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News - Digital Library of Georgia

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Digital Library of Georgia

The Digital Library of Georgia Receives Two Awards from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council

On October 16, 2018, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) presented two awards to the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) during the 16th annual GHRAC Archives Awards ceremony at the Georgia Archives. GHRAC awards recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia.

The first award was the Excellence in Archival Program Development by a Local Government Records Repository for the digitization of *Flagpole* magazine, 1987–2013, which can be seen at <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn94029049/>. The *Flagpole* online collection project, which began in 2014, was a collaborative venture between *Flagpole*, the Athens-Clarke County Library, and the DLG. For three decades, *Flagpole* has been a mirror for the local culture of Athens and its thriving arts scene.

The second honor was the Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development by a State Institution, for the DLG's subgranting program, which provides grant assistance for the digitization of small collections. The DLG's subgranting program aims to broaden partner participation in the DLG by soliciting proposals for historic digitization projects in a statewide call to libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions. In 2017 and 2018, project applicants submitted proposals for projects with a cost of up to \$5,000. The projects were administered by DLG staff who performed digitization and descriptive services on textual, graphic, and audio-visual materials (not including newspapers). More information about

the subgranting program is available at <https://sites.google.com/view/dlg-docs/dlg-documentation/dlg-subgranting-program>.

New Digital Collections Available from Piedmont College Library

The DLG is pleased to announce the launch of two new collections from our partners at Piedmont College Library: the May Ivie Valise Collection and the Johnny Mize Collection. The collections are available thanks in part to the DLG's Competitive Digitization grant program, a funding opportunity intended to broaden DLG partner participation for statewide historic digitization projects.

The May Ivie Valise Collection, available at <https://piedmont.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17007coll1>, contains correspondence, printed programs, military documents, and a composition book belonging to May Ivie, alumna of Piedmont College from the 1940s.

The Johnny Mize Collection, available at <https://piedmont.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17007coll3>, includes baseball memorabilia, gloves, bats, autographed baseballs, uniforms, and photographs collected by Johnny Mize, native of Demorest, Georgia, and major league baseball player who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981. Nicknamed "The Big Cat" and "Big Jawn," Mize was a first baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Giants, and New York Yankees. He was a ten-time All-Star whose record included 359 home runs with a batting average of .312 over a career that spanned from 1936 to 1953. He won four National League home run titles, five World Series titles, a batting title, and three RBI crowns. Mize also hit three home runs in one game—more times than any other National League player at the time of his retirement.

For both collections, DLG staff provided training and support for the creation and enhancement of descriptive metadata records by establishing best practices that helped Piedmont College Library staff prepare metadata records that meet standards for inclusion in the DLG and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). DLG staff also provided advice about the creation and management of digital collections by assisting with the setup of Piedmont's digital asset management system.

Bob Glass, dean of libraries and college librarian at Piedmont College Library noted: "Piedmont College Library is so grateful for all the advice, training, and encouragement we received through our DLG Subgrant. We needed help learning about metadata creation and working with our digital library platform, CONTENTdm. Nicole Lawrence was a great coach as she helped us bring our collections online!"

Digitization of *Pinebranch*, the First Student Publication of South Georgia State Normal College and Georgia State Woman's College (Both Earlier Names for Valdosta State University).

The DLG also digitized *Pinebranch*, the first student publication of South Georgia State Normal College and Georgia State Woman's College (both earlier names for Valdosta State University). *Pinebranch* was a literary magazine published from September or October 1917 to May 1934. In addition to stories and poetry, the magazine included editorials and news from campus and alumni. The digitized issues are available at <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/720/discover> thanks in part to the DLG's 2017 Competitive Digitization grant program.

Pinebranch is important to researchers and teachers of women's history, southern history, and the history of education, in that the journals reveal details about southern racial, ethnic, and gender specific attitudes in South Georgia's progressive era, women's suffrage,

World War I, and the Great Depression. The publication's articles provide first-hand, written accounts that offer a detailed look at daily life and attitudes at a southern women's school of the early 20th century.

Melanie Byrd, professor in the department of history at Valdosta State University noted: "I can attest that my students who have worked in the university archives with *Pinebranch* find the material especially engaging because the articles are products of college students like themselves. While students may not always identify with history in terms of national trends, big events, and abstract ideologies and worldviews, they do connect with the experiences of other college students. Publications like *Pinebranch* bring the history of previous eras to life for students in a relatable, humanized manner. Reading the publication also illustrates directly and vividly how attitudes have changed over time."

Nineteenth Century Ledger and Scrapbook that Documents the Civil War Period in Savannah Now Available Online

The DLG also made available a 19th century ledger and scrapbook from our partners at the Coastal Heritage Society that features entries from the Civil War period recorded by employees of the Central Rail Road and Banking Company of Georgia at https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/chso_cgrc. The ledger was digitized and described as part of the DLG's 2018 Competitive Digitization grant program.

Lydia Moreton, the Curator of Collections for Coastal Heritage Society noted: "the Carpentry Shop ledger is a snapshot in time at one of the busiest industrial railroad complexes in the South just prior to and during the American Civil War. It is a highly prized object in the Coastal Heritage Society collection. This ledger has detailed information spanning four years at the Carpentry Shop in the Central's Savannah Shops. This includes fabricating weapons for the war effort and construction of the Passenger

researchers, social historians, those tracing their family histories, and students. Anyone interested in studying immigration, minority cultures, economic history, race relations, or the establishment of Chinese-American organizations in the South will find the interviews informative.”

Monaco also stated: “several of the interviewees discuss family-owned businesses that opened in predominantly African-American neighborhoods in Augusta during the Jim Crow era. Whites in Augusta refused to provide services to African-Americans thereby opening a window of opportunity which Augusta’s Chinese-Americans took advantage of by opening successful groceries, restaurants, and laundry establishments, a few of which were damaged or destroyed during the Augusta Race Riots of 1970. This dynamic would be a rich area of study for both social scientists and historians concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors among minority and discriminated populations in the Jim Crow South. Finally, these stories offer a fresh voice to the complex narrative of southern history, one that speaks to the diversity and multiculturalism of the South.”

Travis Tom, curator of the Augusta Chinese-American Oral History project and board member of the CCBA noted: "we are hoping that the oral histories reach a wider audience—across the nation and perhaps the world—and educate those interested in how Chinese Americans settled in Augusta, Georgia (the Southeast) and started their lives. It is

important that we recorded these stories to show how people in our community lived during our time (early 1900s–2011). We encourage other groups to do the same."

Six Competitive Digitization Service Grants Awarded to Georgia Cultural Heritage Institutions Across the State

Six institutions are recipients of the fourth set of service grants awarded in a program intended to broaden partner participation in the DLG. For 2019, the DLG solicited proposals for historic digitization projects in a statewide call, and applicants submitted proposals for projects with a cost of up to \$7,500 (an increase of \$2,500 from previous years). The projects will be administered by DLG staff who will perform digitization and descriptive services on textual (not including newspapers), graphic, and audio-visual materials.

Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room (Athens, Georgia) received a grant to digitize eight bound ledgers dating from 1902 to 1907, the earliest

section of the City of Athens Police and Mayor’s Court Records, which reflect the cultural, political, social, geographic, and economic diversity of the Athens community as well as interactions with law enforcement and the justice system.

Bartow History Center (Cartersville, Georgia) received a grant to digitize a portion of a collection of county documents on such topics as: guardianship (1850–1929), indentures (1860–1929), lunacy (1866–1929), pauperism



Mr. & Mrs. S.Y. Loo and Grandson, Travis Tom

Travis’s grandparent’s met in the 1920s, over 90 years ago. Sing Yet Loo was a founding member of the CCBA of Augusta.

At one time, Travis was able to call on 18 aunts and uncles who were born to the same parents. His mother is the youngest of 19.

Shares how his background as a graphic designer was helpful in producing the exhibit for the Augusta Chinese Community.

(1866–1879), land grants and deeds (1866–1929), and other records. The records were created by court officials to document legal proceedings and transactions.

Booker T. Washington High School (Atlanta, Georgia) received a grant to digitize annuals dating from 1931 to 1968 that document the evolution of African-American secondary education and feature the attendees of the first public high school for African-Americans in Georgia. Notable alumni from the school include Martin Luther King, Jr., Lena Horne, Nipsey Russell, and Louis Wade Sullivan.

Fulton County Schools Archives (Hapeville, Georgia) received a grant to digitize the Superintendent's Annual Reports from 1929 to 1977 that contain demographic information pertaining to the growth of the school system located in and around Atlanta. The oldest portion of this collection provides evidence of a largely rural and segregated district during the Great Depression, while the latter portion is a culmination of the movement after the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* United States Supreme Court decision to integrate the schools—a process that lasted 17 years.

Thomasville History Center (Thomasville, Georgia) received a grant to digitize the correspondence and diaries of Hazel Beamer Cutler, a Broadway entertainer, and her family

friend Candace Wheeler, founder of the American decorative arts movement, both of whom lived in Southwest Georgia.

University of West Georgia Special Collections (Carrollton, Georgia) received a grant to digitize publications from the Carroll County Genealogical Society that reflect the settlers of Carroll County in West Georgia after the Indian Springs Treaty of 1824 and inventories of burial sites for both whites and African-Americans throughout the county.

Preference in the selection process was given to proposals from institutions that had not yet collaborated with the DLG. Bartow History Center, Booker T. Washington High School, Fulton County Schools Archives, and Thomasville History Center were all new partners for the DLG.

Sheila McAlister, director of the Digital Library of Georgia noted: "the subgranting program continues to be a success. We've broadened the DLG partner base, and the collections selected by our review team reflect the state's diversity. The materials document schools in Atlanta and Fulton County, diaries and correspondence from Thomasville, genealogy in Carroll County, and county and court records from Bartow and Clarke counties. These materials serve a wide audience of researchers."