



GAH to Hear Speakers on Slavery in World History and on the lives of Georgia Women

The 2010 Georgia Association of Historians meeting in Decatur will feature a plenary session on Friday at 5 pm. Joseph C. Miller, T. Cary Johnson, Jr., Professor of History at the University of Virginia, will discuss "Slaving on a World Scale."

According to his website, his present area of research is: "A world history of slavery from the earliest human times through the nineteenth century. Hundreds of comparative studies have demonstrated the near-ubiquity of an institution once thought "peculiar" to the Old South, but few have concentrated on slavery as historical process. Strategies of slaving in the ancient Mediterranean, the Islamic world, Africa, the Renaissance Mediterranean, Brazil, the West Indies, the Indian Ocean basin, and the United States reveal recurrent intensely dynamic processes of bringing outsiders as slaves into labor vacuums created during times of rapid economic growth or political expansion."



Joseph C. Miller

This event, which will take place in the Old Courthouse, is co-sponsored by the DeKalb History Center and Georgia Humanities Council. A reception honoring the memory of Gary Fink will follow Prof. Miller's talk.

Members who are in Decatur on Thursday evening are invited to a presentation at the Decatur branch of the DeKalb County Library at 7 pm Thursday. Georgia Center for the Book and UGA Press will introduce *Georgia Women: Their Histories, Their Lives*, vols. 1-2, edited by Ann Short Chirhart and Kathleen Clark. Two of the contributors will discuss their subjects: Michele K. Gillespie (Wake Forest University) wrote about "Mary Gay;" and the section on "Ma Rainey" is the work of Steve Goodson (West Georgia).

The program for the luncheon (at the Holiday Inn in Decatur at 12:30 on Saturday Feb 20) is still under development, but Mary Rolinson, of the Program Committee says that another "Lives in History" program is planned. Similar programs at recent meetings have presented distinguished historians reflecting on their professional lives.

Save the date . . .

The 2010 annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians will take place in Decatur, Georgia on Feb. 19 and 20. Meetings will take place in the Holiday Inn on the Courthouse Square. Details are being posted on the GAH web site as they become available.



Member news

Timothy May, the new head of the Department of History and Philosophy at North Georgia College and State University, gave two lectures on the Mongol Art of War at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in September as part of their exhibit on the Mongol Empire. He also published a chapter on Mongol warfare in the book that accompanies the exhibit, *Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire*. **Georgia Mann**, the former department head has retired and was awarded Emeritus status.

Georgia in Black and White Explorations in the Race Relations of a Southern State, 1865-1950, edited by **John Incoe**, contains eleven essays treating the interactions of blacks and whites in Georgia. They show the ways that race played its part in all areas of Georgia life, both public and private.

GAH members who contributed to Georgia in Black and White include **Jonathan Bryant**, **Jennifer Lund**, **Smith Glenn Eskew**, **Mary Rolinson** and **Randall Patton**.

Jeffery Wells was promoted to Social and Behavioral Sciences Division Chair for Georgia Military College this past August. In addition, the History Press released his book *In Atlanta or in Hell: The Camp Creek Train Crash of 1900* on September 25, 2009. He also self-published a local history of McDonough, Georgia on August 22, 2009, for the benefit of the Susan G. Komen Walk for A Cure.

Historic Clayton County: the Sesquicentennial History, by **Kathryn W. Kemp**, was released this fall. It is a project for the benefit of the Jonesboro/Clayton County Historical Society which maintains the Stately Oaks house and several other buildings of historical significance in Jonesboro. Kemp is an Associate Professor of History at Clayton State University.

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Dr. Katya Vladimirov of Kennesaw State University has published several articles recently, including "Lenin's Muchachos: Database for Comintern and front organizations' personnel in Latin America, 1919-1943," *International Letter of Communist Studies* (2009); "Dead Men Walking: Soviet elite cemeteries and Social control," *Oxford Forum on Public Policy* (Fall 2008); and "Red East: Soviet Central Asia in the 1920s", *Journal of Eurasian Studies* (Fall 2009). She also has contributed to two databases: Comintern (Communist International and Affiliate Organizations, 1919-1940) in Latin America and Caribbean (in Spanish and English); Soviet Party elites from 1900 to 1990 (in Russian and English languages); and is working on a manuscript "Soviet elites from Lenin to Yeltsin" which is presently under negotiation with the New Academic Press.

Joseph Robert White, a Research Assistant at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies contributed a chapter "Documenting Torture in the Early Nazi Camps: Karl Schwesig, Schlegelkeller (1983)" in Adam Jones, Ed. *Evoking Genocide: Researchers and Activists Describe the Works of Art and Media that Changed Their Lives*. Toronto: The Key Publishing House, Inc., 2009. White also coauthored "Three Approaches to Exploring the Höcker Album in High School and University Classes" along with Judith Cohen and Rebecca Erbeling. It appears in *PRISM: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Holocaust Educators* 1: 1 (Fall 2009): 53-62.

Mark Smith's first book, *Engineering Security: The Corps of Engineers and Third System Defense Policy, 1815-1861*, was published in October 2009 by the University of Alabama Press.

Etudes Historiques, a new undergraduate journal, has published its first two volumes. It is sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy at North Georgia College and State University. The journal is in need of faculty reviewers and student submissions. For more information, see www.etudeshistoriques.org.

Editor's note: We want to let our readers know what everyone is working on. Please contribute your titles so that we can share the information with other historians in Georgia.

Time Capsule Trip of a Lifetime: Romania!

Paul Hudson, Georgia Perimeter College

One “perk” of having Oglethorpe University president Thornwell Jacobs as my research interest is that he was the father of the modern time capsule. In 1990 I helped form the International Time Capsule Society, a select group of scholars. The *New York Times* labeled me an “expert,” which in this Internet Age led to some wonderful expense-paid international trips to Bangkok and Copenhagen.

This past October I returned from Iasi (pronounced “Yash”), Romania, which did a pioneering time capsule, translated as *Capsula Timpuli*, on the city’s 600th birthday. My hosts were the city and the Romanian Film & Television Association. I presented at City Hall and participated in press conferences that were translated for national television and radio. I also got much time to walk the city.

Iasi (population, 400,000), the cultural capital of Romania, has seven universities, numerous churches and monasteries, parks and gardens and many statues to honor its heroes, poet Mihail Eminescu and the warrior king St. Stephen. Iasi has its own patroness, St. Parascheva, whose ancient relics are brought out every October at the Metropolitan Cathedral. We were there before the long lines of an annual pilgrimage started, and saw Parascheva’s silver coffin. At nights we partied on rooftop terraces and learned about the Revolution of 1989 ending Communism in Romania.

Our trip out of southern Moldavia was to traditional Bucovina, the northeastern tip of Romania, and we spent time touring the famous 15th century painted monasteries, with the Carpathian Mountains in the background. I was enthralled with the murals, like in Italy but Orthodox Christian. This visit of ten fun packed days was, indeed, the trip of a lifetime.



Paul Hudson and Julie Jarrard at the fabulous painted monastery Voronets, built in 1488 at Bucovina in Romania.

Call for papers . . .

“What are the potential benefits and challenges of the growing relationship between the United States and China?” is the topic of the upcoming 2010 North Georgia Arts and Letters Conference. This meeting, which will be held February 26-27, 2010, at North Georgia College and State University, in Dahlonega, brings together scholars from diverse fields to explore the benefits and the challenges of this relationship.

The conference planners welcome proposals from any discipline and highly encourage interdisciplinary approaches to the topic. Possible areas for discussion may include, but are not limited to, Chinese philosophy and American literature; Chinese and American economic, social, and/or cultural interdependence; and issues related to American and Chinese security and strategic interests. Conference exhibits will be arranged for visual art that addresses the China/U.S theme.

Panels Planned for GAH Meeting in Decatur

A partial list of the panel topics to be presented at the 2010 meeting of the GAH in Decatur on Feb. 19 and 20 includes:

Native Americans in Georgia: From Renewal to Return; Two Georgia Cities and the Memory of the Civil War; Atlanta and the Invisible Empire; Riding; Driving and Watching: Mobility and Leisure in Modern Life; Transatlantic Connections Between Georgia and Liberia; Diasporas and Public Presence: the Politics of Memory in Jewish and Turkish Diasporas; Generations, Gulags, and Global Relations: New Research in Russian History; Latin America topics; South Asia topics; Making the Connection: The Importance of a Global Perspective in Local History; Diffusions and Convergences in Vernacular Architecture; The Civil War Centennial in Georgia: Three Case Studies of History and Memory; Using the Civil Rights Archives.

The program committee includes President-elect **Kay Reeve**, **Susan McGrath**, and **Mary Rolinson**.

Washington, GA

By Lou Brackett

When it was founded in 1780, Washington was a frontier town in newly formed Wilkes County. Wilkes County had been carved out of ceded Indian land only ten years earlier and the area was still mostly wilderness. After the Revolutionary War the area grew quickly, boosted by the sale of good, inexpensive land. Families from Virginia and the Carolinas poured into the county, buying up acreage and creating large plantations bordering the numerous creeks in the area.



Wilkes County Courthouse

Before the Civil War, Washington had a sizeable business district that included several stores, churches, banks, and the county courthouse. As the Civil War drew to a close, the Confederate cabinet held their last meeting in Washington and rumors of buried Confederate gold still persist to this day in Wilkes County.

Washington bills itself as “the Hometown of History and Legends.” Part of its charm is in the preservation of antebellum architecture. Many homes built before the Civil War still exist today, including the home of Robert Toombs, now a state historical site. Although Toombs’s house is currently closed due to budget cuts, stop by the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Information on the square downtown for a driving map listing over seventy other interesting sites.

Shops on the downtown square have been repurposed into cafeterias and specialty stores. The courthouse was rebuilt in 1904 after a devastating fire. Be sure to check out the old photos hanging inside the courthouse.

For an extra added adventure, ask for directions to the Battle of Kettle Creek monument. The monument is outside of Washington down some rugged dirt roads. If you think you’re lost – keep going because you’re nearly there!

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Georgia Association of Historians
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