

GEORGIA ARCHIVES UPDATE

GGG Members Urged To Get Involved To Support Archives

by Vivian Price

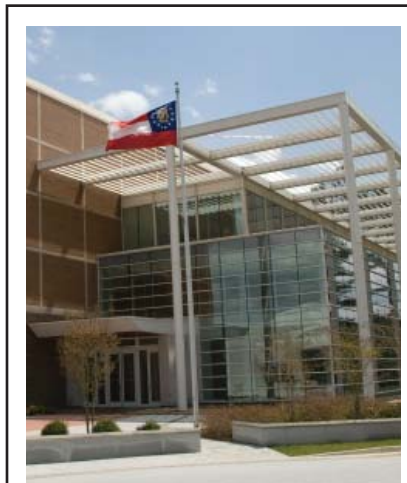
The situation is serious.

Staff has been cut to the point that carrying out the Archives mission of collecting and caring for public records and making them available to the public is a challenge. The Georgia Archives now is open to the public only two days a week.

Supporters of the Archives are now being called upon to get involved in an effort to restore at least a part of the Archives budget.

Kaye Minchew, director of the Troup County Historical Society and Archives and chairman of the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, is leading the effort.

The issue, Minchew says, is not



*“We have got to have
people out there
who understand and
advocate.”*

Brian Kemp
Georgia Secretary of State

just the inconvenience to hobby genealogists who want to look up facts about their ancestors.

“The holdings of the Georgia State Archives matter to many different aspects of our daily life. Archives help us prove our legal positions in court cases plus they contain extensive family information. Georgia, Florida and Alabama are currently involved in “water wars” related to the water in our rivers. As a Georgia taxpayer, I hope every needed document can be found and used in Georgia’s legal defense.

“Archives also matter because they house records about the people of our state – the very people who helped make us a great state to live in. They have genealogical and historical documents about individuals plus they often have photographs and stories

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AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

Speakers Will Explain Tax Digests And New DNA Test At Holiday Luncheon

The Georgia Genealogical Society’s annual awards meeting and luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3. Speakers will be Joanne Smalley and Terry Barton. Smalley will speak on the Research Value of Georgia County Property Tax Digests. Barton will talk about Autosomal Block DNA – the newest DNA test for genealogy.

Smalley will explain why tax digests should not be overlooked when researching genealogy. She will provide an overview of laws related to tax digests; demonstrate how to analyze the information found in tax digests; and to present a case study that uses tax digests to help identify family relationships.

Smalley was a reference archivist at the Georgia Archives for more than 30 years. Since retiring in 2007, she has been doing genealogical and historical research professionally. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Georgia Professional Genealogists

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Season's



Greetings

THE SCRIBE

The official quarterly newsletter of
THE GEORGIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



*Our mission is
to collect, preserve & disseminate
genealogical information.*

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www.gagensociety.org*

Please note: The Georgia Genealogical Society has no
permanent staff or library and cannot assist
with personal research.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda S. Hughes

Dear GGS Member,

The 2011 session of the Georgia General Assembly saw the budget of the Georgia Archives slashed, yet again. The situation has become so dire that the Archives is open to the public only two days per week. This once proud and nationally respected institution is but a shadow of its former self. Staff positions have been eliminated, and programs abolished or much diminished.

Of all state archives, the Georgia Archives has the dubious distinction of being open to the public the fewest number of hours per week.

It is time for a change. It is time that our elected officials be made aware that we, the citizenry, are outraged that our access to public records is limited to seventeen hours per week (Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The following chart from the Friends of the Georgia Archives and History illustrates the decline in Archives budget and staff over the past 30 years:

YEAR	BUDGET	BUDGET IN 2011 DOLLARS	NUMBER OF STAFF
1982	\$3,297,000	\$7,523,000	90
1992	4,166,000	6,538,000	65
2002	5,409,000	6,620,000	54
2012 (projected)	4,819,000	4,819,000	18
REDUCTION SINCE 1983		-36%	-80%

Source: <http://www.fogah.org> 2011

Action is needed now. Do not wait until the 2012 session, or it may be too late. I urge you to contact your state representative, your state senator, Gov. Nathan Deal, and Secretary of State Brian Kemp. Let them know that you support the Georgia Archives and that you want to see its budget restored and public access hours expanded.

You can find the name and contact information for your state representative and senator at: <http://www.legis.ga.gov>.

Secretary of State Brian Kemp may be contacted through the link on the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sos.georgia.gov/> or send a letter to: Secretary of State Brian Kemp, 214 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

You may e-mail Governor Deal through the "contact us" link at: <http://www.Gov.GA.Gov>, or send a letter to: Gov. Nathan Deal, State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Thank you.

Linda Hughes, President
Georgia Genealogical Society



*Two Speakers
Plus Holiday Luncheon
And Awards Presentation*

Saturday, Dec. 3

National Archives
5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Ga.

Speakers:

Joanne Smalley ~ Georgia Property Tax Digests
and
Terry Barton ~ Autosomal Block DNA

Registration: 10:30-11 a.m.

Cost: \$25 Members, \$35 Non-Members

POSTAL MAIL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOV. 23

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOV. 28

A \$5 surcharge will be assessed for late registrations.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Number members ___ Number non-members ___ Total enclosed \$ _____

Please provide names of all registrants, so nametags can be made.

Make checks payable to Georgia Genealogical Society and mail with completed form to:
Dept. W P. O. Box 550247 Atlanta, GA 30355-2747

Please tell us how you heard about this meeting (check one):

Brochure? ___ Ken Thomas' column ___ Newspaper article ___ Web site ___

Other (please explain) _____

JOIN NOW AND SAVE! INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$35, FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$40

Contact Karen Molohon at 770-421-1522 (evenings) or program@gagensociety.org with any questions.

Archives

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about families.”

Jurisdictions from the smallest town to the state of Georgia itself look to the Archives for records that aid in resolving legal disputes.

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp said he recently negotiated a dispute about the Bibb-Monroe county line. “Two surveys were done, but no records could be found. The two counties spent \$1.5 million fighting. Settling disputes can be very expensive if you don’t have the documents.”

The Georgia Archives (and the adjacent National Archives) also is a tourist destination. People who schedule visits to the Archives, sometimes annually, now are likely to plan their research trips elsewhere.

The average Archives visitor comes from 130 miles away, according to a 2010 University of Michigan study, Minchew said. “Businesses in the area, along with state tourism and the economy as a whole, are losing out on dollars that visitors to State Archives spent when they were not actually in the reference room. When you drive at least 130 miles to get somewhere, you often stop to eat, buy gas, maybe spend the night in a local hotel, and may go shopping in conjunction with a visit to the Archives. Being open fewer hours has a definite negative impact on the local economy.”

Because of the budget cuts, Georgia has lost a good bit of prestige as having one of the nation’s top archival facilities. The cuts also have resulted in the loss of a significant number of personnel. The Archives has lost not only staffers who know about Georgia’s history but about the Archives itself.

“Certainly Georgia’s reputation as one of the best state archives in the country is being hurt by the limited hours,” she said. “Also with staff retiring and leaving their positions, much expertise and knowledge



Georgia Archives

Archives’ staff members continue to work five days per week collecting and processing state records and providing access to state officials.

has been lost. Archives’ staff members continue to work five days per week on state records. They collect state records and provide access when state officials request records. That said, I worry that having fewer staff members at the Archives might mean that records we need in, say, fifty years for a legal case might not have been collected. The cut-back in staff has been great, as much institutional knowledge about the Archives and its holdings has been lost.”

Don’t Wait Until January

Both Kemp and Minchew agree that citizens should not wait until the legislative session begins in January to make their voices heard. The pre-budget process begins before opening day.

“Now we all need to be prepared to speak to our members of the state House of Representatives and the state Senate about the need to increase funding for state Archives,” Minchew said.

Minchew would like supporters of the Archives to ask for enough additional funding to keep the Archives open to the public five days a week.

“I have been telling state leaders that Georgians and local and state agencies need records at the state Archives on a daily basis to help meet their basic legal requirements. In addition, people need

access to records to document their own genealogy and do research on local, regional and national historical topics. We realize that the state budget is hurting, but we are not asking for much money. We need to get our state Archives back to a functional level.”

Kemp is focusing on a single part of the budget. The Archives is required to pay rent to the state for occupying its building in Morrow. The lease includes an annual “escalator,” an increase of 1.5 percent per year.

“For three years running the legislature has not funded the escalator. That’s a total of \$120,000,” Kemp said. “If they don’t fund it this year, it amounts to almost \$200,000 cut from the budget.”

Kemp also urges citizens to support the Archives, and he has some specific suggestions on how to go about it.

“What have to do is to make the legislature understand why the facility and the mission are important,” he said. “We have to continue to educate. We haven’t done a good job of that in the past.”

He said supporters should write personal letters emphasizing the Archives’ critical mission and its

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Augusta Richmond County Historical Society President Susan Rogers, left photo, and Sharman Southall, right photo, receive



Georgia Archives

awards from Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and GHRAB Chairman Kaye Minchew.

Annual GHRAB Awards Presented

Since 2003 the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) has presented Outstanding Archives Awards to recognize efforts in archives and records work in Georgia.

GHRAB presents awards to local governments, courts, school systems, state agencies, institutions, repositories, societies, libraries, museums, educators, students researchers, legislators, government officials and individuals.

For more information about the board and the awards program go to http://www.sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/ghrab/default.htm.

Following is a list of the winners for 2011:

LOCAL HISTORY ADVOCACY

Houston County Board of Education created a replica of a 1925 Perry High School classroom that includes student desks, books, and artifacts to provide a snapshot of education and small-town life of a by-gone era.

EXCELLENCE IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR HISTORICAL REPOSITORY

Cherokee County Historical Society developed an interactive museum exhibit, "Hear Their Stories, Walk In Their Shoes," to educate visitors about the history and people of the area.

EXCELLENCE IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BY A STATE AGENCY OR INSTITUTION

Fulton County Schools implemented a

vital and historical records program to ensure that school records are identified, protected, organized, properly stored and made available to students, personnel, and citizens.

EXCELLENCE IN DOCUMENTING GEORGIA'S HISTORY

The Augusta-Richmond County Historical Society produced *War Stories: Augusta Area Veterans Remember World War II* an 80-minute video discussing the experiences and sacrifices of local veterans.

Barry L. Brown and Gordon R.

Elwell are the authors of *Crossroads of Conflict: A Guide to Civil War Sites in Georgia*.

Sharman R. Southall researched and wrote, *Lincoln County Lost: Lincoln County Before the Dam*, the story of how 450 people were relocated in 1947 when the Clark Hill Reservoir was built.

Travis Tom curated "A History of Chinese Settlement in Augusta, Georgia," an exhibit which documents the lives of Chinese who settled in Georgia from post-Civil War through World War II.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH USING THE HOLDINGS OF AN ARCHIVES

Barbara McCaskill and **Christina L. Davis** wrote "J. Richardson Jones: The Atom Bomb of Auburn Avenue," a paper depicting the work of this Atlanta civil rights activist, reporter and photographer.

Johnnie P. Pearson is the author of *Lee & Jackson's Bloody Twelfth: The Letters of Irby Goodwin Scott, First Lieutenant, Company G, Putnam Light Infantry, 12th Georgia Volunteer Infantry*.

Jeffrey A. Turner is the author of *Sitting In and Speaking Out: Student Movements in the American South, 1960-1970*.

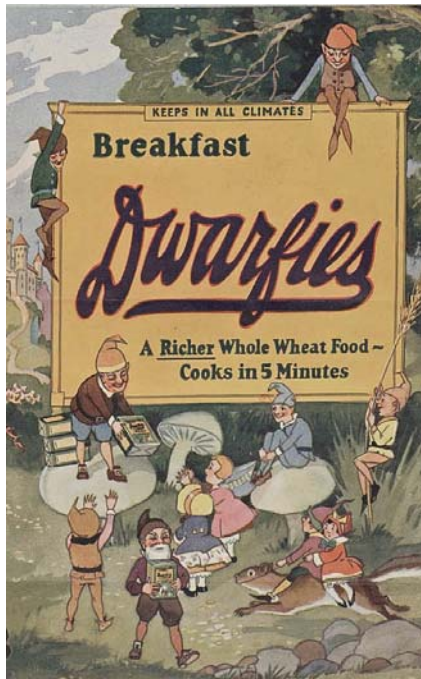
EXCELLENCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL USE OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

Marsha Hunter developed and implemented "Using Primary Sources in Language Arts Instruction," a library media program that combines historical research and student interview techniques for use in high school classrooms.

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT RESEARCH USING HISTORICAL RECORDS – UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

JoyEllen Freeman wrote "Thomas Wiggins or 'Blind Tom' (1849-1908)", a research paper about the life and music of an African-American musical

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Georgia Archives

The Georgia Archives is home to many different kinds of documents. One of the most colorful record sets contains trademark registrations. The Archives has two historic books of trademark registrations from the 19th and 20th centuries. These volumes are the recorded copy of official trademarks and union labels of goods sold or distributed in Georgia and represent their registration with the State of Georgia, 1894-1959. Above is the trademarked image for Dwarfies breakfast cereal.

Archives

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potential to generate revenue and foster economic development.

“Don’t just write to governor or appropriations committee members, write to local legislators,” he advised. “If people have an Appropriations Committee member from their district, all the better. Personal letters from people in their district get read. Personalize it. Say you’re with this organization and they (members) are concerned about this.”

With help from the public, Kemp is hoping that the Archives will be “in better shape than last year.”

“Some people are beginning to listen.”

GHRAB

Continued from Page ??

prodigy born sightless, autistic and enslaved near Columbus.

Caitlin E. Vest wrote “Keeping the Fire Alive: China Painting and the Empowerment of American Women,” a research paper discussing how the early 1900’s arts and crafts movement impacted the lives of women.

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT RESEARCH USING HISTORICAL RECORDS – GRADES 9-12

Daniel Dorminy prepared “Yalta and Potsdam: The Churchill Effect,” an exhibit that brings to light the impact of Winston Churchill’s diplomacy during World War II.

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT RESEARCH USING HISTORICAL RECORDS – GRADES 6-8

Katie Rose Dionne wrote and performed “King Cotton Diplomacy: Confederate Foreign Relations Hanging By A Thread,” a historical analysis of how the cotton industry may have been used as a tool for diplomacy during the Civil War.

Write Your Lawmaker

Finding aid for Georgia officials

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/officials/congress/>

Notes: This link can be used to find both your House and Senate representatives, as well as national leaders. You must know your nine-digit zip code to use this link.

House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2011_12/house/Committees/appropriations/gahapp.htm

Senate Appropriations Committee

http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2005_06/senate/appropriations.htm

Friends of the Georgia Archives and History

<http://www.fogah.org/>
Check here for budget updates.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Glenda E. A. Anderson has been a strong advocate for archives, libraries, and municipal records in Georgia for more than 30 years. Her dedication to records preservation and emergency preparedness, as well as her promotion of the value of archives to society, impacted many organizations throughout the state.

Elizabeth A. Barr has assisted GHRAB since its inception in 1993 and demonstrated a strong commitment to preservation and access of historical records serving as GHRAB Assistant State Coordinator as well as holding leadership positions in the Society of Georgia Archivists, Georgia Records Association, and the Association of Records Managers and Administrators.

Georgia Historical Society Adds Records, Images To Web Site

The Georgia Historical Society has announced the addition of more than 2,000 searchable online catalog records and digital images featuring artifacts, portraits and maps in the GHS collection.

A component of GHS’s ongoing Expanding Audiences for History: Access for a New Century technology initiative, this effort helps to meet the demands of modern researchers.

GHS’s collections chronicle the national experience as lived, interpreted and documented by citizens and community, state and national leaders. These historical treasures provide a fuller context for understanding the social, cultural, economic and political milieus that influenced the development of a democratic state and nation for nearly three centuries.

To learn more about the Expanding Audiences for History technology initiative, contact the Georgia Historical Society toll free at 1-877-424-4789, via email at ghs@georgiahistory.com or visit online at www.georgiahistory.com.

December

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Group. Although, a native New Yorker, she has southern roots – her father's family was from Tennessee. Joanne considers herself a naturalized southerner as she has learned how to make sweet tea.

Barton will explain how Autosomal Block DNA works for genealogy and how to make use of the results. He will share some success stories and then answer questions.

Barton is co-founder and president of WorldFamilies.net, which is dedicated to serving the genetic genealogy community by providing Web sites, administration and information to surname DNA Projects. He is a pioneer in the rapidly changing field of Genetic Genealogy, first becoming involved in 2001 when the Barton DNA project was launched.

He is an ardent family historian and amateur genealogist. He is president of the Barton Historical Society and administrator of the 270-plus member Barton DNA Project and is past president of the Genealogical Society of Cobb County. He is one of the founding directors of the *Journal of Genetic Genealogy* and is the Atlanta

area coordinator for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. He enjoys sharing his knowledge through presentations, articles and his Blog.

GGs annually presents three awards to members of the society and others who have contributed substantially to the field of genealogy and to society endeavors during the previous year.

The meeting will be held at the National Archives, 5780 Jonesboro Road in Morrow. Registration will be from

10:30-11 a. m., with the business meeting and awards presentation schedule for 11-11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a. m.. Smalley's presentation will begin at 12:45 and Barton's at 2 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to conclude at 3 p.m.

Registration may be accomplished via postal mail or online. The deadline for mailed registrations is Wednesday, Nov. 23. Online registrations must be completed by Monday, Nov. 28.

The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. A \$5 fee will be charged for late registrations.

Lunch will be catered by Chef Nelson of Executive Chef Catering.



Ornament Sales Proceeds Benefit Friends Projects

The Friends of the Georgia Archives and History has chosen the peach for its 2011 Christmas ornament.

Purchase of the ornament supports the work of FOGAH. The ornaments sell for \$20 each, plus \$2 each for shipping and handling. For information on quantity discounts, phone FOGAH at 678-364-3732.

Orders may be sent to FOGAH at P. O. Box 711, Morrow, GA 30261-0711, or pay by credit card at www.FOGAH.org. Purchasers may designate payment as a gift to the Save Georgia's Historic Flag Fund.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SAVE THE DATE

The first GGS meeting of 2012 will be held on Saturday, March 3 at the National Archives in Morrow. The speaker will be announced.

FREE WEBINARS SCHEDULED

GGs now offers a full schedule of free Webinars. Members can participate in the sessions from the comfort of their homes, using either their computers (microphone required) or via telephone.

The schedule of upcoming Webinars is as follows:

Monday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Tim Pinnick, Finding and Using African American Newspapers

Monday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m., Thomas Kemp, GenealogyBank.com

Monday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., Liz Snow, Georgia Genealogical Society

Quarterly editor, Using MSWord to Write Articles or Your Family Story
Monday, Feb. 20, 6 p. m., Dr. Ugo Perego, DNA

Archived recordings and handouts for the webinars are available on the Members Only pages of the GGS Web site.

To register or for more information, including a Webinar Attendee Guide, go to www.gagensociety.org and click on Register and View Our Schedule.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Narayan Sengupta, World War I aviation speaker, will discuss The Lafayette Escadrille at the Georgia Archives Lunch and Learn event on Friday, Dec. 9. The squadron of the French Air Service during World War

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

James Evans, Morrow
Gloria J. Gosdin, Berghheim, Texas
G. June Holman, Indiantown, Fla.
W. Robert Sampson, Palm Harbor, Fla.
William Joel Stanley, Stockbridge
Sandra Taliaferro, Atlanta

I was composed largely of remarkable American volunteer flying fighter pilots. The talk will be from noon-1 p.m. at the Archives. Participants are invited to attend the free event and to bring their lunches.

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