

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter



VOLUME XXVII

Summer/Fall 2006

Mark your calendars....
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS
35th ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 5-7
GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

From the GAH president

The 2006-2007 academic year promises to be an exciting one for the GAH. The Executive Board is moving forward on many important issues for the organization. One of the most ambitious initiatives will be the pilot project that the Board approved at its Fall meeting to establish an institutional home for the organization at Clayton State University. Since the website and the experts who maintain it are already located there, it was the logical choice to establish a central location to receive and disseminate information about the GAH. The text of a formal proposal to make this pilot program permanent will be in the January newsletter, and we will vote on that proposal at the annual meeting in April.

Our annual meeting this year will be held at Georgia College and State University April 5--7. Local Arrangements Chair, Lee Ann Caldwell, is planning events that will make the trip to Milledgeville well worth your while. In addition to the usual interesting and informative sessions on the program, eminent historian, James McPherson, will be speaking on Thursday night. He will be signing books at 5:30 p.m. and speaking at 7. On Friday evening, Arnita Jones, Executive Director of the American Historical Association, will speak on the state of the profession. On Saturday afternoon there will be tours to places of historical interest in and around Milledgeville. The GAH will be reserving a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express at \$65 per night. More information about the annual meeting and the call for papers will be on our website.

The Journal of the GAH will publish its 2005—2006 issue soon and I remind you that editors Fred van Hartesveldt and Lee Ann Caldwell are always looking for articles to publish in the GAH's journal. Please keep them in mind when you are considering where to submit your research.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Milledgeville in April. ❖

Congratulations...

by Russell K. Brown

This fall the Augusta-Richmond County Historical Society observes its sixtieth birthday. Organized in September 1946 by a small group of history-conscious local citizens as the Richmond County Historical Society, the name was changed to its current style in 1999 to better reflect the group's focus and ARCHS was re-chartered under the new name in 2000. This year's diamond anniversary will be recognized with a printed retrospective of the past ten years' accomplishments in Augusta Richmond County History, the society's journal. The journal was founded in 1969 and is now in its 38th year of publication. ❖

Museum Review

By Lou Brackett

Visiting the CSS *H.L. Hunley*

One of the highlights of any trip to Charleston, S.C., is a visit to the CSS *H.L. Hunley*, the long missing Civil War submarine that was finally discovered on the Charleston harbor floor in 1995 after 136 years. The *Hunley* was raised in 2000 and taken into a protective environment for conservation, excavation and study.



The *Hunley* sank the Union *Housatonic* with a torpedo attached to a long spar in Charleston's harbor in 1864, signaled to shore, and then disappeared. The sinking of the *Housatonic* marked the first successful submarine attack in history. There were eight men on board at the time of the disappearance, members of the third crew of this ill-fated ship that had already claimed the lives of its two previous crews including its designer, Horace Hunley. With the exception of the commander, Lt. George Dixon, records about this third crew were sketchy.

The *Hunley* is presently housed at the Warren L. Lasch Conservation Center just north of Charleston in an industrial setting. The main room of the museum has excellent exhibits on the history of the *Hunley* and submarine warfare in general. There is also an eerie reconstruction of the faces of the ill-fated third crew along with what little background information that has been gathered about them. You move from this main room to another room in groups of 20 or so at a time, accompanied by a docent.

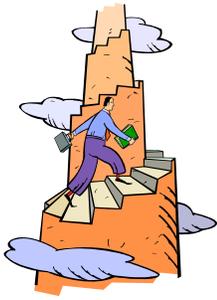
It is clear when you pass from the main room to the room where the *Hunley* actually rests that you are passing into a working laboratory. The *Hunley* sits in a pool of constantly circulating, temperature controlled water that will over the period of about five years leach the salt out of the fragile metal and prevent corrosion. After climbing the stairs to the viewing platform above the tank, I was awestruck by the smallness of the submarine. It rests on its side in the pool in the same orientation that it had on the ocean floor and looks more like a small rail tank car than anything seaworthy. The small size is driven home when the docents hold up an 18" circle that represents the size of the *Hunley's* hatch and the entry/exit point for the crew. Another exhibit in this room is a full size drawing made from a digitally mapped image of the sub from several angles. The final exhibit, under constant guard, is the ring and the gold coin that Lt. Dixon had on his person when the sub went down.

After viewing the *Hunley*, I realized that the eight-man crew had to be either incredibly brave or terribly foolish to volunteer for this duty, and it is clear that the museum staff and docents who work in the museum believe the former. They all treat the *Hunley*, its artifacts, and crew with respect reserved for military casualties. The human remains of the crew were interred with full military honors in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, the same resting place for the previous two crews.

Information: Reservations are strongly recommended, as only about 20 are allowed onto the viewing platform at one time. Tours are held **only** on weekends. Check <http://www.hunley.org/> for information and tour reservations. ❖

Photo Credit: <http://www.hunley.org/>

Promotions and honors...



Hubert van Tuyl is now department chair of the **Department of History, Anthropology, & Philosophy Augusta State University.** ❖

Laura Musselwhite was promoted to **Full**

Professor at Georgia Highlands College in Rome and named the college's **Reaffirmation Director in 2005.** ❖

Lisa L. Denmark has been hired as **Assistant Professor of History, Georgia Southern University (Statesboro).** She also serves as **Assistant Advisor to their Phi Alpha Theta chapter.** ❖

Virginia Causey of **Columbus State** is program director this year for "Red Clay, White Water, and Blues: Programs on the History of Columbus." Funded by a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council, monthly programs and field trips focus on various aspects of the history of Columbus GA and the Chattahoochee Valley. ❖

A university-wide committee at **Columbus State University (Columbus)** selected **Reagan L. Grimsley** to receive the **Faculty Research and Scholarship**



Award at the university's Scholastic Honor's Convocation in March, 2006. An Assistant Professor, Grimsley has published the pictorial work *Hattiesburg in Vintage Postcards*, and is preparing a pictorial history of Columbus State. He has published articles in *The Primary Source: A Publication of the Society of Mississippi Archivists*, *The Journal of South Georgia History*, and the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, as well as numerous book reviews. He currently serves as Archivist for the Georgia Association of Historians. ❖

A Better IDEA

By Jamil Zainaldin

The Internet and Digital Encyclopedia Alliance (IDEA), a national coalition of the founders and developers of online encyclopedias was organized at the national meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Phoenix in 2006.

IDEA's founders hope to facilitate information sharing among those now involved in online projects, and also to offer technical information and practical experience to those planning new digital encyclopedia projects. IDEA also seeks to set standards or guidelines so that in the future digital encyclopedia initiatives will be linked or "interoperable." This would permit a user to search all linked encyclopedias simultaneously. IDEA leaders point out that all of the encyclopedias in the alliance have one thing in common: they are on the World Wide Web and available at no charge. As the alliance's projects become reality, a user looking up a topic such as "Civil Rights Movement" on the Web would find search results from all "linked" online encyclopedias. This could transform the power and credibility of the Web in delivering reliable content. They point out that content is key. While Wikipedia has its place, its problems and challenges are many from the standpoint of historians and their students. IDEA hopes to encourage and support the development of digital projects that reflect the expertise and nuance of professional historians

Workshops at the AASLH meeting included representatives from the *Handbook of Texas*, first published as a multi-volume book that later was rendered into digital format for the Web. Also present were the founders of the Washington state encyclopedia, existing exclusively on the Web; the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, another exclusively Web-based encyclopedia, and the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, published originally as a book and repurposed for the World Wide Web. ❖

Publications

Lisa L. Denmark 's "'At the Midnight Hour': Economic Dilemmas and Harsh Realities in Post-Civil War Savannah," appears in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* for Fall, 2006.

Barbara Fertig has completed a new Tour Guide Training Manual for the City of Savannah. She says, "The city office of tourism is pleased, and we will hope that Savannah's heritage gets better interpretations from our licensed guides in the future."

"The Dictograph Hears All" an article on the early history of clandestine listening devices (bugs) by **Kathryn Kemp** (Clayton State University) will appear in 2007, in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*.

Mary G. Rolinson's *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 1920-1927* has been selected for the John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture of University of North Carolina Press, available in January 2007. Rolinson is a visiting lecturer at **Georgia State University**.

James J. Lorence will publish a full biography of Don West, probably in 2007 (Illinois)." He also has an upcoming article on unemployed organizing in Atlanta in the early thirties, as well as a piece on the workers of Chocopee, GA, where Johnson and Johnson operated a textile mill. The latter will appear in GHQ in late 2007.

Will Simson will present a paper at the North American Labor History Conference, Wayne State, MI "Getting the Reds out of the Old Red Scar: Organized Labor in the East Tennessee Copper Basin, from the Great War Era till the Second World War." (The "Old Red Scar" is another name for the Copper Basin.) In the summer he attended an NEH institute, at the Ohio Historical Society, "Mounds, Earthworks, and the Pre-History of the Ohio Valley," in Columbus, OH.

Michael Morris of **Dalton State** is organizing *Born of Women: Portraits of Native American Women, 1607-1915*, soon to be published by the University of Tennessee Press. He also has recently written an article on Indian Policy in Jacksonian America for the ABC-CLIO project.

Laura Musselwhite has a forthcoming book review of G.W. Bernard's *The King's Reformation* in *Renaissance Quarterly*.

Notice: Please let us know when you publish, so that we can share the information with our GAH colleagues. Email your news to kathrynkemp@clayton.edu. ❖

Comings and Goings

New at **Fort Valley State University**: **Dawn J. Herd-Clark**, a specialist in African American history with a Ph.D. from Florida State University. Her dissertation was entitled "The Role of the American Missionary Association in Liberty County Georgia, 1867-1950." She came to FVSU from Fayetteville State University and has published in *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and *The Encyclopedia of Minorities in American Politics* (Oryx Press, 1999).

James J. Lorence retired on Dec. 31, 2005 from his position as **Eminent Scholar of History at Gainesville State College** and has returned to Wisconsin, where he is **Professor of History, Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County**. He tells us, "I remain interested in Georgia history and recently published an article in GHQ on Don West. I'll publish a full biography of West, probably in 2007 (Illinois)." He also has an upcoming article on unemployed organizing in Atlanta in the early thirties, as well as a piece on the workers of Chocopee, GA, where Johnson and Johnson operated a textile mill. The latter will appear in GHQ in late 2007.❖

Teaching Matters Conference Call for Proposals

Dr. Jason Horn has issued the following call for proposals for a conference on “Teaching Matters” at Gordon College (Barnesville):
With a world of distractions vying for attention, we rarely wholeheartedly give it. Students and teachers often find themselves physically present but mentally absent from classrooms. Becoming mindful of the present moment and the work at hand is key, then; but being aware of the present moment—or text—before us may be difficult.

Presentations may address ways in which we pay attention to students or attempt to hold their attention. Participants can discuss traditional means of focusing on classroom moments, which might include close reading, analytical study, or observation techniques whether in the arts or sciences. They might also cover the technology available for centering student thought. Or presenters might discuss the ways in which we attend to the realities of students in efforts to not only care for them but to know just when and what they are understanding at any given moment.

Send short paragraph proposals to Dr. Jason Horn, Humanities Division, Gordon College, Barnesville, GA 30204 by December 15, 2006.

You can also email Dr. Horn at J_horn@gdn.edu or check for the official “Call” at Gordon’s website: www.gdn.edu <http://www.gdn.edu/>. ❖

Hollywood Reads History

“Eugene Bullard,” a character in the recently released “Flyboys,” a film about American volunteer-aviators flying for France in WWI, corresponds to an actual person. British actor Abdul Salis, who portrayed Bullard, said in a recent interview with Brad Barnes of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, that he used GAH

member Craig Lloyd’s book *Eugene Bullard, Black Expatriate in Jazz-Age Paris* (University of Georgia Press, 2nd Edition, 2006) to prepare himself for the part. ❖

GHRAB 2006 Award Recipients

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) presented the following awards for outstanding activity related to archives in Georgia in the year 2006:

AWARD FOR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Rep. Bill Cummings, member of the Georgia General Assembly since 1981.

AWARDS FOR ADVOCACY

Brenda S. Banks, chief archivist for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project and Project Manager for SOLINET’s Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project.

Georgia Archives Week Planning Committee, a group of a dozen volunteers who coordinate Georgia Archives Week.

Walter H. Hopkins, a sponsor of Georgia Archives Week since 2001.

Marshall W. Williams, volunteer archivist at the Morgan County Archives.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the official regional planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta region, home to nearly four million people.

The Columbus State University Archives was established in 1975 to serve as a repository for records documenting the history of the University and the greater Columbus region.

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT (cont.)**

Forsyth County Board of Education developed a new process for the retention of student records, business records, and the process of student registration.

Georgia Southwestern State University, in 2005, created the Southwest Georgia Oral History Center.

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN DOCUMENTING GEORGIA'S
HISTORY**

Foxfire Fund, Inc.--For 40 years, students in Rabun County have been conducting an oral history project entitled, *The Foxfire Magazine*.

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society published *Reflections on Mountain Heritage* to relate times past and the methods practiced on the North Georgia mountain homestead where everything had a purpose and nothing was wasted

**AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
IN RESEARCH USING THE HOLDINGS
OF AN ARCHIVES**

Staci Catron-Sullivan and Susan Neill produced *Women in Atlanta* as a photographic record to show the true diversity, complexity, and richness of Southern women's lives.

Ouida Word Dickey co-authored *Berry College A History*. Her contribution to the work was extensive research, serving as the editing liaison, and selecting the photographs for the book.

John J. Fox, III, a native of Virginia, wrote *Red Clay to Richmond: Trail of the 35th Georgia Infantry Regiment, C.S.A.*

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE EDUCATIONAL USE OF
HISTORICAL RECORDS**

The Georgia Historical Society produced *Three Centuries of Georgia History*, an on-line educational exhibit containing more than 100 historic documents and artifacts from its collections.

"Linking American History: Past to Present" was a program of Henry, Fayette, and Cobb county school districts, funded by an approximately \$1,000,000 grant from the United States Department of Education under their Teaching American History Grant Program. The grant served 65 teachers.

Cathy E. Loving, archivist at Atlanta Public Schools Archives and Museum, has made valuable contributions by helping students use primary sources in their classes. 1.

**AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT RESEARCH USING
HISTORICAL RECORDS
UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL**

Russell Wall wrote "Lucius Q. C. Lamar: Triumph, Tragedy, and the Truth" as his senior thesis at Georgia College and State University.

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT RESEARCH USING
HISTORICAL RECORDS
GRADES 9-12**

Abigail Derr prepared an outstanding National History Day in Georgia exhibit is titled "Highlander Folk School: Teaching Others to Take a Stand."

Susanna S. O'Kula wrote "Unraveling the Mysteries of the Irish Travelers" as her senior speech at the Augusta Preparatory Day School in fall 2005; her paper discusses the history, culture, family life, religion, and occupations of this unique community. ❖