

THE VOICE

of the Friends of the Georgia Archives



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February 2014

Changing of the guard . . .

A note from outgoing President Dianne Cannestra

We had an exceptional Annual Meeting September 28th and received great positive feedback. Everyone loved having a brief business meeting, the brunch was wonderful (thanks to Trustee Dee Thompson for all her hard work), and Granville Automatic's performance was fantastic. If you were in attendance, you heard that my term as President expired at the end of December, and we elected new officers at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees. Tim Crimmins served as Vice-President/President elect during my term. As provided in the FOGAH bylaws, he was elected by the Board to serve as president beginning in January. Our organization will be in excellent hands under his leadership.

The other officers elected at the November 2013 board meeting include Vice President/President Elect Beverly Allen, Secretary Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Treasurer Grant Wainscott.

I could never thank all of you enough for your support. Hope to see you in 2014 at the Annual Meeting.

Dianne Cannestra



*Tim
Crimmins,
incoming
FOGAH
President*



Lunch & Learn at the Georgia Archives

This monthly series is a great program to help the public and Archives patrons learn more about Georgia's rich history. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics on the second Friday of each month from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Visitors are welcomed to bring a lunch to eat during the program. Lunch & Learn is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. The March 14 presentation is entitled *On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World*, by Paul Pressley, author of the book by the same name. On April 11, Matt McDaniel will discuss his book, *Emigration to Liberia from the Chattahoochee Valley of Georgia and Alabama, 1853-1903*. Check the Georgia Archives website for future topics and speakers (www.georgiaarchives.org).

Update by the President

We are seeing additional benefits from the transfer of the Georgia Archives to the Board of Regents. Governor Nathan Deal recommended in the budget that he sent to the General Assembly an increase in funding to allow the Archives to be open five days a week. His recommendation is now being considered by the members of the legislature. Assuming that this item in the governor’s budget is approved, the Archives will be open from Tuesday through Saturday sometime later this year. Special thanks to Dianne Cannestra, whose term as President and member of the FOGAH board has ended. Her leadership has been critical in efforts to restore funding to the Archives.

I had the honor of presenting plaques on behalf of FOGAH to Senator Jack Hill and Representative Terry England, chairs of the legislative appropriations committees, for their support of the Georgia Archives.



Timothy Crimmins with Senator Jack Hill, (R), District 4.



Timothy Crimmins with Representative Terry England, (R), District 116.



THE VOICE of Friends of the Georgia Archives

The Voice is published quarterly by the Friends of the Georgia Archives. Questions and comments should be directed by mail to FOGAH, P. O. Box 711, Morrow, GA 30260 or by e-mail to friendsofgeorgiaarchives@yahoo.com.

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Welcome new FOGAH Board members



Dr. LeeAnn Lands—Dr. Lands is Associate Professor of History and American studies in the Department of History & Philosophy at Kennesaw State University, with degrees from The University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University, and a Ph.D., from the School of History, Technology, and Society at Georgia Tech. Her research and teaching interests are 20th century U.S. urban history and urban geography, particularly housing and anti-poverty movements and housing segregation. She is an award-winning author and scholar. Recent honors include the KSU Foundation Distinguished Service Award (for 2011) and the KSU Foundation Prize for Publication (2010) for her book *The Culture of Property: Race, Class and Housing Landscapes in Atlanta, 1880-1950*. She is a member of several professional organizations including the Association of American Geographers. She resides in Atlanta, and was elected for a three-year term on the FOGAH Board.

Dr. David B. Parker—Dr. Parker is Professor of History and Assistant Chair, in the Department of History & Philosophy at Kennesaw State University. He is a native of North Carolina with degrees from Duke University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

He is a prolific author and speaker whose most recent book is *Breaking the Heartland: The Civil War in Georgia*, a book of essays co-edited with John Fowler and published by Mercer University Press. He has also written on the carpet industry, evangelist Sam Jones, Rebecca Felton, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Bill Arp, among other interesting topics.

Dr. Parker resides in Acworth. He was elected for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.



Sarah Quigley—Ms. Quigley is a Certified Archivist who currently works as a Manuscript Archivist at Emory University in Atlanta. Her degrees from the University of Texas at Austin are in Information Studies and History with a Minor in American Studies. She holds membership in the Academy of Certified Archivists, The Society of American Archivists and the Society of Georgia Archivists. She recently co-curated the exhibition “And the Struggle Continues: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Fight for Social Justice” at the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University. She is a frequent presenter and author of a number of publications, including a forthcoming article in *Provenance* entitled “Evolving Advocacy: The Society of Georgia Archivists and the Georgia Archives Budget Crisis.” She resides in Decatur and was elected for a three-year term as a Trustee.

John Sheftall—A native of Macon, GA, Mr. Sheftall received his B.A. in History from the University of Georgia and his M.A. and J.D from the University of Virginia. He is a partner at the Columbus, GA, law firm of Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis & Rothschild, with a focus on estate planning, estate administration and fiduciary litigation. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel and has served on the boards of Sun Trust Bank, West Georgia and St. Francis Hospital Foundation.

Mr. Sheftall’s avocation is history, and he has been involved in leadership positions in a number of organizations promoting historic preservation, including the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, and Historic Columbus Foundation. He is the author of several books and a number of articles on Georgia history.

He and his children are the seventh and eighth generations to live at their ancestral home, The Cedars. He was elected for a three-year term.



Welcome Friends

The Friends of Georgia Archives and History welcomes new and renewing members from August 1, 2013 through February 10, 2014.

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Give this edition of *The Voice* to someone you know who might be interested in supporting the Georgia Archives.

Invite a friend to become a FOGAH member!

Thank You For Your Donations!

FOGAH has received donations from the following individuals and organizations since August 1, 2013.

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 Edward & Jane Powers Weldon

FOGAH 2013 Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting was a resounding success. Members had a chance to visit with each other and welcome new members, everyone feasted on the great food, and the guest appearance by Granville Automatic was entertaining and inspiring. After business and food was taken care of, it was time to sit back and listen to the singing and story-telling duo of Vanessa Olivarez and Elizabeth Elkins. They combine their talents to create a quiet and lyrical sound devoted to telling stories from the past. The name "Granville Automatic" comes from a 19th century typewriter, and their shared love of history, war and storytelling "captures the timeless spirit and character of the South." Their performance is unique and of particular interest to history buffs, genealogists, and anyone who enjoys ballads. Vanessa and Elizabeth said they were excited to share their songs in the Georgia Archives building, a place so full of important documents and material connected to the history and heritage of Georgia.

During the membership meeting, outgoing President Dianne Cannestra recognized Dee Thompson for the wonderful planning and preparation of the food, not only for the membership meeting, but other events as well. She also recognized Tanner & Associates for their consulting and efforts to ensure that the issues surrounding the Georgia Archives was presented to and kept before members of the Georgia General Assembly.

Announcements were made about several awards presented to FOGAH during 2013 in recognition of working to promote issues facing the Georgia Archives, and organizing the archival, historic and genealogy communities to take action and be heard by state leaders. Awards came from the Georgia Historic Records Council, the Society of American Archivists and The Federation of Genealogical Societies.

The following retiring board members were recognized for their time and work on the FOGAH Board of Trustees: Brenda Banks, Bonnie Dubberly, Maggie Ehrlich, Sarah Rondeau, and Jamil Zainalden.



Elizabeth Elkins and Vanessa Olivarez of Granville Automatic

Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day

The first annual Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day was held at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA on October 19, 2013. Attendees were treated to a variety of genealogy and archives-related topics.

Speakers who were sponsored by several organizations included:

Susan Sloan, *Order in the Court: Genealogy at the Courthouse*, sponsored by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc., Metro Atlanta Chapter;

Joanne Smalley, *Georgia's Property Tax Digest and the Genealogist*, sponsored by the Georgia Genealogical Society;

Ann Frelsen, whose topic was *Preservation of Documents*, sponsored by the Southeast Regional Conservation Association;

Vivian Saffold, *Taylor Grants: Transcribe Records—Make Money*, sponsored the the R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation;

Courtney Chartier and Carol Waggoner-Angleton, sponsored by the Society of Georgia Archivists, discussed *Current Events, Future Archives: The Role of SGA and GAM in Raising Awareness of Archives in Georgia*.

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., presented *Changes in Genealogy Help Us Find the Same Old Ancestors*, sponsored by Friends of Georgia Archives & History.

Archives Director Chris Davidson plans to make this an annual event for the future, and was pleased with the turnout for 2013. The purpose of Genealogy Day is to provide educational and informational programs, and to raise awareness about the wealth of resources available at the Georgia Archives.

The number of attendees, as well as sponsoring organizations, was a clear indication of the interest from Archives patrons, researchers, historians and archivists.

Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day is held in October to coincide with Genealogy Month in Georgia. Watch for the announcement of the date for 2014 so you can put it on your calendar early. Given the success of the 2013 event, we can all look forward to a great programs in the future.



Ken Thomas was pleased to see 77 attendees for his talk at Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day 2013.



Georgia Archives Month 2013

Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation declaring October as Georgia Archives Month. Included among those on hand for the signing were several staff members of the Georgia Archives, FOGAH members, and individuals from other organizations in support of the Archives.

Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council 2013 Awards Program

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) was originally created in 1993 by the General Assembly as the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. The Council has 12 members appointed by the Governor and represents educators, historical organizations, professional organizations, and citizens.

GHRAC works to ensure that Georgians are made aware of historical records statewide, enhances the preservation and care of these records, and strives to improve public access to the records.

In an effort to promote the educational and historic use of Georgia's documentary heritage, GHRAC sponsors an annual program which recognizes outstanding efforts in archives and records work. Awards are presented in various categories such as historical research, use of archives, documenting Georgia's history, legislative work, and advocacy. Winners are recognized at the awards program held at the Georgia Archives each year.

During the October 2013 program, an award for Advocacy was presented to FOGAH and the Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives. In recent years Georgians were faced with the possibility that our state Archives might be closed to the public. FOGAH and the Coalition, an ad hoc partnership of individuals and organizations who came together to support and advocate for the Archives, emerged to organize, energize and enlist thousands of professionals and lay citizens who rose up in protest.

The groups experienced their first success when Governor Deal announced emergency funding to keep the Archives open two days per week, as well as his intention to seek legislative approval to transfer the Archives to the University System of Georgia. FOGAH contracted with a consulting firm to direct efforts of supporters of the Archives. Thousands of supporters contacted their state representatives and senators, as well as a number of media outlets.

On May 6, 2013, members of

FOGAH and the Coalition, along with representatives of several partner organizations, were present when Governor Deal signed into law HB 287 (Act 184) which transferred the Georgia Archives to the University System of Georgia.

The award was presented by Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, University System of Georgia. Dianne Cannestra and Tim Crimmins accepted the award on behalf of FOGAH, and Kaye Minchew accepted on behalf of the Coalition.

Two of the award categories include Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9-12 and Grades 6-8. These are the youngest award winners in the program. FOGAH recognized these middle and high school students with a cash award of \$100.00 each. The 2013 winners are high school student Christine Yin and middle school student Nathan Wright, pictured below accepting their award from GHRAC and cash prize from FOGAH.



Award for Advocacy presented to FOGAH and the Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives. Left to right: Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, University System of Georgia, Kaye Minchew, representing the Coalition, and Dianne Cannestra and Tim Crimmins representing FOGAH.

Award for student research using historical records—grades 9-12. Left to right: Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, University System of Georgia, Dianne Cannestra, FOGAH President, award winner Christine Yin, Kaye Minchew, GHRAC Chairperson.



Award for student research using historical records—grades 6-8. Left to right: Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, University System of Georgia, award winner Nathan Wright, Dianne Cannestra, FOGAH President, Kaye Minchew, GHRAC Chairperson.

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