

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter

Spring 2018

From the desk of
Matt Jennings
GAH President



I lead a sad and isolated life, but one of the highlights of every spring semester is the GAH's Annual Meeting, and this year I had the added pleasure of helping to host this event in beautiful Macon, Georgia.

We started things off in style with a Thursday evening reception at the Hay House, an 1859 mansion and one of the South's architectural gems. Local farm-to-table caterer and restaurant grow (not capitalized) provided the food, and attendees got to try local beers from Piedmont Brewery and Kitchen and Macon Beer Company. Tasty!

On Friday, the conference began in earnest at the Marriott City Center. The primitive state of human cloning technology allowed me to experience only one panel at a time, but I thoroughly enjoyed the ones I saw on the digital humanities and "Georgia at Home in World War II and Vietnam." This last panel deserves special mention, as it was presented in conjunction with the Society for Military History. Thanks to Bill Allison and Glenn Robins for forging this partnership! I hope it continues in the years to come. The Society for Military History also generously helped to defer the cost of the reception for the keynote speaker. Friday evening, noted historian Karen Cox delivered a timely and thoughtful address about Confederate monuments in the aftermath of Charlottesville.

As is tradition, Saturday was a short but busy day at the GAH. I heard really interesting papers on Native American history and delivered a moderately interesting paper with my colleagues in the Acme Brewing Historical Society. One of the highlights of the conference was the undergraduate poster session. Thanks to John Legg, Micheal Williams, and James Thompson for sharing their work with us, and Michael Gagnon for directing this effort. I hope this feature will continue and expand moving forward. The conference closed with a fine banquet anchored by the powerful, poignant "Lives in History" talk delivered by Jamil Zainaldin. Though Jamil will be sorely missed, Georgia Humanities will certainly be in good hands under the stewardship of Laura Thomson McCarty.

I'll conclude by thanking everyone on the board for all their hard work in putting together the 2018 meeting. Even among this outstanding, selfless crew, there are some standouts who deserve special mention. The aforementioned Laura Thomson McCarty, past-president Dixie Ray Haggard, and Kennesaw State's Rene Westlund all went above and beyond to help the GAH. The above and beyond of all was David "We have the \$\$" Parker, whose dry wit and check-writing skills are really something to behold. Thanks, everybody, and I'll see you next spring in Columbus (if not before)!

Matt J.

News of members

Well over a dozen GAH members participated in this year's National History Day—Georgia State Contest, held on April 21 at Mercer University. Many more participated in the earlier regional contests. Good job to all!

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2018



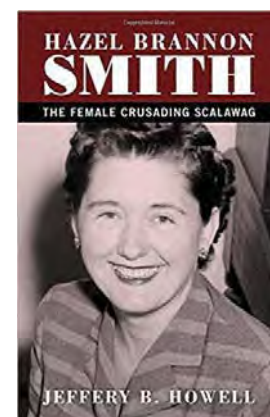
Lou Brackett	Alice Murphy
George Cressman	David Parker
Lisa Denmark	Katherine Perrotta
Leward L. Dunn	Kevin Shirley
Michael Gagnon	Joshua Van Lieu
Robert Good	Mary Waalkes
Dixie Ray Haggard	Arden Williams
Matt Jennings	William R. Wilson
Laura McCarty	

Robert S. Davis (Wallace State Community College) published an article on the Scopholite Loyalists marching to East Florida in 1778 in *The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Society*. His article on the military career of enslaved Revolutionary War hero Austin Dabney appeared in *Augusta Richmond County History*. Robert also wrote reviews for *The Journal of African American History*, *The Historian*, and *The New York Journal of Books*.

Ashton Ellett (University of Georgia) is Politics and Public Policy archivist at the Richard B. Russell Library. Last summer he defended his doctoral dissertation, “Recasting Conservatism: Georgia Republicans and the Transformation of Southern Politics since World War II” (2017, with Dr. James Cobb as major professor) and began a postdoctoral fellowship with the Russell Library directing the new Two-Party Georgia Oral History Project.

Michael Gagnon (Georgia Gwinnett College) wrote a pamphlet for Gwinnett County's Bicentennial Celebration, the vast majority of which was done using original primary research. The pamphlet can be downloaded from: <http://earlyushistory.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Gwinnett-County-A-Bicentennial-Celebration-2017.pdf> He also gave a public lecture, based on original research using the US Census, on slavery in Gwinnett County. It was recorded and available for viewing at <https://vimeo.com/235560124> (starting at the 8:30 mark). One of Michael's history students at GGC, James Thompson, presented a poster on his research on Conscription in Georgia in World War 1 at the GAH meeting in Macon. Michael chaired the meeting's poster session.

Jeff Howell (East Georgia State College) published *Hazel Brannon Smith: The Female Crusading Scalawag* (University Press of Mississippi, 2017). He took part in book signings—two for his book (one in his hometown of Durant, Mississippi, at the Howell and Heggie Drugstore, and one in Jackson at the Lemuria bookstore), and another for the authors of *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*. He also gave a talk on the Smith book for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson at the Old State Capitol. Jeff served on a panel on Civil Rights History in Mississippi at the Mississippi Book Festival. It was broadcast on C-Span. Finally, Jeff has two book reviews in the pipeline: one, of Jennifer Ritterhouse's *Discovering the South: One Man's Travels Through a Changing America in the 1930s*, will appear in *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*; another, of Carter Dalton Lyon's *Sanctuaries of Segregation: The Story of the Jackson Church Visit Campaign*, will be published in *The Journal of Southern History*.



Paul Hudson (Georgia State University Perimeter College) has a centennial essay in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* titled “Bringing the Quarterly into the Contemporary Era: The Formative Editorships of Thomas G. Dyer and John C. Inscoe, 1982-2000.” It was the final segment of a commemorative series on *GHQ* past editors. Paul notes that “many GAH colleagues know John Inscoe, and there’s an older generation that remembers Tom Dyer. I was privileged to write a memoir of these two fine editors of the *GHQ*.”

Matt Jennings (Middle Georgia State University) published *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes* (Mercer University Press, 2018, shown below with co-author Gordon Johnston).



Michael P. Morris (College of Coastal Georgia) is currently the Vice-President of the South Carolina Historical Association and recently became a Member-at-Large for the North Carolina Association of Historians.

David B. Parker (Kennesaw State University) wrote a chapter, “‘The Church Did Not Die’: Religion in Florida during the Civil War,” for *A Forgotten Front: Florida during the Civil War Era*. He also published several short pieces in *Time.com*, *History News Network*, *Like the Dew*, and elsewhere.

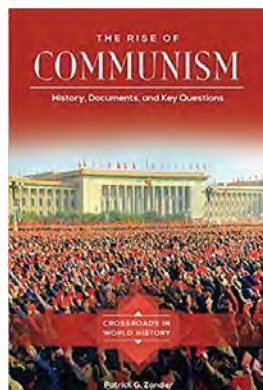
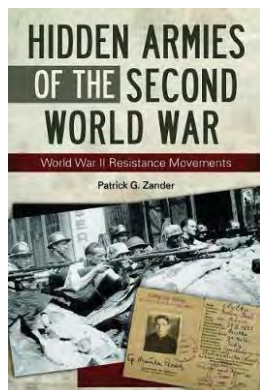
Brad Rice (emeritus, Clayton State University) is currently the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center. He also serves on Madison’s Historical Preservation Commission. Brad is currently researching the life and career of Joshua Hill, a unionist from Madison who served in Congress before the Civil War and in the Senate during Reconstruction.

Jeff L. Scott (Dade County High School) was selected to participate in the George Washington Advanced Placement Institute at Mount Vernon and the Immigration Seminar at Valley Forge this summer, and he will be presenting at the AP conference in Houston. He will also be doing the Project Citizen training in Birmingham as well as the We the People (also in Birmingham), which will explore the civil rights movement in places such as Montgomery and Selma. Jeff and his class were awarded one of five AP Day awards for the state of Georgia.

Patrizia Stahle (College of Coastal Georgia) has been promoted to Professor of History.

Joshua Van Lieu (LaGrange College) was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure in Fall 2017. Also in 2017, he published “The Tributary System and the Persistence of Late Victorian Knowledge” in *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*; presented “Korean Translations of Vietnam” at “Nation, Race, and Survival: Transnational Discourse and Activism in the Construction of the East Asian Modern,” a workshop at the University of Connecticut, Storrs; presented “Civilization Decentered: The Guanti Cult in Chosŏn-Ming Relations” at “Sinitic Beyond Chinese: Global Perspectives on the Early Modern to Modern Transition in the Pan-Asian Cosmopolis,” Leiden University; and presented “Modern East Asian History: Japan, China, and Korea” at a two-day workshop for the East Asian Seminar for Teachers at the University of Georgia. Earlier this year, Joshua presented “Sage Guan Emerges from The Pass: Negotiations of Civilization in the Chosŏn Guan Yu Cult” at the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies.

Patrick Zander (Georgia Gwinnett College) was promoted to Associate Professor in Fall 2017. He published *Hidden Armies of the Second World War: World War II Resistance Movements* (Praeger, 2017) and *The Rise of Communism: History, Documents, and Key Questions* (ABC-Clio, 2018). He also delivered the keynote address at the Center for War and Society at the University of Tennessee: “Fighting On after Defeat: An Analysis of European Resistance to Axis Occupation, 1939-1945.”



GAH Officers

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Matt Jennings (2018-2019)

Past President:

Dixie Ray Haggard (2018-2019)

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Glenn Robins (2018-2019)

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Patrizia Stahle (2017-2020)

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Bronson Long (2016-2019)

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Mary Waalkes (2017-2020)

Lisa Denmark (2018-2019)

Andrew Goss (2018-2021)

Tom Aiello (2018-2021)

Archivist:

David Owings

Journal Editor:

Mark Smith

Sharing Our Stories: An NEH-Funded Partnership between UGA’s Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and Putnam County Charter School System

This was the title of one of the sessions at the Macon meeting in February. We asked Christopher Lawton to talk about that project for the Newsletter.

One of America’s most complex literary landscapes is virtually unknown. Putnam County, Georgia, was home to Joel Chandler Harris (1845-1908) and the enslaved persons central to his *Uncle Remus* tales, as well as the birthplace of Alice Walker (b. 1944), who accused Harris of appropriating the heritage and folklore of her ancestors. Walker later fled Putnam, unable, she wrote, to bear the “pain of



racist oppression, and its consequence, economic impoverishment.”

The formal markers of Jim Crow that drove her away are gone. What remains are the people. People who fought for change and watched their community transform itself over the course of a human

lifetime. People with stories yet to tell. The Putnam County Charter

School System (PCCSS), the Georgia Virtual History Project (GVHP) and the University of Georgia Willson Center for the Humanities and Arts (WCHA) are engaged in a multi-year project that seeks to aid the larger community in telling these stories, both as context for, and document of, this crucial American cultural landscape.

PCCSS, WCHA, and GVHP are using this context to develop and implement a culturally-relevant model of social justice education that weaves the Putnam community into the county’s educational system. The immediate goal is to open a discussion of Putnam’s hard past between those who grew up there decades ago and the students who make up its future; the ultimate goal is to develop students’ critical awareness of who they are and where they come from, with the intention of empowering them to realize their potential in the world.

A 2017-18 NEH Community Heritage grant allowed Putnam teachers and nearly 100 high school students to work with multiple institutional and individual partners in Putnam County to digitize community-held documents and



photographs, record oral histories, and curate the results into a massive exhibition that blanketed

downtown Eatonton, Georgia, in December 2017. Putnam students shared some of the remarkable results of their work at the 2018 GAH conference in Macon, then in front of a much larger national audience at the 2018 conference of the National Council on Public History in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The NEH recently awarded the effort a second, much larger grant under the Humanities Access program. This multi-year grant will allow Putnam students and their larger community to work with the National Archives and Records Administration, bring in faculty and graduate students from the UGA's College of Education and Department of History to help embed the work into a new curriculum, and continue reshaping both public humanities and K-12 public education.



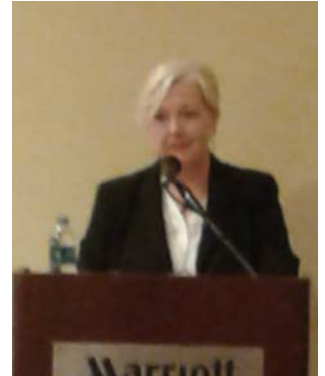
from Headquarters Gazette, the newsletter of the Society for Military History (<http://www.smh-hq.org/docs/HQG/GazetteSP18.pdf>)

The SMH supported a reception at the February 15-17, 2018, annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians at the Marriott Macon Center in Macon, Georgia. Working with GAH local arrangements coordinator and GAH president-elect Dr. Matthew Jennings of Middle Georgia State University, Dr. Bill Allison of Georgia Southern University and Dr. Glenn Robins of Southwestern Georgia State University applied for and received funds from the SMH Regional Coordinator program to support a reception following the keynote address of Dr. Karen Cox of UNC-Charlotte on Friday evening, February 16, at the Marriott. About 150 attended the keynote and reception. Allison and Robins also organized an SMH graduate student panel as part of the conference program. Titled "Georgia at Home in WWII and Vietnam." Panelists included Rick Ector, "Georgia's Civil Air Patrol in the Battle of the Atlantic," Alison Darby, "Divided Front: The Vietnam War at Home in Statesboro, Georgia," and Jessica Dirkson, "Savannah's Vietnam War." All are MA students at Georgia Southern University. Allison chaired while Robins provided comment. The SMH also had a table at the meeting, displaying copies of the Journal of Military History and membership pamphlets. Great success for the SMH!

Scenes from Macon

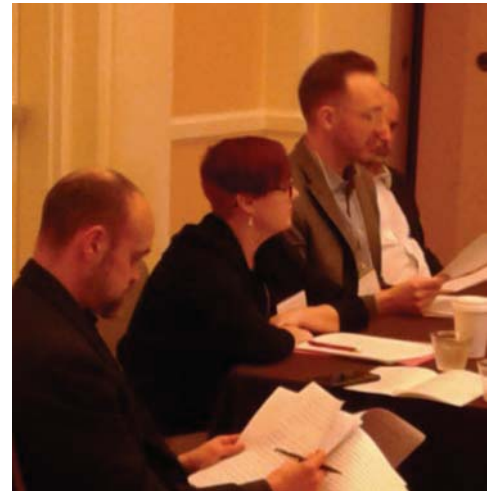


Jamil Zainaldin



Karen Cox

Jeff Burson, Jonathan Gentry,
Lashonda Slaughter-Wilson,
Steven Gill



Chris Nylund, Stephen Taylor, Chris Tsavatewa



Catherine Oglesby, Thomas Aiello,
Benjamin Vieth, Joshua Butler



Edward Hatfield





Chad Morgan, David Moon, Robert Davis



John Legg



Matt Jennings

We allowed the Newsletter of the GAH to lapse for a while. We are sorry, and we promise to do better.

The next issue will appear before the end of the 2018. Please send items for the Newsletter to dparker@kennesaw.edu