

Documenting African American Milledgeville

Shaundra Walker, PhD

Georgia College

June 11, 2020


About the Common Heritage Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) “Common Heritage” program supports community digitization and outreach events to increase public awareness and stewardship of heritage collections held by the public.

About “Documenting African American Milledgeville”

This project will expand the community’s cultural heritage by digitizing materials documenting the area’s African American history. The opportunity to highlight the community’s lived experience capitalizes upon existing community-led/involved efforts on this topic.

The original project dates were January 2019 - June 2020, however due to COVID-19, the grant period has been extended to June 30, 2021.




NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

COMMON HERITAGE

HELP US SAVE HISTORY

*Reframing and Reconsidering the
Community's Memories from the
Perspective of Those Who Lived Them*



LOOK AT HISTORY DIFFERENTLY
GEORGIA COLLEGE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS GALLERIES

1. **Ellena Walker**, graduation photograph from 1911. Walker High School circa 1910. **Charles Walker** was a singer, who recorded several records with his Milledgeville band, **The Chantrelles**. The legend of his song "I Love My Baby", which reached #1 on the Billboard R&B chart for six weeks in 1950-1951. *Copyrighted by the Georgia Historical Society.*

2. **Floyd Griffin, Jr.**, Vietnam circa 1970. Griffin served in the U.S. Army for 22 years, ending at the rank of Colonel. Griffin went on to become the first African American to command a military unit in the Georgia National Guard and the first African American mayor of Milledgeville. *Copyrighted by the Georgia Historical Society.*

3. **The Mighty Chantrelles**, Black Band album cover circa 1951. Originally known as **The Chantrelles**, the band was a group of Milledgeville natives from Walker High School, who were **Charles Walker's** backing band. Later, under the name **The Mighty Chantrelles**, the band released several singles and a full length album. In the late 70s, the band would change its name again to **The House of Music**. *Copyrighted by the Georgia Historical Society.*

4. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Milledgeville residents protesting circa 1965. Milledgeville-Baldwin County residents marched on City Hall to protest and demand Milledgeville businesses to a show of solidarity against racism. *Copyrighted by the Georgia Historical Society.*

5. **Salute Ellis Davis**, portrait of a woman in a graduation cap and gown.

6. **Wilkes Flagg**, portrait of a man in a suit and tie.

7. **Georgia College**, building facade.

Planned Activities

1. Caring for Your Heritage Materials Workshop
2. History Harvest Days
3. Community History Panel
4. Exhibit

Workshop

- Location: Allen's Market
- Speaker: Ms. Shanee' Murrain, former University Archivist, University of West Georgia (current Community Manager at the Digital Public Library of America)



History Harvest #1

Location: Collins P. Lee Center

Date: October 5, 2019

Harrisburg Community Festival



History Harvest Day #2

Location: El Bethel Baptist Church

Date: March 5, 2020



Challenges

1. Building Trust
2. Marketing
3. Scheduling
4. COVID-19

Opportunities & Lessons Learned

1. Strategy, strategy, strategy
2. Value of diverse teams
3. Value of relationships
4. Value of collaborations
5. Residual opportunities

Questions

Shaundra Walker

shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu

478-445-0987