

DIANE L. RICHARD EXPLORES SOME OF THE NEW COLLECTIONS IN GEORGIA'S ONLINE ARCHIVES

Georgia Digital Archives

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY of Georgia has recently posted two collections, Newspapers and African American Funeral Programs, that will help those researching Georgia ancestry.

Before we talk about these new additions, let's explore what is the Digital Library of Georgia, <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu>. It is a gateway to Georgia's history and culture as found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video and other resources. It contains one million digital objects in 110 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies.

To access the contents of the archive, you can use the search options in the upper left portion of the website's front page. Or, along the left side are a series of browsing options — topic, time period, county, institutions or media type. These are supplemented by an A-Z listing of the collections. The topics available are: The Arts, Business and Industry, Education, Folklife, Government and Politics, Land and Resources, Literature, Media, Peoples and Culture, Religion, Science and Medicine, Sports and Recreation, and Transportation.

Much of what will be of interest to genealogists will be found under the topic "Peoples and Cultures". However, many collections are listed under more than one topic, so expect some material to overlap.

For each topic, the collections are listed alphabetically and include a brief blurb on what is in the collection, along with hyperlinks to get you to the home page of the selected collection. You also have the option to jump to a letter representative of the first letter of the collection's name.

GEORGIA NEWSPAPERS

Most readers will be familiar with

the value that newspapers bring to genealogy research. Sometimes they tell us facts about a person and often they provide the color that helps bring our ancestors to life for us. These new Georgia digital newspaper archives will certainly create the opportunity for you to explore the lives of your Georgia ancestors. The newspapers now available include: Milledgeville Historic Newspapers Archive, 1808-1920; *Columbus Enquirer*, 1828-1890; *Macon Telegraph*, 1826-1908.



Funeral program for Lucy Craft Laney. More than 1,000 funeral programs can be found in the African American Funeral Programs collection.

Also available are searchable issues of the *Cherokee Phoenix*, the *Dublin Post*, the *Colored Tribune* and the *Southern Israelite*. The Georgia Newspaper Project and the digital archives for these newspapers can be found at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/Institutions/gnp.html>.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FUNERAL PROGRAMS

This collection, <http://funeral.galileo.usg.edu/funeral/>, consists of more than 1,000 funeral programs, ranging from 1933-2008 (with the bulk of the collection beginning in the 1960s). A majority of the programs are from churches in Augusta, Georgia and the surrounding area, with a few in other states, such as New York and Florida. The programs typically contain a photograph of the deceased, an obituary, a list of surviving relatives and the order of service.

Many of the people included in this collection were prominent in their communities, and a number were involved locally in the struggle for civil rights.

MORE AT THE ARCHIVES

Though these two new additions to the collection are not to be missed, take the time to look at some of the other 108 collections. In the Peoples and Cultures topic, for example, you will find such items as photograph collections, a Civil War era diary, documents about the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, editorial cartoons, Chatham County deed books (1785-1806), tax digests (1785-1799) and marriage records (1806-1920) for select counties, deeds for land in Cherokee County (1833-1844), Georgia Death Certificates (1919-1927), oral histories, slave narratives and more. This is a very rich compendium of digital resources.

Regardless of whether you are researching Georgia ancestors or not, you will find that, through these digital collections, you can learn a lot about what life was like from the 18th through 20th centuries.

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