

January 1975

Georgia Archives in Mass Media History

Wallace B. Eberhard
University of Georgia

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/georgia_archive



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Eberhard, Wallace B., "Georgia Archives in Mass Media History," *Georgia Archive* 3 no. 1 (1975) .
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/georgia_archive/vol3/iss1/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Archive by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Wallace B. Eberhard

General knowledge of Georgia journalism history rests heavily on two figures, Henry Woodfin Grady and Ralph Emerson McGill; yet, resources are available to add more meaningful information to both the scholarly and popular literature of mass communications. Though no one archive holds material sufficient to reveal the entire story, there are excellent resources in Georgia for students and scholars wishing to add to, or to reinterpret, knowledge in this area.

This article will outline some of the major holdings in mass media history available around the state. The information was distilled from correspondence and (in most cases) a personal visit to the archive in question. In general, the search was limited to those manuscripts and other holdings related to Georgia journalism and journalists. Thus, writers whose work was wholly in the field of fiction were excluded; those whose work straddled the line between traditional journalism and other literary fields were included.

This article devotes little space to extensive detailing of microfilm or hard copy holdings of newspapers. It is an obvious statement to say that most Georgia newspapers are represented to one degree or another at one of the major universities or at the state archives. Ulrich's Guide and other standard references are useful in that respect, but an updated, master, consolidated list of holdings of Georgia newspapers by those institutions would be useful to both librarians and library users.

Mr. Eberhard is Assistant Professor of Journalism at the University of Georgia. The author is seeking to assemble as complete a file on sources for Georgia media history as possible, and thus would appreciate hearing from persons who know of files not included in this list.

ATLANTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Small but useful collections of items from Atlanta-based journalists are available at the Society, along with a variety of newspaper holdings. Collections include material from the following: Ernest Rogers, Atlanta Journal columnist; Frank L. Stanton, poet and columnist; W. A. Hemphill, early Atlanta Constitution stockholder; Jack J. Spaulding; and Captain Evan P. Howell, early Constitution owner. Also, several journalism-related organizations--the Atlanta Writer's Club, the Georgia Writers Association, and the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi--have donated materials. Newspaper collections include some holdings of early Atlanta newspapers, such as the Daily Intelligencer, with good runs for 1867-1868 and 1871. In addition, there are scattered issues from many Atlanta and Georgia newspapers too numerous to list here, dating from the early nineteenth century. A collection of unpublished manuscripts and the Society's library provide additional background for Atlanta media history.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Unquestionably some of the most interesting archival collections of Southern journalists are to be found in the Special Collections Department of the Robert W. Woodruff Library for Advanced Studies at Emory. Papers related to the greats and near greats in the field are to be found there. The fact that much has been written about some of them (e.g. Ralph McGill and Joel Chandler Harris) does not diminish their utility for more studies.

Nearly 18,000 pieces cover the long career of Julian LaRose Harris, son of Joel Chandler Harris. He worked at the Constitution, as editor of the short-lived Uncle Remus Home Magazine, Sunday editor of the New York Herald, general manager, then editor of the Columbus Enquirer-Sun when that paper won the first Pulitzer Prize ever given a Southern newspaper, executive editor of the Chattanooga Times, and correspondent for the New York Times. The papers are well organized into major topical areas: journalistic life and times, post-journalistic life, family life and interests, literary manuscripts, miscellaneous, and diaries and scrapbooks. They fill 33 boxes and 24 bound volumes. There are 727 letters to his wife Julia--also an author and journalist--as well as 3,018 items of other correspondence.

The short, full and eventful career of Henry Woodfin Grady, noted Constitution editor and spokesman for the New South, is covered in 5 boxes and 14 scrapbooks of correspondence, photographs and clippings, including 10 scrapbooks kept by Grady himself, 1869-1887. There is some early Grady family correspondence from the 1820s, as well as a number of photographs. The Constitution's founder, Carey W. Styles, is represented by 200 pieces of correspondence, 1860-1894. There is half a box of items related to William Arnold Hemphill, another early owner of the Constitution.

The career of Joel Chandler Harris, author of the Uncle Remus tales and a writer/editor for the Constitution, is well represented in the Emory Library holdings. A memorial room in the Special Collections Department houses four cabinets which include books, book manuscripts, personal and literary correspondence, clippings, photographs, and originals of Uncle Remus illustrations. There is little from his early days on the Constitution, but otherwise these holdings on Harris are extensive.

The career of Clark Howell spanned most of the gap between the editorships of Henry Grady and Ralph McGill, and there are three boxes of items related to that career, as well as some books. There are six letters from his father, Evan P. Howell, in a separate folder.

Thanks to a secretary who had a sense of history, the Ralph McGill Collection numbers more than 40,000 pieces, ranging from correspondence to speeches to photographs and scrapbooks. While McGill thought there was little to be gained in saving copies of his correspondence (both incoming and out-going), his secretary believed otherwise, and because of that the record of his career is extensive. Now cataloged and arranged, materials dealing with the following and outgoing), his secretary believed otherwise, and general correspondence, 1929-1971; work on committees and foundations; writing, both for the Constitution and the many books and articles, including correspondence with publishers, drafts and proofs; speeches; travel records; business and legal papers; memorabilia; an extensive photograph collection; correspondence from readers; 40 scrapbooks; notebooks and engagement books, and awards. Unfortunately only one folder of correspondence survived from the early part of his journalistic career (1929-1944). The amounts increase substantially with the passage of time from the 1940s into the 1960s and with his rise to national eminence as a writer and civil rights moderate.

Two members of the distaff side of Georgia journalism are well represented in the Emory special collections: Emily Barnelia Woodward and Mildred Woolley Seydel. (Mrs. Seydel used the spelling "Seydell" for her journalistic work.)

Miss Woodward was the editor/publisher of the Vienna (Georgia) News, 1918-1930, as well as a contributor to the Atlanta Journal. She was twice president of the Georgia Press Association and founder of its annual Institute. She also lectured in America and abroad for the United States Department of State. The collection includes about 1,300 letters from 1918-1966, 68 manuscripts of lectures or articles, clippings, and correspondence with various state and national leaders.

The collection covering Mrs. Seydel's career numbers nearly 31,000 items, filling more than 57 boxes. A native of Atlanta, she was a columnist for the Charleston, (West Virginia) Gazette and then the Atlanta Georgian. She traveled widely, covering such diverse subjects as the Scopes trial and Benito Mussolini. Her activities on behalf of the National Women's Party, 1931-1945, may be of special interest. The collection includes extensive correspondence, as well as clippings and photographs.

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The impact of unionism on mass media is a sadly neglected area of mass media history. The extensive holdings of the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State offer a chance for scholars to begin to remedy that weakness, at least in regard to the South.

The Atlanta Printing Pressmen and Assistants Local 8 has placed records for the 1940s through the 1960s in the archive, amounting to 8 boxes of records of that union's activities. Atlanta Typographical Union No. 48 is especially well represented by more than 14,000 items ranging from minutes and correspondence to financial records and management agreements, covering the period 1895-1939 and 1948-1960. Additionally, Edmund Torbush has donated approximately 7,000 items relating to the union, including various local and international pamphlets, newsletters, constitutions, directories and photographs. The activities of Birmingham Typographical Union No. 104 are covered, 1894-1950, in more than 1,000 items, chiefly minutes. More than 50 years of

Jacksonville Typographical Union No. 162, 1920-1972, is recorded in 8,036 items of correspondence, financial documents, minutes and contracts. Some items of the Florida Typographical Conference for 1945-1968 are in this collection. Manuscripts in collections of individuals include about 550 pages of material, chiefly magazine articles, pamphlets, and clippings, as well as a few poems and essays, 1919-1952, of Wayne Walden, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Paul L. Styles, Sr., who started his labor career as a member of the Huntsville Typographical Union, has a large body of papers covering his service on the National Labor Relations Board, 1950-1953, and as chief labor relations officer with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The Special Collections Department of the University of Georgia Library also holds substantial materials of use to mass media historians. These are quite extensive in biographical resources, but also useful for economic and social history of the media. The holdings are listed by their title in the Special Collections index, with the number of the holding in parenthesis after the title, for those who wish to make further inquiries or examine specific materials.

Ashantilly Press Collection (702): 88 items dated 1961 from a private press in Darien, including manuscripts and proofs. Additions are made periodically.

Athens Daily Banner Record Book (112): One ledger, 1879-1890, showing subscription lists and charges, with a few notes on 1872-1874 accounts.

Joseph E. Brown Papers (85, 95): Includes correspondence of this governor with Henry Grady and other notables, 1851-1932.

Carlton-Newton-Mell Collection (59): 4,230 items, including correspondence, and papers of Henry Hull Carlton (1834-1905), an Athens editor, lawyer, state representative, senator, and congressman.

George Washington Carver Letters (336): 18 reproductions of letters, mostly from Carver to Mrs. Julian Harris of Columbus, daughter-in-law of Joel Chandler Harris.

Civil War Editorials from Northern Newspapers (58): 2,472 negative photostats of editorials from Northern newspapers concerning the beginning of the Civil War, arranged alphabetically by states.

Telamon Cuyler Diary (461): Copy of a diary recording a trip to Texas in 1888 by fifteen-year-old Cuyler, then in company with Henry Grady, his son, and many others in a private railroad car.

Camillus J. Dismukes, Colonial Georgia Newspaper Notices (518): A 44-page, typed manuscript by Dismukes quoting advertisements in full and in part from the Georgia Gazette, 1763-1776, giving a picture of life in that time.

William Thomas Dumas (849): One scrapbook of letters, clippings and poems, including communications from Joel Chandler Harris, Henry Grady and others.

Family Visitor Office Daybook (107): Daybook of a magazine published in Madison early in the nineteenth century.

Milton Luther Fleetwood Collection (193): 958 items of correspondence, printed materials, pictures, and other items by and about Fleetwood (1892-1966), publisher of the Cartersville Tribune-News.

Goldsmith Gift. One volume of the Southern Banner for 1832, complete.

Henry W. Grady letter (619): Reproduction of a letter from Grady to Professor W. H. Parkinson, University of Virginia, August 29, 1889.

Henry W. Grady Scrapbooks (96): Two scrapbooks of clippings, including obituaries.

Henry W. Grady and Jefferson Davis Obituaries (97): One volume of obituaries of the two men.

Selena Armstrong Harmon Papers (768): 309 items including correspondence, articles, biographical material, manuscripts, pictures and clippings on the career of a feature writer for the Washington (D. C.) Times, and later free lance writer, ca., 1898-1912.

Corra Harris Papers (734): 39,682 items of correspondence, clippings, pictures and manuscripts from the life of a well-known Georgia novelist/journalist, 1906-1944.

Joel Chandler Harris Collection (498): 18 items, chiefly letters and cards.

Clark Howell Papers (818): 1,055 items from the life of the longtime Constitution editor and president, including correspondence, clippings, and photographs. Some papers included from his father, Evan P., and son, Clark Jr. (See also entry under Emory University above.)

Ward Morehouse Collection (687): 5,787 items including correspondence, plays, souvenir booklets, programs, manuscripts, and reviews from a Georgian who became a noted drama critic for the New York Times.

Edward Padelford Letters (365): 28 items, 1841-1842, from Padelford to Ira Peck of Marion, interesting because they are written on the inside pages of two small newspapers, the Savannah Republican Prices Current and the Savannah Shipping and Commercial List.

Medora Field Perkerson Papers (3014): More than 3,000 items, 1914-1960, from the career of a Georgia columnist and book author (White Columns), including manuscripts, printed material, pictures, and correspondence.

Virginia Polhill Price Collection (34): 6 record books, one of which is a subscription book for the Louisville (Georgia) News and Farmer, edited and published by R. J. Boyd, 1877-1882.

Jewell B. Reeve Papers (271): 88 items, 1860s, mostly manuscripts of articles and stories by her for the Calhoun Times.

Hoke Smith Collection (155): 33,882 items covering much of the career of this Georgia editor (Atlanta Journal), governor, Secretary of the Interior and U. S. Senator.

The Spokesman (572): Reproduction of the Spokesman, inmate publication at Georgia State Prison, Reidsville, along with brief history of the publication.

Stone Collection (135): 28 items including photograph of Stone's print shop, subscription list of the Athens

Publishing Company and the cash book of the Athens Weekly Chronicle, late 1880s.

Emily Barnelia Woodward Collection (62): Ms. Woodward founded and was twice president of the Georgia Press Association. She also founded its annual Institute, served as a Democratic Party officer, and traveled and lectured throughout the world. The collection includes correspondence, speeches, printed materials and pictures.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The state archives in Atlanta has several items of interest to a student of the history of media economics.

One ledger (microfilm 186-18) records the income for two Lumpkin County newspapers, the Signet and Spy and the Miners Record and Spy in the West, published at Aurelia and later Dahlonega, by Milton H. Gathraight. The entries reveal the principal sources of advertising revenue for the two papers.

Six ledgers (accessions 97-102) from the Southern Recorder, a newspaper published in Milledgeville, offer the opportunity to write a fairly complete economic history of a small-town weekly in the mid-1800s. Day books for 1853-1861 and 1861-1871, advertising ledgers for 1839-1850 and 1850-1858, a subscription ledger, and related data would make it possible to reconstruct the financial well-being of that newspaper for an extensive time period.

In addition, the archives has a sizeable collection of Georgia genealogies and county histories useful for building background on media in the state. A number of letters are held in the archives, including a few from Sarah Hillhouse, the state's first woman publisher, and many other persons prominent in Georgia journalism history.