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News - Digital Library of Georgia

Mandy L. Mastrovita
University of Georgia, mastrovi@uga.edu

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Digital Library of Georgia

Issues of the *Houston Home Journal* Dating from 1993 to 2008 Freely Available at the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website

Through a partnership with the [Houston County Public Library System](#), the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has completed the final phase of digitization of the *Houston Home Journal* (HHJ), a project that has lasted nearly five years. Issues of the newspaper are now available online at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website: gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/.

This project was made possible by the generous donations and support of the following: the estate of Alice L. Gilbert (former Perry Librarian), Flint Energies Foundation, the Friends of the Houston County Public Library, and the *Houston Home Journal*.

Over the past five years, the DLG has digitized 8,166 issues, or 129,029 pages, of the *Houston Home Journal*, dating from 1870 to 2008. This represents the largest date span of any title available on the Georgia Historic Newspapers website. It also amounts to the second greatest number of issues of any newspaper title on the website.

John T. Waterman founded the *Houston Home Journal* in Perry, Georgia, in December 1870. The Hodges family maintained ownership of the publication for over 60 years before selling it in 1946. The *Houston Home Journal* remains the legal organ for Houston County and continues publication as the county's oldest continually operated business.

This phase of the newspaper digitization project includes five Houston County titles from 1993–2008, a total of 1,983 issues, or 61,743 pages.

The newly available titles are available at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/counties/houston/.

Georgette Lipford, president of the Central Georgia Genealogical Society and member of the Friends of the Houston County Public Library System noted:

The recently completed digitization project of the *Houston Home Journal* and its addition to the Georgia Historic Newspapers website represents an absolute treasure for anyone researching family in Houston County. Sometimes a newspaper notice is the only surviving document of an ancestor's existence. These issues of the HHJ have obituaries, wedding announcements, legal notices, employment news, hospitalizations, and photographs, all of which tell an ancestor's or descendant's story. What previously may have taken hours of searching to locate can now be found with a couple of mouse clicks and it's freely available to genealogists across the country!

Issues of the *Augusta Herald* Dating from 1898 to 1924 Freely Available at the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website

Through a partnership with the Augusta-Richmond County Library System, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has completed the digitization of three *Augusta Herald* titles dating from 1898 to 1924, comprising 6,993 issues and 91,708 pages. The issues are now available online at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/. The three titles digitized are:

The *Augusta Herald*, 1898–1908:
gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn82014179/

The *Augusta Daily Herald*, 1908–1914:
gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053973/

The *Augusta Herald*, 1914–1924:
gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053972/

Chronicle. The *Herald* continued circulation through most of the 20th century before ceasing publication in 1993.

The Knox Foundation provided \$45,000 of funding for this project and the Friends of the Augusta Library provided \$5,000.

Tina Monaco, the historian for the Georgia Heritage Room at the Augusta-Richmond County Library System, said:



This project has been in the works for several years, and the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System is thrilled to see it completed and to finally have a significant portion of the *Herald* freely accessible to the public. The lifespan of the *Herald*, Augusta, Georgia's longtime evening newspaper, follows almost 100 years of local history, and the nearly 30 years (1898 to 1924) the Digital Library of Georgia has digitized chronicles a remarkable time in the history of our city, our country, and the world. Researchers will have the opportunity to read about the changes wrought as the world moved through the turn of the 20th century, World War I, the Spanish Influenza, the passing of the 19th Amendment, Prohibition, and many other landmark events. The Augusta Public Library is indebted to the Knox Foundation and the Friends of the Augusta Public Library for their generous financial support, without which this project would have never made it off the ground.

The project marks the first time 20th century Augusta newspapers have been made freely available online to the public. Former employees of the *Augusta Chronicle* established the *Augusta Herald* in 1890 and published daily in the afternoon to compete with the morning edition of the *Chronicle*. By 1915, the *Augusta Herald* had surpassed all competition and boasted the city's largest circulation rate. William and Florence Morris of the Southeastern Newspapers Corporation acquired the *Herald* in 1955, putting the publication under the same parent company as the *Augusta*

Issues of the *Southern Cross*, the Weekly Newspaper of the Diocese of Savannah, Available Freely Online on the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website.

In conjunction with partners at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah, the *Southern Cross* (1963–2000) is now available for viewing at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn22

[185748/](#). These newspapers will contribute to a broader scholarship about Catholicism in Savannah as well as in Georgia. The Georgia Historic Newspapers Archive website provides access to these newspapers, enabling full-text searching and browsing by date and title. The site is compatible with all current browsers and the newspaper page images can be viewed without the use of plug-ins or additional software downloads. The archive is free and open for public use.

To fight Catholic prejudice and resist the spread of false information regarding Catholic beliefs and history, the Catholic Laymen's Association (CLA) of Georgia was founded in 1916. The CLA published pamphlets that explained Catholic beliefs for several years before establishing *The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia*, in January of 1920. The Bulletin ran as a monthly newspaper out of Augusta until 1956 when the organization changed the name to *The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, Official Newspaper for the Diocese of Savannah & Atlanta*; this change came after the diocese divided into two regions, Atlanta and Savannah. For a few months in early 1958, the Diocese of Savannah published the *Savannah Bulletin*, before the *Bulletin* began circulating two editions for Savannah and Atlanta through 1962. In 1963, the publication split into two separate diocesan papers, *The Bulletin* (Archdiocese of Atlanta) and *The Southern Cross* (Diocese of Savannah). The CLA disbanded in 1962, but the paper continued and exists today as the bimonthly *Southern Cross*.

Michael Johnson, editor of the *Southern Cross*, commented:

The paper exists to foster the sacramental and prayer life of the faithful and to promote the values of justice and peace that pertain to the Kingdom of God.

The mission of the *Southern Cross*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of

Savannah, is to help carry out the mission of the diocese through the print medium. It does so by proclaiming the Good News in the form of news articles, feature stories, commentary on aspects of the Faith, and their application to daily life. The paper exists to foster the sacramental and prayer life of the faithful and to promote the values of justice and peace that pertain to the Kingdom of God. Through the local stories and photographs carried in the *Southern Cross*, the bishop and pastoral staff can communicate with the diocesan family, and the parishes can share their activities with one another.

The *Southern Cross* reflects the diocesan mission to all the people of South Georgia, to the worldwide Church in communion with the Bishop of Rome, and to the whole human family.



Materials Documenting Events in the Presidency of Jimmy Carter Available Online

Select records documenting events in the presidency of Jimmy Carter from 1977–1981 are now available in the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG). There are two collections. The first, Notable Events and Accomplishments of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Administration, 1977–1981, is available at <https://dlg.usg.edu/>

[collection/carter_jcpa](#) and pulls together key presidential directives, presidential review memoranda, daily diary entries, and other related materials that describe events such as the Camp David Accords (1978), the hostage crisis in Iran (1979–1981), the Panama Canal Treaties (1977–1978), and the progression of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The second collection, the Presidential Files, Office of the Staff Secretary, is available at https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/carter_pfoff and includes communications to President Jimmy Carter and his senior staff, dating from January 1977 to May 1979.

These archival materials are housed at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and provide significant insight into the Carter administration. The research and evidential value span disciplines including political science, public administration, history, international/foreign relations, and archival studies, among others.

Dr. Meredith Evans, director, Jimmy Carter Library & Museum noted: “These records provide critical documentation of Jimmy Carter’s dedication to democracy and diplomacy locally and globally. We are committed to making these materials accessible and are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Digital Library of Georgia.”

Historical Aerial Photography Indexes that Chronicle Changing Land Use in all of Georgia’s 159 Counties from the 1930s to 1990s Available Freely Online

Along with partners at the University of Georgia (UGA) Map and Government Information Library (MAGIL), the Digital Library of Georgia has made the Georgia Aerial Photography Index Collection available at https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gyca_gaphind, now providing online access to more than 1,200 indexes produced by US government agencies, including the US Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Indexes covering all 159 Georgia counties are available with coverage ranging from the 1930s to the 1990s. The Georgia Aerial Photograph Index Collection provides access to digital versions of all Georgia county indexes in MAGIL’s physical collection. Previously digitized indexes of select counties in the State of Georgia, along with approximately 50,000 black and white photographs, are available in the [Georgia Aerial Photographs database](#).

Aerial photography depicts the physical and cultural characteristics of land at a specific time. The images can provide insights into various fields from ecology and geography to history, archeology, and urban planning. In addition to aiding in the mapmaking process, aerial photographs can be used to settle legal issues such as property disputes and even identify ancestral sites for people researching genealogy, according to the National Archives website <https://www.archives.gov/research/cartographic/aerial-photography>.



“MAGIL’s aerial photography collection is heavily used by researchers looking for everything from the existence of the old family

farm to the first appearance of a bridge to the development of an intersection over time,” said Valerie Glenn, the head of UGA’s Map and Government Information Library and Federal Regional Depository Librarian. “By making these indexes available through the Digital Library of Georgia, we are greatly improving access for those users interested in how Georgia land has or has not changed and providing them the ability to conduct preliminary research on an area without having to travel to Athens.”

Allison Haas has used these materials in her research, working for EDR/Lightbox. “Daily I use materials from the Map and Government Information Library for historical property research on commercial real estate sites as part of the environmental due diligence process,” Haas said. “Historical aerial photographs are key elements in the reports we provide to our clients. Quick turnaround on these reports is very important. Online access to this collection has improved workflow and helps get the reports to our clients quickly.”