

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter



VOLUME XXVII

Winter/Spring 2006

Don't forget...
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS
34th ANNUAL MEETING
"PRESERVING THE PAST"
APRIL 7-8
CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
More information on the web at <http://a-s.clayton.edu/gah/>

Presidential Profile: Susan McGrath

Susan McGrath, incoming president of the Georgia Association of Historians, says "I really got to know people in the profession once I became involved in the GAH. A full professor at Georgia Perimeter College, where she coordinates the Honors Program, she pursued a career in business before she earned her undergraduate degree at Agnes Scott College; her Master's and Ph.D. are from Emory. She pursued a career in business until she returned to Emory to work on the Ph.D.

Beginning with her dissertation, "Great Expectations: The History of School Desegregation In Atlanta and Boston, 1954-1990," Professor McGrath has followed a professional interest in the history of school desegregation in particular, as well as civil rights in general. She participated in a 1997 teaching institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, that was titled *Teaching the History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, 1865-1965*, and has received a Georgia Humanities Council grant for a symposium series entitled *Rethinking the History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement: Reflections Thirty Years After the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, which was presented in conjunction with Clark Atlanta University and Albany State University during the 1997—1998 academic year.

Before being elected to her present position, McGrath was, for several years, Treasurer of the GAH. In a recent interview, McGrath said, "I've been a member of the GAH since 1996. When I started to teach at Perimeter (it was DeKalb then) my department chair encouraged me to become active. The GAH is a wonderful way to get to know other historians in the state, to see what they are researching and how they teach, and to keep informed about the profession. ❖

Did you know...

495 students in the University System of Georgia received degrees that are categorized as "History, General" according to the Annual Report for fiscal 2005, prepared by the Office of Strategic Research and Analysis of the USG. Of these, 443 were undergraduates. This report is online at <http://www.usg.edu/sra/students/degrees/05-06/>. (See p. 204.) ❖

Museum Review

By Lou Brackett

The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History is located in Kennesaw, GA., at 2829 Cherokee St., and is the home of The General, made famous in the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase. Hours, admission, directions and other visitor information can be found at

<http://www.southernmuseum.org/visitor.html>. Guided tours are available every hour on the half hour. There is also a film about The Great Locomotive Chase than plays on the hour and half hour. This museum is a great outing for either history buffs or train lovers.

One of the most chilling exhibits was the display case of medical tools of the day. Many were not medical tools at all, but more like things one would find at Home Depot today – saws, extra blades, wire, etc. The thought of having surgery or an amputation with these tools and probably no anesthesia was very frightening indeed.

In addition to the medical tools, the museum contains exhibits of guns, ammunition, sabers and swords, and uniforms, along with items of everyday soldier life. Some of the ammunition was quite destructive looking – it was easy to see how soldiers were literally torn apart if hit.

Rail buffs will enjoy the Civil War exhibits but may enjoy the train exhibits even more. The traveling exhibit "A World Apart: 150 Years of Railroaders at Work" contains photos and memorabilia from Southern Railway's rich history. The General itself was quite impressive in its red and green paint scheme, and the information in the exhibit answered the probably often asked question "how did they get it in here?"

Train lovers will also be interested in the very active rail line located right outside the museum. At least five trains passed through in less than 90 minutes. There is also an old Southern Railway caboose just outside the museum door.

One caution about actually getting to the museum: special road signage in the area directing you to the museum is often wrong. Signs in the area point in a different direction from the directions included on the web site – probably the work of vandals or car accidents. The web directions, however, were clear and easy to follow. ❖

Member News...

Mark Bauman was a **Mason Fellow in the Department of Religion** at the **College of William & Mary** last spring and returned there this spring as a visiting lecturer, teaching a Religion and Architecture course. Bauman's recent publications include "The Flowering of Interest in Southern Jewish History and Its Integration into the Mainstream," which appears in *Religion in the Contemporary South* (2005), edited by Corrie Norman and Don Armentrout; and "Factionalism and Ethnic Politics in Atlanta," in *Politics and Religion in the White South* (2005), edited by Glenn Feldman. ❖

Eric Reisenauer received a **Research and Productive Scholarship Grant to conduct Research** in Britain this coming summer on World War I-era millennialism. The research grant is issued by the **University of South Carolina Research and Productive Scholarship Program** on a competitive basis to fund faculty research projects and is awarded on the basis of the scholarly record of the faculty member and on the significance of the project. Much of this research will be carried out at the British Library in London and the Newspaper Library in Colindale. He is examining the extent and place of millennialist expectation engendered by the Great War. Reisenauer also has been selected to be the **Williams-Brice-Edwards Distinguished Professor of Humanities**, an endowed position at **USC Sumter**. ❖

Clayton State University Assistant Professor of History **Dr. Victoria Pasley** recently received a Certificate in African Studies Project (CIASP) grant from the U.S. Office of Education, one of only four grants awarded yearly. The grant will allow Pasley to collect materials needed to develop an online course in African history and will also fund her research of Ghana's history during the 1970s. The CIASP grant will also enable Pasley to travel to Ghana this summer, where she will teach in **Clayton State's** new Study Abroad program hosted at the **University of Cape Coast**. ❖



June Hopkins, who has been serving as interim head at **Armstrong Atlantic State University** was named department head after a national search. The former department head, **Michael Price** is now **Armstrong's Assistant Vice President**

for Academic Affairs, Graduate Studies and Sponsored Programs. Price is a former President of the GAH.

Gail Pat Parsons has been promoted to Associate Professor of History at **Gordon College.**

Dr. Michelle Brattain was recently appointed Associate Chair of the Department of History at Georgia State University. She is the author of *The Politics of Whiteness: Race, Culture and Workers in the Modern South* (2001) and is Co-Organizer, Atlanta Area Seminar in Comparative History of Labor, Industry, Technology and Society (SCHLITS) and a member of the Editorial Board of *Atlanta History.*

Dr. Wendy Venet was promoted to Professor of History at Georgia State University. Professor Venet's research focus is on women's political culture in the 19th century. She is the author of *Neither Ballots Nor Bullets: Women Abolitionists and the Civil War* (1991) and the co-editor of *Midwestern Women: Work, Community, and Leadership at the Crossroads* (1997), as well as articles and reviews. Her newest book is titled: *A Strong-Minded Woman: The Life of Mary Livermore.* She serves on the advisory board of the Lincoln Prize. ❖

Is something missing?

Did you have news that could have been published here? You can email news of such things as promotions, publications, awards, papers read at other meetings can be sent to the editor any time.

Email your news to [Kay Kemp at Clayton State.](mailto:kay.kemp@claytonstate.edu) ❖



Augusta Celebrates Anniversary of Revolutionary War Victory

by Russell K. Brown

On June 5, 1781, patriot American troops led by Brigadier General Andrew Pickens, Colonel Elijah Clarke and Lieutenant Colonel "Light-horse Harry" Lee recaptured the town of Augusta from British forces under notorious Tory commander Colonel Thomas Brown. The battle, also known as "the siege of Fort Cornwallis," had lasted since May 22, 1781, and had involved the capture of three British forts, a regular siege operation, and the use of a "Maham Tower" to direct artillery fire into the interior of the British works. Within a short time, Augusta became the capital of the free state of Georgia and remained so, on and off, for much of the next fifteen years.

This year a consortium of patriotic, historic, civic, and preservationist organizations in Augusta, including the Augusta Richmond County Historical Society and the Center for the Study of Georgia History, Augusta State University, will recognize the 225th anniversary of that signal event with a two-day celebration on almost the exact site where Tory Colonel Brown surrendered to the victors in 1781.

The observances on June 2 and 3, 2006, will include a symposium at the Augusta Museum of History on the afternoon of Friday, June 2. Local historians, including GAH members Edward J. Cashin and Russell K. Brown, will describe the battle, its participants, and its consequences, and answer questions from the audience. That evening, a Continental dinner will be served in historic St Paul's Episcopal Church, located on the probable site of Fort Cornwallis.

Events will include a wreath-laying and salute ceremony at the Celtic cross that marks the site of old Fort Augusta, continental music presented by the Ft. Gordon U.S. Army Band, and a reenactment of the battle of 1781 with up to 175 participants. ❖

History Outreach at MSU

The Macon State University history department at MSC has sponsored seven community relations programs a year since 1987 that have attracted nearly 30,000 people as of this spring. Acting on a mandate from their President Dr. David Bell to make our extra-curricular history program a community outreach programs as well, the MSC history department promotes 3 social programs a year for students, faculty and their families, friends and neighbors. These include a program of live history theatre featuring state artists and called "History as Drama"; a regional history day competition for school children in 10 area counties; and two programs a year featuring classic films and their role in the history of popular culture. Program Co-ordinator **Robert Durand** says, "The programs have helped to publicize our campus and have done wonders for recruiting, public relations and good will and all without a football team!" ❖

Georgia Political Science Association to meet...

The Georgia (USA) Political Science Association will meet in Savannah on November 16, 17 and 18, 2006. They welcome GAH members as attendees and presenters. Over 200 participants from United States and overseas attended the 2005 conference. For more information, about the call for papers, the \$500 McBryer Award and for the agenda of past conferences, please go to the web site at www.gpsanet.org. Email: GPSA06@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

Professor Harold Cline
Director of Communications GPSA ❖

One more reminder...

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS

**34th ANNUAL MEETING
Starts at noon on April 7th!**

New Books:

Jeffrey Elton Anderson contributed "Voodoo in Black and White" to a volume of essays that were presented at the *Honoring a Master: Rethinking Southern History Conference*, which is forthcoming from University Press of Florida; Louisiana State University Press published his *Conjure in African American Society* (2005).

Denise Zara Davidson, *Enacting the Social Order: Gender and Urban Public Space in Post-Revolutionary France, 1800-1830*. Harvard University Press, in press.

Alecia P. Long, *The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920*, Louisiana State University Press, 2005.

Marko Maunula, *Guten Tag, Y'all: The Arrival of Foreign Corporations in the South Carolina Piedmont, 1950-1990* is expected from the UGA Press in 2007

David J. McCreery, *Frontier Goiás, 1822-1889* is in press with the Stanford University Press

Lauren M. Ristvet, *The Great Transition. Contexts, Connections, and Comparisons: Explorations in World History* is in press at McGraw-Hill.

Wendy H. Venet, *A Strong Minded-Woman: The Life of Mary Livermore* was issued by the University of Massachusetts Press, 2005. ❖

