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News - Digital Library of Georgia

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Digital Library of Georgia

Resources Related to the Historic Role of the Presbyterian Church in Georgia Now Freely Available Online

Three new collections featuring historical resources related to the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian educators, and their role in Georgia history are now available through the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG).

Housed at Columbia Theological Seminary, the resources are freely available online thanks, in part, to the DLG's competitive digitization grant program, a funding opportunity intended to broaden DLG partner participation in statewide historic digitization projects.

The three digital collections are:

- Joseph R. Wilson papers, from the late 1800s, including the sermons of Presbyterian minister and educator Joseph Ruggles Wilson dating 1858 to 1893. View at dlg.usg.edu/collection/gcl_wilson. Wilson served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia, and at First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. He also taught at Columbia Theological Seminary and Southwestern Presbyterian University and was the father of President Woodrow Wilson.
- John Newton Waddel papers, 1821–1881, including manuscripts and print material belonging to John Newton Waddel (1812–1895) and Moses Waddel (1770–1840). The father and son were Presbyterian ministers and educators in Georgia and Mississippi. View at dlg.usg.edu/collection/gcl_waddel.

[waddel](http://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gcl_waddel). Moses Waddel served as the fifth president of the University of Georgia. John Newton Waddel served as president of Presbyterian Synodical College in LaGrange, Tennessee, and as chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

- Presbyterian Church in the United States. Presbytery of Hopewell minutes, 1797–1866, the official minutes of the Presbytery of Hopewell, the first Presbytery in the state of Georgia. View at dlg.usg.edu/collection/gcl_hopewell. The Hopewell minutes provide descriptions of early missionary efforts among Native Americans, deliberations about slavery, and other collective decisions that offer perspectives from the state of Georgia between the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. Special thanks to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery for permitting the digitization of these records.

Erskine Clarke, professor emeritus of US religious history at Columbia Theological Seminary, described the research significance of these three collections:

The Wilson sermons will have interest for anyone wishing to probe the religious life of Woodrow Wilson. In addition, they will provide insight into the theological assumptions and rhetorical and homiletical strategies of an influential nineteenth-century Georgia pastor.

Presbytery minutes are rich resources for cultural and religious history, and the years of the Hopewell minutes (1797–1866) will be of great interest to

historians working in that period of Georgia history.

The links with the University of Georgia presidents are astonishing. The Waddel papers are even more exciting...To have these important documents available online will be a great gift to those who in the future explore the history of Georgia.

Confederate Naval Ledger Now Freely Available Online

A Civil War-era ledger belonging to James H. Warner, commander and superintendent of the Confederate States Naval Iron Works (sometimes referred to as the Columbus Iron Works) is now available through the Digital Library of Georgia at dlg.usg.edu/collection/ncwnm_jhwl.

James H. Warner received a commission in the United States Navy in 1851 as a third assistant engineer. He became a chief engineer in 1856. Warner later served the Confederacy, where he received his assignment in Columbus, Georgia in 1862. As a naval engineer, he consulted for a number of projects throughout the South and was instrumental in the construction of the *CSS Jackson*, built in Columbus.

The Confederate States Naval Iron Works operated from 1862–1865. The ledger also includes entries as late as 1866 as Warner worked with the United States Navy in turning over naval equipment to the United States government. Records surviving the Civil War that document the Confederate Navy are limited. This ledger provides information about Columbus, Georgia, ironclad construction, steam engines, and the daily operation and industrial reach of the Confederate States Naval Iron Works.

Robert Holcombe, former director and historian of the Confederate Naval Museum described the significance of the ledger:

Not only has this ledger been a great resource for those studying steam engines, ship construction, etc. from the Civil War period, it is largely an untapped resource for those studying Columbus and the Chattahoochee River Valley. Making this ledger known and available for a wider audience will benefit Columbus, as well as making this important source more readily accessible for Civil War naval research.

The National Civil War Naval Museum houses the largest surviving Confederate warship, the *CSS Jackson*, as well as the wreckage of the *CSS Chattahoochee*, and the largest collection of Civil War Naval-related flags on display in the country. Their timeline exhibit shows naval events and features many of the museum's most rare artifacts, such as the uniform coat of Captain Catesby Jones and Admiral Farragut's two-star hat insignia. The museum hosts a range of events throughout the year with an emphasis on museum theatre and historic character interpretation. Additionally, there are living history events, tours, cannon firings, weapons demonstrations, local history projects, and more. Visit portcolumbus.org/

Georgia Civil War and Reconstruction Newspapers Now Freely Available Online

As part of a \$27,405 grant from the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, the Digital Library of Georgia has digitized over 100,000 pages of Georgia newspaper titles published from 1861 to 1877 from microfilm held by the Georgia Newspaper Project (libs.uga.edu/gnp/).

The project creates full-text searchable versions of the newspapers and presents them online for free in its Georgia Historic Newspapers database at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu in accordance with technical guidelines developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress for the National Digital Newspaper Program (see loc.gov/ndnp/).

The Georgia Historic Newspapers database will utilize the Library of Congress's open-source tool, Chronicling America, for the online delivery of the full-text newspapers. Users will be able to search the database for geographic, corporate, family, and personal names.

Vivian Price Saffold, chairman of the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Advisory Committee, stated:

Since 1971 genealogy researchers have depended on publications funded by grants from the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation. The Foundation has funded the printing of thousands of books in traditional format. More recently the addition of digital projects, such as the Digital Library of Georgia's newspaper project, has made possible free online access to tens of thousands of Georgia newspaper pages that previously were difficult to research. The DLG project is a great example of the kind of grant

request the Foundation is proud to fund. Georgia newspapers are a valuable resource. On the technical side, the online newspaper images are sharp and clear, and the functionality of the indexing is excellent.

One hundred eighty-eight Civil War and Reconstruction-era titles have been digitized from the following Georgia cities:

Alapaha, Americus, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Bainbridge, Brunswick, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carrollton, Cartersville, Columbus, Conyers, Covington, Crawfordville, Cuthbert, Dallas, Dalton, Darien, Dawson, Eastman, Eatonton, Elberton, Ellijay, Fairburn, Florence, Forsyth, Gainesville, Greensboro, Greenville, Griffin, Hamilton, Hartwell, Hawkinsville, Hinesville, Jesup, LaGrange, Lexington, Louisville, Macon, Madison, Marietta, Milledgeville, Monroe, Palmetto, Quitman, Ringgold, Rome, Sandersville, Savannah, Social Circle, Summerville, Talbotton, Thomaston, Thomasville, Thomson, Washington, Waynesboro, and West Point.

Papers of interest include:

Christian Index (1867–1878): Baptist newspaper published in Atlanta after the Civil War that claims the distinction of being the oldest continuously published religious newspaper in the United States.

Atlanta/Augusta Daily Register (1864): Civil War refugee newspaper that fled approaching Union forces in Knoxville and published in Atlanta, and later Augusta, during Sherman's March to the Sea.

Daily/Weekly Loyal Georgian (1867–1868): Augusta's first African American newspaper published in the early years of Reconstruction.

Lucy Cobb Institute Messenger (1876): School newspaper covering events at the Lucy Cobb



Institute, a young women's secondary school in Athens.

Pacificator (1864–1865): Georgia's first Catholic newspaper published in Augusta during the Civil War. The paper advocated for an end to the fighting in the later years of the conflict.

Southern Cultivator (1867–1870): Agricultural newspaper established in Augusta in 1843 and published in Athens after the Civil War.

- *Conyers Rockdale Register* (1876–1877)
- *Marietta Field and Fireside* (1877–1879)

Middle Georgia:

- *Forsyth Monroe Advertiser* (1873–1888)
- *Macon Georgia/Daily Journal and Messenger* (1862–1869)
- *Hawkinsville Dispatch* (1867–1877)

North Georgia:

- *Athens Georgia Collegian* (1870–1872)
- *Calhoun Weekly/Saturday Times* (1870–1877)
- *Cartersville Express* (1867–1879)

South Georgia:

- *Dawson Journal* (1866–1882)
- *Savannah Daily Herald* (1866–1867)
- *Thomasville Southern Enterprise* (1867–1876)

West Georgia:

- *Carroll County Times* (1872–1880)
- *Columbus Daily/Weekly Sun* (1861–1873)
- *Thomaston Herald* (1870–1878)



Newspaper title highlights from Georgia regions include:

East Georgia:

- *Augusta Weekly Chronicle and Sentinel* (1861–1881)
- *Jefferson/Louisville News and Farmer* (1871–1923)
- *Washington Gazette* (1866–1885)

Metro Atlanta:

- *Atlanta Daily New Era* (1866–1871)

Selected Images:

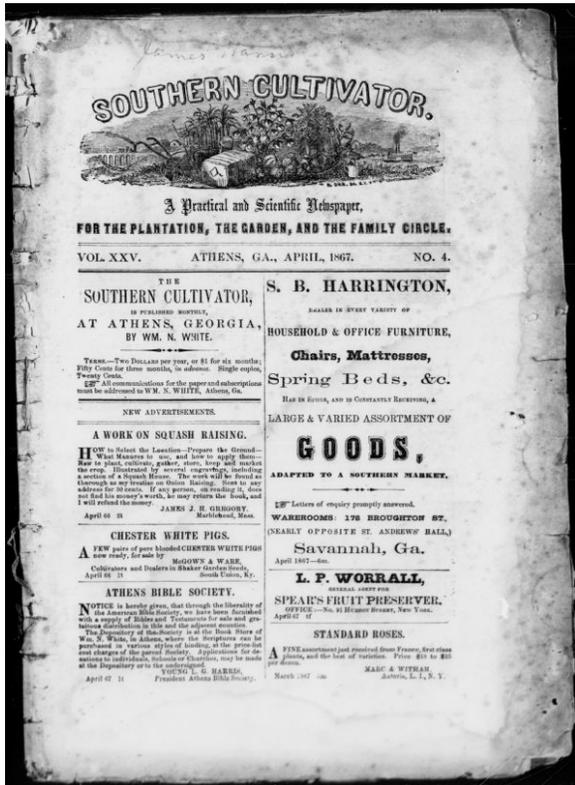
Banner of the South, October 15, 1870, page 1:
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/sn85034229/1870-10-15/ed-1/seq-1/>

Burke's weekly for boys and girls, July 30, 1870, page 1:
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/sn01211919/1870-07-30/ed-1/seq-1/>

Southern Cultivator, April 1, 1867, page 1:
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/sn83002253/1867-04-01/ed-1/seq-1/>

Daily Loyal Georgian, June 1, 1867, page 1
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/sn90052028/1867-06-01/ed-1/seq-1/>

Pacificator, October 15, 1864, page 1
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/sn90052038/1864-10-15/ed-1/seq-1/>



DLG Awards Four Competitive Digitization Service Grants to Georgia Cultural Heritage Institutions Across the State

Four institutions are recipients of the sixth set of service grants awarded in a program intended to broaden partner participation in the DLG. 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. 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. This subgranting program was presented the 2018 Award for Excellence in

Archival Program Development by a State Institution by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC).

The recipients and their projects include:

Chipley Historical Center of Pine Mountain (Pine Mountain, Georgia)

- Digitization of the record book of the Sardis Church of Christ, dated 1828–1915. The Sardis Church of Christ was associated with the Primitive Baptist Church in Harris County, Georgia.

Kennesaw State University Archives (Kennesaw, Georgia)

- Digitization of drawings created and produced by the architectural firm Gregson and Ellis and its predecessor, Gregson and Associates. These materials include a selection of architectural drawings of facilities that provided public medical and mental health care in various counties in the State of Georgia, from the late 1940s to the early 1960s.

Peachtree City Library (Peachtree City, Georgia)

- Digitization of materials documenting the conceptual beginnings and history of Peachtree City, Georgia, one of the country's most successful post-World War II "new towns."

Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection (Athens, Georgia)

- Description of 250 episodes of the Parade of Quartets, the longest continuous-running gospel program on television in the United States, which has aired on WJBF in Augusta, Georgia since 1953, and has featured African American gospel groups.

Preference in the selection process was given to proposals from institutions that had not yet collaborated with the DLG. Chipley Historical Center of Pine Mountain and the Peachtree City Library are both new partners for the DLG. Sheila McAlister, director of the Digital Library of Georgia noted:

This newest set of subgrant awards represents the rich cultural diversity of

the state. The projects document early Primitive Baptist life; the interplay between architecture and public health; the development of planned communities; and religious musical heritage. We're happy to add two new partners.