-records-and-reviewing-records-schedules>.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS:** On January 29, 2020 the Library announced that newspapers edited by Frederick Douglass between 1847 and 1874 were now available online at [loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-newspapers/about-this-collection](https://loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-newspapers/about-this-collection). ... The Library added the archive of Shawn Walker representing the famed Kamoinge Workshop based in Harlem on February 19, 2020. The collection consists of ephemera, audio recordings, and nearly 100,000 photographs depicting life in Harlem from 1963-2020. It is the first comprehensive archive of a black photographer to join the Library. ...



By the People, the Library's crowdsourcing initiative announced its first completely non-English transcription project on March 10, 2020. Herencia: Centuries of Spanish Legal Documents contains thousands of pages of 15th to 19th century legal documents in Spanish, Latin, and Catalan. ... On March 27, 2019 the National Recording Registry added 25 new recordings including Russ Hodges' call of the "Shot Heard 'Round the World"—Bobby Thomson's three-run homer that won the National League pennant for the New York Giants in 1951; the original Broadway cast recording of "Fiddler on the Roof" (1964); "Mister Rogers Sings 21 Favorite Songs From 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood'" (album) by Fred Rogers (1973); "Y.M.C.A." by the Village People (1978); "Private Dancer" (album) by Tina Turner (1984); "Ven Conmigo" (album) by Selena (1990); "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston (1992); and the "Percussion Concerto" (album) by Colin Currie (2008). ... Fifty nine episodes of Black Journal, the first nationally televised public affairs program produced for, about, and by Black Americans have been digitized are available for viewing, the Library announced on July 9, 2020. The episodes cover the period 1968 to 1977. More information can be found at [https://americanarchive.org/special\\_collections/black-journal](https://americanarchive.org/special_collections/black-journal). ... On October 8, 2020 the Library announced that the remainder of the National Woman's Party (NWP) records would be added to the NWP records already at the Library. The addition consists of approximately 310,000 documents, 100 scrapbooks, 50 political cartoons, 4,500 photographs documenting the women's movement, 750 volumes of periodicals, 2,400 books from the NWP's Florence Bayard Hilles Library, and other paper and digital materials dating from the 1860's to the 2010's. ... The National Film Registry added 25 films on December 14, 2020 which included a record number of films directed by women (10) and filmmakers of color (7). Among the films added this year were Suspense (1913); Lilies of the Field (1963); A Clockwork Orange (1971); the documentary Wattstax (1973) on the 1972 Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum concert; the musical Grease (1978); The Blues Brothers (1980); The Joy Luck Club (1993); Shrek (2001); The Dark Knight (2008); and the documentary Freedom Riders (2010). ...



On December 17, 2020 the Library completed an over twenty-year project to digitize the papers of the twenty-three U.S. presidents that it holds with the digitization of the papers of Grover Cleveland, Calvin Coolidge, Benjamin Harrison, and William Howard Taft. Theses joined the papers of Chester Arthur, Andrew Johnson, and William McKinley whose digitization was announced on April 27, 2020.

**DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA:** On June 22, 2020 the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) released its FY2019 annual report. The major classifying agencies were largely successful in establishing self-inspection programs while some smaller agencies continued to have insufficient programs. ISOO found there is a need for targeted oversight of agency security classification guides to improve their utility in making accurate and precise classification decisions. Progress continued to be made by agencies in implementing the Controlled Unclassified Information program. Unfortunately, many agencies have still not invested in advanced technologies to support their Classified National Security Information programs and policies and practices remain outdated. Transformation will require both a “whole of Government” approach across all agencies and a comprehensive investment strategy for developing and using advanced technologies. The Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) decided 24 mandatory declassification review appeals, approved 23 agency declassification guides, and declassified in whole or in part 60 documents proposed for inclusion in the Foreign Relations of the United States series published by the Department of State. ISOO will pilot a new data collection questionnaire for agencies in FY2020 to streamline reporting requirements for classified information. The full report can be found <https://www.archives.gov/files/isoo/reports/2019-isoo-annual-report.pdf>. ... On November 12, 2020 ISOO released a memo to senior agency officials denying waivers for extensions relating to automatic declassification reviews due to COVID-19.

The memo suggested that agencies concerned about meeting the December 31, 2020 deadline for reviews adopt a risk-based approach and prioritize the review of their most sensitive records.



**LEGISLATION:** Senator Christopher Murphy (D-CT) introduced the Promoting Accountability and Security in Transitions (PAST) Act on December 17, 2020. The legislation defines what constitutes a presidential record (including digital records and their relevant metadata) with sufficient precision not only to mitigate ambiguity but also to limit White House discretion and facilitate enforcement. It also mandates that presidential records be duly created when non-official electronic messaging accounts are used and that records be made available to the public and the next administration in a timely fashion to advance national security and accountability. It also bolsters the oversight role of the archivist of the United States in ensuring that the retention, management and disposition of the records are both consistent with the law and follow best archival practices. The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

**OTHER NEWS:** The Smithsonian completed a project to salvage legislative records from the Virgin Islands damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Of the 20 volumes of records 18 were recoverable, and the 7,376 pages of the legislative records will eventually be available for the public to view online. The records were scheduled to be returned in March 2020 but because of the pandemic they remain at the Smithsonian until it is safe to travel. ... The Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) held a groundbreaking ceremony on August 5, 2020 at the Washington Navy Yard to mark the start of the construction of a new Operational Archives and Repository Complex. When completed in 2022 the complex will house the Navy's Operational Archives, Department of the Navy Library, Rare Book Room, Navy Art Collection, and the Underwater Archeology Conservation Laboratory. ... On August 31, 2020 the State Department returned the Baath Party archives to Iraq.

# SGA Blog Moves to WordPress

In November 2020, the SGA Communications team migrated the SGA Blog from Blogger to WordPress to create a more modern and user-friendly look consistent with SGA branding. The blog is now available to view at <https://sogablog.org/>. You can even follow the blog to get newly published stories delivered to your inbox. If you would like to submit something for the blog, send us an email at [communications@soga.org](mailto:communications@soga.org)

Keep in touch! Follow SGA on:

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Blog: <https://sogablog.org/>

## 2021 SGA Leadership:

Holly Croft, President  
[president@soga.org](mailto:president@soga.org)

Cathy Miller Vice President/President-Elect

[membership@soga.org](mailto:membership@soga.org)

Angela Stanley, Past President

Louanne Heintz, Secretary

[secretary@soga.org](mailto:secretary@soga.org)

Rose Marie Kimbell, Treasurer

[treasurer@soga.org](mailto:treasurer@soga.org)



## Contributors:

Editor: Brittany Newberry

Associate Editor: Megan Kerkhoff

Washington Beat: James Edward Cross

Guest Contributors: Kate Daly,  
Katherine Fisher, Brian Hecker,  
Leah Lefkowitz