

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter



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Spring/Summer 2008

PRELIMINARY PLANS SET FOR 2009 MEETING

"Mining Historical Frontiers" is the theme for the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians. Tentatively set for February 27th-28th, 2009. We will meet at [North Georgia College & State University](#) in Dahlonega, Georgia. The Program Committee has set a deadline (also tentative) of: 15 September 2008 for proposals.

The call for papers, which is posted on the web page states:

"The Georgia Association of Historians invites panel and paper proposals from university faculty, graduate students, public historians, and independent scholars for its annual conference ...Papers and panels that address the theme, "Mining Historical Frontiers," are particularly encouraged. The GAH welcomes proposals from all areas and subfields of history, including US history, world history, public history, regional studies, and proposals focused on the teaching of history. Papers should require no longer than twenty minutes for presentation."

The Program Chair is Alice Pate, Columbus State University, pate_alice@colstate.edu. To propose a panel, please complete and return the [Panel Proposal Form](#) (available on our web site); to propose an individual paper, please complete and return the [Paper Proposal Form](#). ❖

Georgia Humanities Council Honors GAH Member

The Georgia Humanities Council announced that 2008 Governor's Awards in the Humanities honorees include long-time Georgia Association of Historians member Dr. **Lee Ann Caldwell**, of Georgia College and State University. She is a member of the current GAH Executive Board and has served in many positions, including President.

Other honorees include: Dr. Mary Alice Budge, Columbus; Mr. James Caldwell, Macon; Mr. Dale Couch, Decatur; Ms. Rosemary Daniell, Savannah; Senator George Hooks, Americus; Dr. Clifford Kuhn, Atlanta; Mr. Erick Montgomery, Augusta; Mrs. Sue Moye, Lumpkin; Cook County Historical Society, Adel; University of Georgia Press, Athens. The Awards will be presented at a luncheon at the Old Depot near Underground Atlanta on May 8.❖

Better late than never...

Due to circumstances beyond the control of your Newsletter staff, this Spring edition has been delayed. Look for another (and send us news for it!) in late Fall.❖

National Civil War Naval Museum

By Lou Brackett

The National Civil War Naval Museum is located in landlocked Columbus and miles away from any ocean. While this seems like a strange place for a naval museum, what many people forget is that Columbus sits on the Chattahoochee River, which is navigable from the Gulf of Mexico to Columbus. For this reason it played an active part in shipping and trading before, during, and after the Civil War.

The centerpiece of the museum is the CSS Jackson, a Civil War ironclad ship raised from the Chattahoochee in 1961. Massive is the only word to describe it – over 200 feet long – and constructed of heavy timbers. Visitors can walk around the hull of the ship on the lower level of the museum and view it from above on one of the upper levels.

The museum has a sizable collection of naval items including photos, uniforms, personal items, and parts of other vessels. There is also a wonderful collection of Civil War naval flags. While each flag in the collection is unique and interesting on its own, the best vantage point is from the balcony where visitors can view the whole collection. It is amazing that so many of these fragile pieces have been preserved and collected in one location.

One interesting perspective in the museum is the story of “powder monkeys.” These boys, some as young as thirteen, were responsible for bringing powder up to the guns on the ship during battle. An educational film tells the story of a river battle from one powder monkey’s perspective. The film makes the visitor feel like they are right there in the battle with noise and explosions all around.

The museum is easily accessible and there is ample parking available. Ramps run throughout the building for handicapped access. Serious museum visitors should plan to devote plenty of time since there is a lot to see and study. Information on ticket prices and hours can be found at <http://www.portcolumbus.org/>. ❖

Publications

William P. Head of the Warner Robins Office of History received the 2008 Air Force Materiel Command book award for *Shadow and Stinger: The Development and Deployment of the*



AC-119G/K Gunship, College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2007. The award automatically nominates the book for the 2008-2009 Air Force Award. He is currently working on a follow-up book on the AC-130. He also has published articles and entries in *Journal of American History*, *Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, *Encyclopedia of the Developing World*, *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, and the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. at War*. ❖

Hubert P Van Tuyll, Chair of the Department of History, Anthropology & Philosophy at Augusta State University co-authored with Jurgen Brauer, *Castles, Battles, & Bombs: How Economics Explains Military History* (University of Chicago Press). ❖

Andrew Manis, Associate Professor of History at Macon State College, recently published, "With and Without Honor: The Prophetic Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and American Response" in *The Cresset*, the Valparaiso University journal of history, literature, and the arts. Later this year, his book chapter "Civil Religion, National Identity, and the Eightfold Path," will appear in *The Columbia Guide to Religion in American History*. ❖

Reagan Grimsley recently authored *Enriching Lives: A Pictorial History of Columbus State University*. The 128 hardcover work explores the history of the school from its founding in 1958 as Columbus College through its 50th Anniversary year in 2008 using more than 180 black and white and color images. This work represents the first book length interpretation of the university's history. ❖

Publications (cont. from p. 2)

Larry Grubbs of Georgia State has an article: "'Workshop of a Continent': American Representations of Whiteness and Modernity in 1960s South Africa," coming in *Diplomatic History* 32:3 (June 2008). ❖

Chris Meyers, *The Empire State of the South: Georgia History in Documents and Essays* (Macon: Mercer University Press) will be due out later this month and should be available for Fall semester course adoption. He is on the faculty of Valdosta State University. ❖

Also from Valdosta: **Catherine Oglesby**, *Corra Harris and the Divided Mind of the New South* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida) and **David Williams**, *Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War* (New York: New Press). will be released this summer. ❖

Don't forget! The 2009 GAH Annual Meeting is tentatively set for February 27th-28th, 2009!

Mugleston Retires from Georgia Highlands

William F. Mugleston, Professor of History at Georgia Highlands, will retire at the end of July. He earned his B.A. at Johns Hopkins University; M.A. from the University of Virginia, and Ph.D. from University of Georgia. He is the co-author, with Gregory C. Lisby, of *Someone Had To Be Hated: Julian Larose Harris: A Biography*, which was cited as the best book published in journalism history or media history for 2002 by the American Journalism Historians Association. He also was a compiler, with Kenneth G. Alfors and Larry Pool, of *America's Second Century: Readings in United States History since 1877* (1993) and *America's Second Century: Topical Readings, 1865-present* (1984). ❖

On the Career Path

William P. Head of the Warner Robins Office of History has just concluded his term as President of the Association of Asian Studies, SEC. ❖



Andrew Manis, Macon State College, has been promoted to Associate Professor of History. He also has recently been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the spring 2009 semester. He will teach in the American Culture and Literature department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and begin research for a book of Greek Orthodox Immigrants in the Bible Belt. ❖

Gordon College awarded **Gail Pat Parsons** tenure in 2007. ❖

Kim Morgan of Oak Grove Elementary, Fayette County, has been accepted into the *Teaching American History* grant, "Expanding Frontiers." This is a joint collaboration with Fayette, Cobb, and Henry County Schools. Morgan was also selected by *The Georgia Council for Economic Education* as a reviewer for their recent publication *United States Economic History* and will be helping Ft. King George in Darien, GA. to revise their guide for classroom use. ❖

Lee Formwalt has been serving as a consultant on the new Albany Civil Rights Movement Museum's permanent exhibition. The new museum will open later this year. ❖

Melissa Stock received the 2007 James C. Bonner Master's Thesis Award, which is awarded annually by the Georgia Historical Society and the Center for Georgia Studies at Georgia College & State University for the best master's thesis on any period, region, or field of Georgia history. An article based on her thesis research, "Sovereign and Suzerain: Alexander McGillivray's Argument for Creek Sovereignty after the Treaty of Paris 1783," will appear in the Summer 2008 edition of the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*. ❖

Vernon Burton Returns to the South

By Mary G. Rolinson

The GAH was honored by having newly appointed Burroughs Distinguished Professor of Southern History and Culture at Coastal Carolina University come to our meeting in Fort Valley as our evening plenary speaker. After many years at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Royston, Georgia/Ninety-Six, S.C. native succeeds Charles Joiner who has recently retired from CCU.

Professor Burton is the author of ten books, the most recent of which is *The Age of Lincoln* (Hill and Wang, 2007). He argues in this sweeping study of the second half of the nineteenth century that Lincoln revolutionized the meaning of freedom and elevated the U.S. Constitution to have new meanings. Although dealing primarily with the period after Lincoln's death, Burton explained that Lincoln was not the only central figure in this process, but the "fulcrum" in shaping the character of the nation and the fate of African Americans during and after the Civil War.

Among his interesting insights was the observation that splitting the U.S. survey course between the Civil War and Reconstruction makes U.S. history inscrutable. He sees the nineteenth century holistically as a time of "millennial expectations" and a testing ground for Americans' deep religious convictions. At stake during the Age of Lincoln was nothing less than the rule of law, and many southerners were willing to virtually continue the Civil War in their efforts to preserve white supremacy.

Lee Ann Caldwell arranged for Professor Burton's appearance at the plenary session. ❖

Presentations

Dr. Marianne Holdzkom, now an assistant professor of history at Southern Polytechnic State University presented "Culture Clash: English-Native American Contact According to Disney" at the Southwest/Texas regional meeting of the Popular Culture/American Culture Associations. She also presented "Disney's Liberty Story: The American Revolution on Main Street U.S.A." at the National Meeting of the Popular Culture/American Culture Associations. ❖

Jeffery Wells presented a paper to the Florida Conference of Historians entitled "Bush at Last: Paul Coverdell and the 1988 Presidential Campaign" at their 2008 conference in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. He also was named Faculty Member of the Quarter at the Georgia Military College-Atlanta Campus for Winter 2008. ❖

Monica Hunt, an instructor at Armstrong Atlanta State University and Georgia Southern University presented a lecture series "Nine Dates That Shaped The Modern World" to The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc., in Savannah.

Hunt also presented a paper, "Longshoremen as a Prototype for Organized Labor: Irish Migrants and the Workingmen's Benevolent Society of Savannah," at the American Conference for Irish Studies in Savannah. ❖

Member Comment

My wife Caryl and I enjoyed the GAH meeting in Fort Valley. My one criticism would be that session chairs did not always limit presentations to 20-25 minutes so that there would be time for questions from the audience. In a session I attended, one presenter's remarks begged for discussion for which there was no time. As I recall from GAH meetings of yore, instructions went out to panelists to limit their remarks to a given time period when they were notified that their proposal had been accepted. Discussions of panelists remarks are instructive and enjoyable.

--Craig Lloyd, emeritus Columbus State University ❖

We welcome statements of reader opinion on any matter of specific interest to our membership. Send them to kathrynkemp@clayton.edu

Two Historians Retire from Clayton State

Professor **Gene Hatfield**, Head of the Department of Social Sciences, and Professor **Robert Welborn**, Director of International Education and Professor of History at Clayton State University are retiring this year.

Hatfield's retirement the end of June will conclude more than three decades of service to Clayton State University. He has been active in a number of history-related civic interests, including the Friends of the Georgia Archives, the Georgia Civil War commission, the board of Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History, and the Atlanta Regional Commission. He was twice a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. A long-time member of the Georgia Association of Historians, he is our current President.

Welborn will officially retire from the University System on August 31, 2008. He had taught in secondary school before he came to Clayton Junior College in September 1973, and will be completing 35 years of service at what is now Clayton State University. He joined the GAH in the 1973-74 term, and has served on several committees over the years. He also has given a number of presentations at GAH meetings, the latest one being a meeting at Columbus in 2005. For many years he has conducted a popular Study Abroad session in Italy. Welborn says of his 37 years of teaching experience, "You would think I would know what I'm doing after that amount of time, but I am still learning how to teach." ❖

Civil Rights Digital Library

The Civil Rights Digital Library (CRDL) delivers comprehensive educational content on the Civil Rights Movement via the Web. It contains three principal components: 1) a digital video archive delivering 30 hours of historical news film allowing learners to be nearly eyewitnesses to key events of the Civil Rights Movement, 2) a civil rights portal providing a seamless virtual library on the Movement by aggregating metadata from more than 75 libraries and allied organizations from across the nation, and 3) instructional materials to facilitate the use of the video content in the learning process.

The centerpiece of the site is a collection of more than 30 hours of historical news film held by the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia Libraries covering a broad range of key civil rights events, with video footage of both national figures and local leaders. It includes more than two hours of film related to Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King's role in the Albany Movement. Also among the clips is coverage of King's reaction to President Kennedy's assassination in 1963, his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and his funeral in 1968.

In addition to the news film, the digital library includes related collections from 75 libraries, archives, and museums across the nation. Most are original documentation of the period, such as oral histories, letters, diaries, FBI files, and photographs. The CRDL works in partnership with the online *New Georgia Encyclopedia* to provide articles on events and individuals associated with the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia, supplemented by images and multi-media files.

The CRDL in conjunction with University of Georgia faculty and students, and scholars from other institutions is developing a special site for teachers, called "Freedom on Film." The Civil Rights Digital Library receives financial support from a National Leadership Grant for Libraries awarded to the University of Georgia by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services. Visit the Civil Rights Digital Library: <http://crdl.usg.edu>. ❖

Luncheon Honors Gary Fink

By Christine Lutz

The GAH honored Gary Fink at its annual luncheon in a packed meeting room. Several of Fink's colleagues and former students were present, to pay tribute to the author of Prelude to the Presidency: The Political Character and Legislative Leadership Style of Governor Jimmy Carter. Despite the political character of his most recent work, Fink is best known as a labor historian, the author or editor of such standard references as the prize-winning Biographical Dictionary of American Labor and Labor Unions. With Merl Reed, Fink initiated the Southern Labor Studies Conference.

GAH members best remember Fink's devotion to the state organization. His former students honored him for his distinctive, often provocative teaching. At the luncheon, Mary Fink read her husband's speech, which was an acknowledgement of the honor; a recollection of amusing incidents from his career, particularly as chairman of the Department of History of Georgia State University; and an expression of hopes for future study. Surprisingly, the speech also was a musing on "roads not taken." Fink, who is confined to a disability vehicle, then answered questions from the audience. ❖



I didn't know that!

When we grade papers, we discover interesting, little known information such as:

"The Watergate burglars were trying to steal office supplies."

"Nazis were characterized by their 'rabbit nationalism.'"

"...one day [Buddha] meditated at a large tree...a flashlight appeared in his head and then he understood everything." ❖

(If you have any nuggets of wisdom to share, send them in!)