January 1976

Archival and Manuscript Holdings in Georgia Outside Atlanta: A Preliminary Study

Peter E. Schinkel
George Department of Archives and History

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The mass of original research material available in Georgia is held by the dozen repositories in Atlanta. Outside Atlanta, however, more than forty institutions maintain manuscript collections. Of these agencies, but two are well known—the Georgia Historical Society and the Manuscripts Department of the University of Georgia. Add the holdings of these two to the mass preserved in Atlanta and perhaps 95 percent of the total of original research material available in the state is accounted for. Nevertheless, much valuable material exists in the many smaller collections scattered throughout the state.

To locate these repositories and determine the extent of their holdings of original research material, survey questionnaires were mailed in the fall of 1975. Below are...
listed the institutions reporting holdings of such materials. Complete listings of the holdings reported by several of the repositories were impossible, and in those instances general descriptions of the types of material and the subjects covered are substituted. In addition, neither microfilm holdings nor newspaper files are listed, except where they are the only known copies in existence. An expanded survey is planned for 1977, and it is hoped that a complete listing of all holdings reported can be published thereafter.

The listings have been divided into four categories: 1) college and university libraries, 2) historical societies, 3) public libraries, and 4) special libraries. Given are the name and address of the repository, telephone number and name of person to contact (if available), hours open to the public, and a brief description of the repository's holdings. Since some of the descriptions of holdings have been condensed, the repository should be contacted about any holdings that appear to be of interest.

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

**Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Library**  
Brenda A. Sellers  
ABAC Station  
Tifton 31794

Ph: 912 386-3223  
Wkdy: 8am-10pm

ABAC Library maintains files relating to the college and its functions, including photographs of students, dating from 1912 to the present. Additionally it holds a file of genealogical charts compiled by students and is collecting letters and diaries of ABAC alumni and of area residents.

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**Andrew College Archives/Randolph County Historical Society**  
Iva P. Goolsby, Archivist/Curator  
College Street  
Cuthbert 31740

Ph: 912 732-2669

In addition to a sizeable amount of material on the college, dating from the 1860s, the repository retains the journal of Andrew Leary O'Brien, 1854, an Irish immigrant.
largely responsible for the founding of the college; letters and diaries of Bishop James O. Andrew for whom the school was named, Cuthbert city council minutes, 1834-1844, plus much genealogical and historical material relating to Cuthbert and Randolph counties. Formed in 1967, this joint archives/historical society has a vigorous collecting program.

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Augusta College
Reese Library
Ray Roland, Librarian
Augusta 30904

In addition to records of the school, the Reese Library has the Magnolia Cemetery record books, 1817-1943.

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Bambridge Junior College Library
G. Garry Warren, Librarian
Box 953
Bambridge 31717

This library holds the Judge Earl M. Donalson Papers, ca. 1850-1940, which contain 43,000 items on local political and business history. It is collecting letters and diaries, records of local government and businesses, photographs, and maps.

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Berry College Memorial Library
Val Stephens, Director
Mt. Berry 30149

This repository intends to remain primarily a college archives, but among its holdings is the correspondence of Martha Berry with many of the important figures of her period, including Henry Ford. Also, it preserves the records of the Mt. Berry Church, 1926-1975.

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The Columbus College Archives Project has collected an impressive variety of materials. Included among the business records are the Hatcher-McGehee (slave dealers) ledger, 1858-1863, and the records of the Eagle and Phenix Cotton Mills, ca. 1865-1890. Club records include the Masonic Lodge (Whitesville, Ga.) Simri Minutes, 1849-1855; the Trustees' minutes of the Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home, 1840-1963; the Columbus League of Women Voters Records, 1930-1959; and others. Finally, the archives has received five nineteenth-century diaries, plus the papers of Alva C. Smith (state and local politician) and other locally prominent people, several runs of local newspapers, local government records, maps, photographs, and tapes from the Chattahoochee Valley Oral History Project.

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The library has photographs of Swainsboro and Emanuel County, ca. 1940 to present, and local newspapers, and is collecting area historical and genealogical materials.

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The library has approximately seventy-five nineteenth-century ledgers and account books; the minutes of the Talian Society of Oglethorpe University, 1858-1863 (Oglethorpe was located in Milledgeville in that period); the papers of Georgia author Flannery O'Connor, 1941-1964; the papers of Georgia historian James C. Bonner; the collection of Elizabeth Branham on cooking; and the records of the college, 1887 to the present.
This newly-established operation "will serve as a permanent depository for records and memorabilia that constitute the development of education in this state." Much material already has been collected.

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The Library has the most complete run available of the Savannah Tribune, a black newspaper which began publication in 1875. The library is collecting material on the Savannah area.

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In addition to the college archives, the Memorabilia Room holds the A. W. Van Hoose Papers, 1895-1912, and the Martha Harper (later Mrs. James Baldwin) travel account of an overland journey from Georgia to New York in the 1840s.

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Although the Southern Tech Library has no deliberate collecting program, it has acquired some letters and diaries, business records, and photographs, in addition to the records of the school.
Pick a topic in Georgia (or Southern) history and likely material bearing on it is available at the University of Georgia Libraries. Benefiting from the early collecting efforts of E. Merton Coulter, the Manuscripts Department has particularly rich resources on colonial Georgia, the Civil War, and the nineteenth-century South. The department maintains a strong collecting program, and one of its recent accessions was the Dudley M. Hughes Papers, 1806-1972, consisting of over 15,000 items of the Georgia politician, farmer, and co-author of the Smith-Hughes Act.

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Valdosta State College
Library
Joy B. Trulock
Valdosta 31601

The library holds the Bass Papers, 1940-1966 (relating to the establishment of Moody AFB), records of the Valdosta Rotary Club, American Legion, and Chamber of Commerce, and is collecting material on South Georgia.

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West Georgia College/Carroll County Historical Society
Library
Jane B. Hersch
Carrollton 30117

In addition to the college archives, which date from 1906 when the school was the 4th District Agricultural and Mechanical School, this repository maintains the Eden Baptist Church minutes, 1843-1880; Carroll Service Council records, 1943-1968; American Civil Liberties Union records, 1969 to present; Carroll County Cooperative records, 1943-1947; the G. B. Rollins account book, 1895; P. H. Buford account book, 1817-1833; the Simonton Papers, 1813-1890; and early maps and photographs of Carrollton and Carroll County. The library and historical society are pursuing an active collecting program of all types of material relating to western Georgia.
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Alma-Bacon County Historical Society
Bonnie T. Baker
301 N. Dixon Street
Alma 31510
Ph: 912 632-8450
Wkdy: 2pm-5pm or by appointment

This recently formed, joint city-county supported society is pursuing an aggressive collecting program for materials relating to Alma, Bacon County, and southeast Georgia. To date the society has collected Alma business records, family papers, maps, photographs, and death and birth certificates antedating the required registration of vital statistics. Further, the group has compiled histories of all the county and city churches, and on several clubs, societies, and organizations. Finally, members of the organization are taping interviews with some of the county's long-term residents.

Coastal Georgia Historical Society
and Museum of Coastal History
Anne Shelander, Curator
Box 1151
St. Simons Island 31520
Ph: 912 638-4666
Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm
Sun: 1:30 pm-4pm

Just beginning an active collecting program, this Society has some family papers; a diary relating to the Naval Stores Industry, ca. 1900; school records, 1881-1913; a 1788 letter describing Cumberland Island; and approximately 1,200 photographs of nineteenth- and twentieth-century coastal Georgia.

Fort Gaines Historical Society
P. C. King, Jr., President
Box 6
Fort Gaines 31751
Ph: 912 768-2416
Wkdy: 8am-6pm

The Society holds the C. V. Morris and Sons business records, 1880-1912; the minutes of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and the King-Morris-Strozier family papers, 1730-1970.
In addition to the archives of Mercer University, the Georgia Baptist Historical Society maintains the records of approximately 200 churches, 1770 to the present; the papers of William H. Kilpatrick, 1895-1955; and much printed material on the Baptist Church.

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Formed in 1839, the Society is known nationally and internationally for its holdings on colonial and revolutionary Georgia. Its collections also are strong on Savannah and the coastal Georgia area, but it has material from all periods of Georgia history and from almost all parts of the state. It boasts approximately 900 collections of papers of families and individuals dating from before the Revolution to the present, plus numerous diaries, journals, church records, business records, official city and state records, military records, school and college records, and a large assemblage of maps and photographs. In addition, it has a large library of rare Georgia books and imprints. The Society carries on an active collecting policy and recently received a small grant to establish a Naval Stores Archives.

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This Society has the Jerusalem Lutheran Church records, 1734 to present; John Martin Bolzius Diary, 1732-1740; and information on the Salzburger families.
Gordon County Historical Society
Burton J. Bell, President-Historian
Box 342
Calhoun 30701

The Gordon County Historical Society holds and continues to receive, photographs of the area.

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Laurens County Historical Society
Jacob New, President
Box 1461
Dublin 31021

To place in its museum opening later this year, the Society has photographs, genealogical material, and newspapers, and it is just beginning an active collecting program focusing on Laurens County.

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Methodist Archives
Ethelene Sampley, Curator
Epworth-by-the-Sea
St. Simons Island 31520

The archives/museum/library of the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church was organized in 1936 and has extensive holdings on the growth of Methodism in America, especially in the South. Its holdings date to the eighteenth century and include such items as the minutes of the Methodist Societies, 1773-1794; the Papers of Bishop Arthur James Moore; the 1823 Diary of Joshua Glenn (a missionary to St. Augustine); a file of approximately 325 church histories; a visual arts collection; and a library of some 5,000 volumes. The complete holdings are described in Georgia Archive, II (Winter 1974), 36-43.

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Middle Georgia Historical Society
J. J. McKay, Jr., President
935 High Street
Macon 31201

The Society holds material relating to Sidney Lanier and
his family and maintains individual files on some 1,000 Macon buildings, including the history of the buildings and their owners.

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Richmond County Historical Society Ph: 404 828-3561
Augusta College Library
Ray Rowland, Curator
Augusta 30904

This organization has church records and Augusta Oral History Project tapes and transcripts. It seeks material about local history.

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Sumter County Historical Society Ph: 912 928-1327
James Earl Carter Library 912 928-1352
Georgia Southwestern College
Steven Gurr, President
Americus 31709

The Society supports a collection of material relating to the southwest Georgia area, including the papers of Congressman Stephen Pace. In addition, it has compiled a listing of materials in the area still in private hands.

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Thomas County Historical Society Ph: 912 226-7664
Charles T. Hill, Executive Director
725 North Dawson Street
Thomasville 31792

With one of the largest collections accumulated by a local historical society in the state, the Thomas County Society has business records, church records, city and county government records, records of clubs, societies, and organizations, plus some rich collections of family and individual papers. The materials date from the early antebellum period to the present. The Society continues to collect vigorously.
Upson County Historical Society
Mrs. W. H. Hightower, President
Box 363
Thomaston 30286

This recently formed Society has a complete register of graves in Upson County, a railroad record book and a hotel day book from the nineteenth-century, genealogical compilations, and information on material in private hands.

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White County Historical Society
Edgar Everhart, Jr., President
Box 281
Cleveland 30528

The White County Society has letters and diaries, records of clubs, societies, and organizations, a few maps, and papers prepared by Society members on local history.

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library
Dorothy Crews, Chief, Adult Services
902 Greene Street
Augusta 30902

The library houses an Alexander Stephens business letter, 1875; a list of Confederate soldiers buried and the cost submitted to the city sexton, 1864; and miscellaneous items relating to Augusta and Richmond County.

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Colquitt-Thomas County Regional Library
Anne G. Foshee
Box 1110
Moultrie 31768

The library holds the minutes of the Sardis Church of
Colquitt County, 1834-1848, 1894-1957.

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Houston County Libraries
Librarian
1201 Washington Street
Perry 31069

Ph: 912 987-3050
MTF&S: 9am-6pm
Tue&Wed: 9am-9pm

As the repository is beginning the process of arranging material being collected by the Houston County Historical Society, detailed information on the collection is unavailable. The material will be available in the library.

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Kinchafoonee Regional Library
Doris Wightman, Director
Main Street
Dawson 31742

Ph: 912 995-2092
Wkdy: 8:30am-5:30pm
Sat: 9:30am-5:30pm

This repository has material relating to General John J. Pershing, records of the Retired Officers Association, and family and local histories.

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Southwest Georgia Regional Library
Anne G. Foshee
Monroe and Shotwell Streets
Bambridge 31717

Ph: 912 246-3887
Mon-Sat: 9am-6pm

Photographs of the local area, unpublished local family histories, a few maps, and scattered issues of the 1829 Bambridge Southern Spy constitute the holdings.

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Statesboro Regional Library
Isabel Sorrier, Director
124 South Main Street
Statesboro 30458

Ph: 912 764-7573
Mon-Sat: 8:30am-5:30pm

The library maintains two Civil War letters, a Bulloch County file that dates from 1796, genealogical compilations on local families, and a 1909 Bulloch County map.
Thomasville Public Library
Jeannette Singletary, Librarian
135 North Broad Street
Thomasville 31792

Ph: 912 226-3853
Wkdy: 9:30am-8pm
Fri: 9:30am-5:30pm
Sat: 9:30am-12:30pm
Sun: 2pm-5pm

Made a public library in 1876, the library has its board minutes, 1876 to present, as well as 759 volumes, mainly on history, which were in the library when its operation was assumed by the city in 1876.

Tri-County Regional Library
Mary M. Beachum
Box 277
Rome 30161

Ph: 404 235-5561
Wkdy: 9am-9pm
Fri&Sat: 9am-6pm

The repository holds the John Harris Papers and the George M. Battey Papers (which include papers of Dr. Robert Battey), both dating in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries; diaries and journals of several nineteenth-century area residents; several compiled cemetery lists; a map of Rome, ca. 1840; manuscript copies of two local histories, one on Polk County and one on Cedartown; and a large collection of area newspapers.

Washington Memorial Library
Genealogical and Historical Room
Macon 31201

This room offers a large collection of middle Georgia material, including family and personal papers, church records, maps, photographs, and Macon and Bibb County records dating from the early nineteenth century.

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Georgia Museum of Art
Curator
University of Georgia
Athens 30602

The museum has works of art dating from 1490 to the present and documents relating to the art works.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
Chief Interpreter
Box 1167
Marietta 30061

The park has material relating to the Atlanta Campaign, 1864, including some letters and diaries.

Thomasville Landmarks, Inc.
Norman C. Larson, Exec. Dir.
Box 1285
Thomasville 31792

Thomasville Landmarks, Inc., retains materials collected from its county building and site survey, including photographs, maps, and title searches.