

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter



VOLUME XXX

Spring/Summer 2009

Mark your calendar for the 2010 GAH meeting:

**“Diasporas, Diffusions, and Convergences:
From the Global to the Local”**

Feb. 18-20
Decatur, GA



Decatur's Old Courthouse

GAH 2010 Conference: Call for Papers

The Georgia Association of Historians invites proposals for sessions at its annual meeting to be held in historic Decatur, Georgia on February 18, 19 & 20, 2010. The conference theme is:

**DIASPORAS, DIFFUSIONS, AND CONVERGENCES:
FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL**

Proposals for full sessions that address the conference theme will be given highest priority. Individual papers will be considered. This year's theme is intended to encourage proposals offering diverse visions of the theme's basic elements as experienced in all areas and subfields of history, including US history, world history, public history, regional studies and proposals focused on the teaching of history. The deadline for proposal submission is **SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**. Please send proposals, in the form of a word document, to:

Dr. Kay Reeve
Kennesaw State University
Department of History & Philosophy
1000 Chastain Rd., MD 2006
Kennesaw, Ga. 30144

or

Email: kreeve@kennesaw.edu

Session proposals should be 500 words and include a tentative session title, the names and affiliations of each presenter and the session discussant, and a description of each paper in session. Individual proposals should be less than 200 words and include a full description of the proposed paper. ❖

New Undergraduate Research Journal

The first issue of *Etudes Historiques*, an undergraduate research journal published under the auspices of North Georgia College & State University Department of History and Philosophy made its debut this spring. The first article published was *Fear and Loyalties: Conflicting Motivations in the Defense of Eastern Prussia, 1944-1945* by Robert Klemm. The Faculty Editors are **Eugene Van Sickle** and **Richard Byers**; Student Editors are **Silvia Kearley** and **Kyle Owenby**. *Etudes Historiques* welcomes inquiries for editors and readers as well as submissions of student papers from all of the colleges and universities in Georgia. See the web site: <http://www.etudeshistoriques.org/>. ❖

Faculty Changes

Georgia Mann is retiring as head of North Georgia College & State University Department of History and Philosophy. **Timothy May** will become department head in August. Due to Dr. Mann's retirement, the department also hired a new military historian, **Augustine Meaher** (formerly of the University of Melbourne). ❖

Timothy May and **Jennifer Smith**, North Georgia College & State University, both received tenure. ❖

Keith S. Hebert was hired as an assistant professor of history at the University of West Georgia. Starting in the fall of 2009 Keith will teach a variety of public history courses at UWG. He has an article entitled "Reconstruction-Era Violence in North Georgia: The Mossy Creek Ku Klux Klan's Defense of Local Autonomy" that will appear in the spring of 2010 as part of an anthology collection of essays on reconstruction in Appalachia edited by Andrew Slap and published by the University of Kentucky Press. Hebert also published an entry on "Slavery in Alabama" for the Encyclopedia of Alabama. In February, he presented a paper entitled "The Psychedelic Assisi in the Southern Pines: Pasaquan, Eddie Owens Martin and the National Register of Historic Places" at the Sixth Savannah Symposium hosted by the Savannah College of Art and Design. Hebert is currently preparing a history of visionary art environments in America. ❖

Memorial Symposium Honors Cashin

The Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University will host the Edward Cashin Memorial Symposium on Georgia History this fall, October 16 and 17 in Augusta. This will be co-sponsored by the Georgia History Consortium.

For information, contact **Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell**, Director of the Center for the Study of Georgia History at lcaldwell@aug.edu. ❖

Undergraduates Join GAH Scholars Presenting Papers at Annual Meeting

A group of Kennesaw State University undergraduates came to our Dahlonga meeting to present a panel "Constructing Home/Protecting Community"



that emerged from a set of two undergraduate classes held in 2009 at Kennesaw. **Lee Ann Lands** recruited students to participate in "The Housing Projects" – a loosely organized set of projects and research organized around housing policy, housing inequality, and housing cultures. The Fall 2009 segment of "The Housing Projects" was a directed study that involved undergraduates in research and creative activity. Professor Lands explains that she "asked the students to take the smaller works developed in a historical methods class and develop them into seminar-type papers [using] primary resource-driven works that contributed to our understanding of local historical patterns and events."

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the Department of History and Philosophy at KSU sponsored the second phase of "The Housing Projects." CETL provided financial support through travel funding which, for example, allowed Lands to travel to NARA in College Park, Maryland, to copy materials from the HUD and other collections to support this work.

The four students who presented at our meeting were **Nicole Woolsey**, "Disparity as a Matter of Course: The Mismanagement of Summer Hill School, 1889-1968;" **Sarah King**, "Housing in Black and White;" **Christopher Smith**, "Speaking for the People: Neighborhood Resistance to Urban Renewal in Atlanta" and **Jennifer Dortch**, "Neighborhood Resistance to the Georgia Dome." **Dr. Tom Scott**, Professor of History and Co-director of the Center for Regional History & Culture at Kennesaw State University, was the discussant.

Lands said, "We had a blast at the conference, and the students did a great job!" ❖

And The Award Goes To . . .

Paul S. Hudson was awarded a 2009-2010 faculty writers grant from the Writers Institute at Georgia Perimeter College. ❖



Columbus Museum Prepares Two New Exhibits

According to Curator of History **Mike Bunn**, the Columbus Museum is developing two history exhibitions, one in collaboration with the collaboration staff at Columbus State University and another in cooperation with the University of Alabama. ❖

Report from Membership Chair, Mary G. Rolinson

As many of you know, the GAH used to hold its annual conference in April every year. Beginning in the year 2008, we changed our annual meeting time to late February. Our first February meeting was held at Fort Valley State University, and our 2009 meeting was held in Dahlonega at North Georgia College and State University. Both of these meetings were successful, but as membership chair I believe the change has taken some adjustment for the membership as well as for the executive board and program committees. Our timeline for the Call for Papers, deadlines for submissions, and publicity have all been moved back by at least two months. This requires us all to be thinking about the meeting more during the summer and the winter break instead of during the fall and spring seasons! In theory this should be easy.

The point of all this is to remind our members of a few important points:

If you register for the annual meeting, you can renew your membership at the same time. That is what most of our members do.

If you do NOT register for the meeting, you must check the newsletter or web page and renew your membership---January is the renewal month!

Our executive secretary-treasurer, Kathryn Kemp, sends an email reminder early in the year, but we are counting on YOU to follow through. I would like to hear your thoughts on these procedures. Please email me at mrolinson1@gsu.edu. ❖

New Programs . . .

New Master of Arts Program at NGCSU

In August North Georgia College & State University will begin a new graduate program, offering concentrations in military and world history. ❖

History is in Humanities at Clayton State University

The College of Arts and Sciences at Clayton State University has reorganized, creating a Department of Humanities that includes History, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages. The Head of the new department is **R.B. "Randy" Rosenberg** who is a member of the History Faculty. ❖

What We're Up To . . .

Joseph Robert White, has contributed 87 articles to Volume 1 of Geoffrey P. Megargee, ed., *Early Camps, Youth Camps, and Concentration Camps and Subcamps under the SS-Business Administration Main Office (WVHA)* published by the Indiana University Press in Association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2009.

White has collaborated with two Holocaust museum colleagues, Judith Cohen and Rebecca Erbelding, on a pedagogical piece about the Höcker photo album--a collection of snapshots recording the mundane life of off-duty Auschwitz personnel--titled "Three Approaches to Exploring the Höcker Album in Holocaust Classes." It is forthcoming this year in *Prisms: A Journal of Holocaust Education* 1:1.

He also contributed Chapter 14, "Documenting Torture in the Early Nazi Camps: Karl Schwesig, Schlegelkeller (1983)" to 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., forthcoming in September 2009.

White has been invited to speak on teaching East European Jewish history on-line at the Educational Program for Yiddish Culture seminar, held on June 24, 2009, at the Center for Jewish History in New York City; it is sponsored by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Joe White is a native Georgian who now is a Research Assistant in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. He regularly presents on his research at our meetings and at various colleges in Georgia. ❖

What We're Up To (continued)

Paul Hudson, Georgia Perimeter College, received a 2009-2010 Faculty Writing Grant from the Writers Institute at Georgia Perimeter College. One of his projects is an essay on Hazel Raines, Georgia's first female pilot. His book, *Georgia Women: Their Histories, Their Lives, Vol. II* is in press this coming year. ❖

Dr. David Williams of Valdosta State University appeared on C-SPAN2 *BookTV* to discuss his latest book: *Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War*. If you missed it, catch up on [You Tube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EM4ynMxqi): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EM4ynMxqi>. It's about 10 minutes. ❖

Marianne Holdzkom will publish "An Inconvenient Founding Father: John Adams in Popular Culture" in the collected anthology *Adapting America/America Adapted* due out in early 2010. This is an expansion of a paper delivered at a conference in Istanbul sponsored by the American Studies Association of Turkey. Her paper "The Reluctant Adventurer: The depiction of John Wesley Powell in Disney's Ten Who Dared" will appear in the proceedings of the 2008 Film and History conference. In addition, she gave a paper entitled "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: The Salem Witchcraft Trials in Film, Television and Fiction" by special invitation at the Southwest/Texas regional meeting of the Popular Culture and American Culture Associations. ❖

May's Second Book

According to **Timothy May's** entry in the *World History Connected* web page, the Mongol Empire "... forever changed the map of the world, opened intercontinental trade, spawned new nations, changed the course of leadership in two religions, and impacted history indirectly in a myriad of other ways." This year Greenwood Press has published his second book on the Mongols, titled *Culture and Customs of Mongolia*. ❖

Don't forget the GAH conference call for papers deadline – Sept. 9, 2009!

Red Oak Creek Covered Bridge

By Lou Brackett

According to Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites literature, Georgia once had more than 200 covered bridges. Less than twenty remain today. One of these survivors is the Red Oak Creek covered bridge, located just outside Imlac, in Meriwether County, Georgia.

Cotton was king in the south in the middle of the 19th century, but a major obstacle in the cotton growing process was getting the cotton to market. In their book *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King*, authors John Lupold and Thomas French, Jr., describe how bridges were usually financed by entrepreneurs anxious to attract cotton to their town. “Cotton piled high in a town’s warehouses meant farmers would spend their profit in that community. Bridges attract wagons filled with cotton.”



The Red Oak Creek bridge is an example of a Town’s truss bridge, a style patented by Ithiel Town in 1820. Consisting of crossed braces between horizontal stringers, the Town truss style was easier to build than another popular style called the arched truss bridge. Horace King, a former slave and noted bridge builder, built many of the bridges in and around the LaGrange area. King’s sons followed in his footsteps, becoming master bridge builders in their own right.

The historical marker located at the bridge attributes the Red Oak Creek bridge to Horace King and dates the construction to the 1840s. Lupold and French dispute both the construction date and the builder, noting that although King was constructing bridges by the 1840s, the Red Oak bridge was probably built later and was possibly constructed by one of King’s sons and not King himself. The marker also states that, including the approach, the Red Oak Creek bridge is the longest covered bridge in Georgia.

Unfortunately, the bridge has been decorated by spray-paint happy vandals. Although annoying, the paint does not detract from the architecture inside the bridge. The bridge is open to traffic, but the traffic is light enough for pedestrians to have time to walk inside safely. The road at the bridge is also wide enough for cars to park safely. Covered Bridge Road becomes a dirt road on the side of the bridge that leads away from Imlac, but it is well maintained. For more adventure, follow Covered Bridge Road to the first paved crossroad, Flat Shoals Rd. Turn right on Flat Shoals, and in just a few miles, it crosses the Flint River at a picturesque shoal. Look downstream for the remains of a more modern bridge.

Getting there: Imlac is located on GA 85 between Gay and Woodbury. Look for Covered Bridge Road just across the railroad tracks in Imlac. The bridge is less than a mile away. ❖