

# THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of  
The Friends of the National Archives—Southeast Region and  
The National Archives at Atlanta

January, 2012

## African American Heritage Program

The National Archives at Atlanta will partner with the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society and Clayton County on a day-long program commemorating Black History Month. The events are scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 9:00 – 5:00.

### Are You Gullah Geechee?

From 9:00 – 12:00 the program will feature the unique culture of the Gullah Geechee.

The Gullah are African Americans who live in the Low-country region of South Carolina and Georgia. They are the descendants of the slaves who worked on the rice plantations. Because of their geographical isolation, the Gullah have been able to preserve more of their African cultural heritage than any other group of Black Americans. They speak a creole language similar to Sierra Leone Krio, use African names, tell African folktales, make African-style handicrafts, and enjoy a rich cuisine based primarily on rice.

The program will include presentations by Emma Davis Hamilton on “We are Gullah: The History,” Dr. Mary B. Ziegler, Professor at Georgia State University, on “Say it Loud! “I’m Gullah and I’m Proud,”” and Dr. D. L. Henderson, Historian/Genealogist, on “Death and Dying in the Gullah Culture.” The Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters will perform.

Registration required at [gullahprogramatl@gmail.com](mailto:gullahprogramatl@gmail.com).



“The Old Plantation,” South Carolina, about 1790. Gullah slaves dancing and playing musical instruments derived from Africa. Photo courtesy Yale University.

### Clayton County African American Arts and Heritage Festival

*Fun for families and children of all ages!*

From 1:00–5:00 Clayton County will host exhibits, historic photographs, storytelling, and musical performances in the lobby and conference rooms.

The event will include information on African American families in Clayton County. Also on display will be information on the African American First Families in Clayton County, including a video recording of African American history in Clayton County. Performing will be Akbar Imhotep, puppeteer, as well as a clown.

**All events are free and include: “A Taste of Africa and America”—bite-sized samples of African-American cuisine. Registration is not required for the afternoon program.**

### The Artifacts of Enslavement:

#### The Shackles and Objects of Slavery

View Denise White Fields’ exhibit of artifacts related to slavery. On display from February 18, 2012–April 14, 2012.



Rice Hoe Photo

## Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region to Hold Annual Meeting

**When:** Saturday, March 24, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. — 12:00 Noon

**Where** National Archives at Atlanta  
5780 Jonesboro Road  
Morrow, GA 30260

Driving Directions at [www.archives.gov/southeast](http://www.archives.gov/southeast)

**FNAS** is a volunteer service organization dedicated to serving the research needs of the southeastern population of the United States as well as the preservation activities of the National Archives at Atlanta located in Morrow, near Atlanta. This region covers the eight states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Members of FNAS make a great team of amateur and professional genealogists and family historians working together to preserve regional, state, local and family history and pursue genealogical interests related to research, study, and preservation.

Following a brief business meeting, the Friends will host a workshop, which is free and open to the public, entitled:

### The 1940 Census: What's in it? How do I get to it? When can I access it?

This workshop will include (1) a general overview of the questions asked and how this census differs from 1930 and prior years and (2) how to access the Census, including information on locating an Enumeration District number. The workshop will include online demonstrations of locating an Enumeration District via the NARA website.

*From the desk of George Jacobs  
President,  
Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region*

## March is Women's History Month!

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.



"Line up of some of women welders including the women's welding champion of Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp., Pascagoula, MS", 1943

**ARC Identifier 522890 / Local Identifier 86-WWT-85-35**

Item from Record Group 86: Records of the Women's Bureau, 1892 - 1995

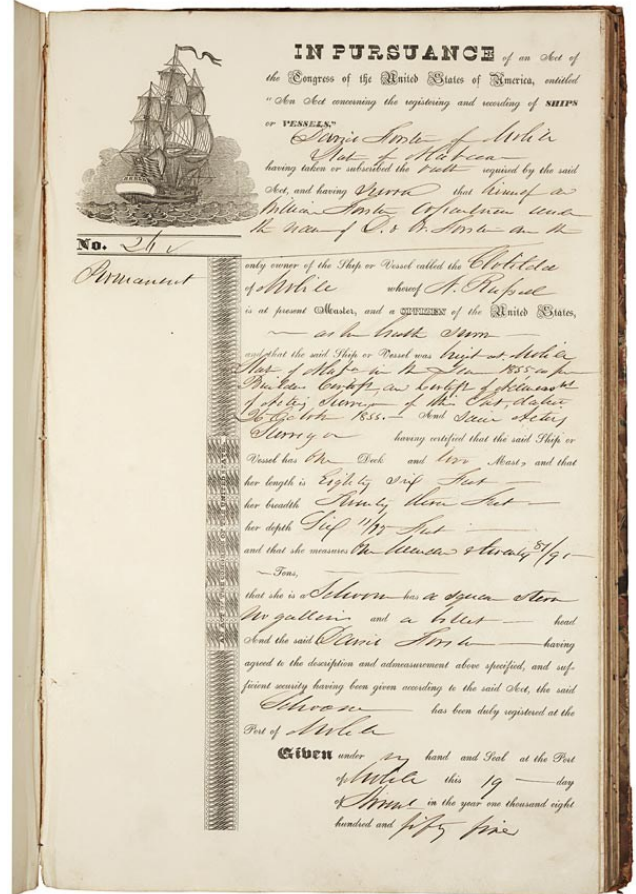


**A Bill Has Been Introduced in the Illinois Legislature Limiting Women's Hats to a Diameter of Eighteen Inches, 04/24/1909**

**ARC Identifier 6010794** Records of the U.S. Senate, 1789 - 2011

# From Africa to Alabama: The Voyage of the Clotilda

Built and licensed in Mobile, Alabama in 1855, the *Clotilda* (or *Clotilde*) was a two-masted schooner, eighty-six feet long by twenty-three feet wide, which measured 120 tons. According to the records, the ship's first voyage transporting cargo was on January 25, 1856, when she departed for Havana, Cuba carrying 70,000 feet of lumber. Throughout the next four years, the *Clotilda* continued to ferry goods between Mobile, domestic ports in Texas and Louisiana, and foreign ports in Cuba and Mexico, establishing itself as a reliable cargo vessel. Described on the latest cargo manifest for the ship available in the records, she departed Mobile for "St. Thomas or a Market" on February 27, 1860 carrying 41,000 feet of lumber, 18 barrels of whiskey, 75 barrels of flour, 46 barrels of beef, and 74 barrels of bread. There was no return manifest for this particular voyage.



On July 7, 1860, the *Clotilda*, commanded by Captain William Foster, entered Mobile Bay carrying "more or less" 103 slaves from "a foreign kingdom, place, or country" fifty-two years after the United States legally abolished the international slave trade. This would make the *Clotilda* the last known ship to bring slaves to the U.S., arriving over eighteen months after the *Wanderer* landed at Jekyll Island, Georgia. After unloading its human cargo, Captain Foster burned the ship in the harbor to destroy the evidence.

While they do not appear to be members of the crew or sponsors of the ship, Burns Meaher and John Dabney "reserved" a number of the slaves prior to their importation and acquired them when they arrived in Mobile. The first summonses and writs of seizure for Meaher and Dabney in the U.S. District Court records for Mobile were issued on July 27, 1860; however, the orders were not executed until December 17 and 20, respectively, by giving the defendants the information verbally. The returns for both writs of seizure yielded a predictable result: the slaves were not found. Thus, the cases against Meaher and Dabney were dismissed on January 10, 1861, just months prior to the start of the Civil War. (Of note, John M. Dabney appears again in the Mobile Circuit Court records in 1876 for a criminal violation of the Enforcement Acts 1870-71.) After the war, most of the former slaves who came to the U.S. aboard the *Clotilda* stayed in Mobile, where many of their ancestors live today in a community called Africatown.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.FRIENDSNAS.ORG

## Census Day, April 2, 2012

Please join us for the opening of the Census!

- Refreshments,
- 1940s music,
- Images from 1940,
- Assistance in accessing the 1940 Census via the NARA website.

Family Portrait,  
1940, near Fort  
Loudon, TN. Ten-  
nessee Valley  
Authority



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