“We Be Anointed People:” The Gullah-Geechee Nation and Culture

October is observed as The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Month. Located along the Lowcountry region, amongst the coast of North and South Carolina, Georgia and up until the coastal peak of Florida— The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and Nation is a community preserved by its geographic location, literacy and oral history. Barrels of indigo, pigeon peas, or weaving Sweetwater grass baskets; this community’s cultural survival is seen in every day images and elements. The Gullah Geechee culture is a community uniquely comprised of West and Central African descendants, and some Georgia Native American tribes. Upon arriving to what is now considered the southern states, these individuals also fashioned their own “Gullah” language, an English-based creole, in an approach to preserve their African languages.

Not only did this community preserve their historical legacy; yet, fellowshipped and established schools, churches, and entrepreneurial businesses within the Gullah Geechee community. Residents are knowingly referred to as “Geechee.” Terms like Freshwater and Saltwater Geechee distinguish residents born on the mainland or the Sea Islands.

This listing provides historical narratives and oral histories of residents and local communities near the Gullah Geechee Historical Corridor and Nation. Children’s adaptions of Gullah histories and television productions as well as the iconic Daughters of the Dust are included.

Sources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Auburn Avenue Research Library maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house. Suggested search terms and keywords are provided to further guide patron’s research amongst Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library catalog and digital libraries.

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<td>Tales from the Land of Gullah for Kids</td>
<td>Singleton-Prather, Anita</td>
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<td>Becoming a slave in South Carolina</td>
<td>Pinkney, Bill (William)</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>The Language You Cry In</td>
<td>Toepke, Alvaro</td>
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<td>Sing Along with Binyah Binyah</td>
<td>Daise, Natalie</td>
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<td>Ebony pearls the African American experience in and around Charleston, South Carolina</td>
<td>Maat, Muima</td>
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<td>Porgy: A Gullah Version</td>
<td>Heyward, Dorothy</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>VHS 792.1 PORGY</td>
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<td>Family Across the Sea</td>
<td>Baker, Augusta</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<td>Daughters of the Dust</td>
<td>Dash, Julie</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<td>Praise House</td>
<td>Dash, Julie</td>
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<td>VHS 792.8 PRAISE</td>
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<td>Charlotte Forten's mission experiment in freedom</td>
<td>Crane, Barry</td>
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<td>Charlotte Forten’s Mission</td>
<td>Moore, Melba</td>
<td>1985</td>
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Books:

Making Gullah: A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race and the American Imagination  
Author: Cooper, Melissa L.  
Pub Date: 2017  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8737 COOPER

Stigma and Culture: Last-place Anxiety in Black America  
Author: Matory, James Lorand  
Pub Date: 2015  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.8 MATORY

Talking to the dead: religion, music, and lived memory among Gullah/Geechee women  
Author: Manigault-Bryant, LeRhonda S.  
Pub Date: 2014  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 200.89 MANIGAULT-BRYANT

Penn Center: A History Preserved  
Author: Burton, Orville Vernon  
Pub Date: 2014  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.799 BURTON

Hubs of Empire: The Southeastern Lowcountry and British Caribbean  
Author: Mulcahy, Matthew  
Pub Date: 2014  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.799 BURTON

Patroons and Periaguas: enslaved watermen and watercraft of the lowcountry  
Author: Harris, Lynn B.  
Pub Date: 2014  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.79102 HARRIS

Vibration Cooking, or, the Travel Notes of A Geechee Girl  
Author: Smart-Grosvenor, Vertamae  
Pub Date: 2011  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 641.59296 SMART-GROSVENOR

Bibliography of the Sea Islands  
Author: Twining, Mary Arnold  
Pub Date:  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 917.57016 TWINING

The Gullahs of South Carolina  
Author: Hammond, Pearce W.  
Pub Date: 2011  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.799 HAMMOND

African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry: The Atlantic World and the Gullah Geechee  
Author: Morgan, Philip D.  
Pub Date: 2010  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.896 AFRICAN
Sapelo Island’s Hog Hammock
Author: Johnson, Michele Nicole  Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8737 JOHNSON

Civil War Tours of the Low country: Beaufort, Hilton Head, and Bluffton, South Carolina
Author: Charters, Samuel Barclay  Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 780.8996 CHARTERS

Tales from Brookgreen: Folklore, Ghost Stories, and Gullah Folktales in the South Carolina Low country
Author: Michelsohn, Lynn  Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 398.2 MICHELSOHN

Music Education through Gullah: The Legacy of a Forgotten Genre
Author: Rice, Marianne A.  Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 780.89 RICE

A Language of Song: Journeys in the Musical World of the African Diaspora
Author: D’Arcy, David  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 917.5704 D'ARCY

Voices from St. Simons: Personal Narratives of an Island’s Past
Author: Doster, S.M.G (Stephen M. G.)  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8742 VOICES

True stories of Black South Carolina
Author: Fordham, Damon L.  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.700496 FORDHAM

The Charleston freedman's cottage : an architectural tradition
Author: Felzer, Lissa  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 728.373 FELZER

Gullah Culture in America
Author: Cross, Wilbur  Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.00496 CROSS

Yearning to breathe free : Robert Smalls of South Carolina and his families
Author: Billingsley, Andrew  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B SMALLS
The Dispersion of Africans and African Culture Throughout the World: Essays on the African Diaspora
Author: Moores, Lois Merriweather  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 304.8096 DISPERSION

Burke High School, 1894 to 2006
Author: Pyatt, Sherman E.  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 378.7 PYATT

John's Island
Author: Haynie, Connie Walpole  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.7 HAYNIE

Cooking the Gullah Way, Morning, Noon, and Night
Author: Robinson, Sallie Ann  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 641.592 ROBINSON

Lorenzo Dow Turner: Father of Gullah Studies
Author: Wade-Lewis, Margaret  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B TURNER

Gullah Branches, West African Roots
Author: Daise, Ronald  Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305.896 DAISE

The Invisible War: The African American Anti-Slavery Resistance from the Stone Rebellion through the Seminole Wars
Author: Kly, Yussuf Naim  Pub Date: 2006
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 306.362089 INVISIBLE

Carnival of blood : dueling, lynching, and murder in South Carolina, 1880-1920
Author: Moore, John Hammond  Pub Date: 2006
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 364.152 MOORE

Gullah Cultural Legacies: A Synopsis of Gullah Traditions, Customary Beliefs, Art Forms and Speech on Hilton Head Island and Vicinal Sea Islands in South Carolina and Georgia
Author: Campbell, Emory S.  Pub Date: 2005
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 917.57016 TWINING
And I'm glad: an oral history of Edisto Island
Author: Lindsay, Nick
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.791 AND
Pub Date: 2005

Sweetgrass baskets and the Gullah Tradition
Author: Coakley, Joyce V.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 746.41 COAKLEY
Pub Date: 2005

Slave badges and the slave-hire system in Charleston, South Carolina, 1783-1865
Author: Greene, Harlan
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 326 GREENE
Pub Date: 2004

Sapelo Voices: Historical Anthropology and The Oral Traditions of Gullah-Geechee Communities on Sapelo Island, Georgia
Author: Crook, Ray
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8737 SAPELO
Pub Date: 2003

Gullah: History and Culture. A Selected Bibliography of Sources in the AARL
Author: Simon, Johnnie P.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.016 SIMON
Pub Date: 2003

Seas of Gold, Seas of Cotton: Christophe Poulain DuBignon of Jekyll Island
Author: Keber, Martha L.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B DUBIGNON
Pub Date: 2002

Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect
Author: Turner, Lorenzo Dow
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 427.9757 TURNER
Pub Date: 2002

Hampton and his Red shirts: South Carolina's deliverance in 1876
Author: Williams, Alfred B. (Alfred Brockenbrough)
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.704 WILLIAMS
Pub Date: 2002

God, Dr. Buzzard, and the Bolito Man: A Saltwater Geechee Talks about Life on Sapelo Island
Author: Bailey, Cornelia
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B BAILEY
Pub Date: 2000

Charleston, South Carolina
Author: Meffert, John W.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.7915 MEFFERT
Pub Date: 2000
Gullah Folktales from the Georgia Coast
Author: Jones, Charles Colcock
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 398.2 JONES
Pub Date: 2000

Wrestlin' Jacob: a portrait of religion in antebellum Georgia and the Carolina low country
Author: Clarke, Erskine
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 277.58733 CLARKE
Pub Date: 2000

Wrestlin' Jacob: a portrait of religion in the Old South
Author: Clarke, Erskine
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 277.58733 CLARKE

Symbolizing the Past: Reading Sankofa, Daughters of the Dust & Eve’s Bayou as Histories
Author: Grayson, Sandra M.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 791.43 GRAYSON
Pub Date: 2000

Hoodoo Medicine: Gullah Herbal Remedies
Author: Mitchell, Faith
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 398.353 MITCHELL
Pub Date: 1999

The Gullah People and Their African Heritage
Author: Pollitzer, William S.
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.00496 POLLITZER
Pub Date: 1999

Blue Roots: African American Folk Magic of Gullah People
Author: Pinckney, Roger
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 398 PINCKNEY
Pub Date: 1998

Slaves in the Family
Author: Ball, Edward
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.7915 BALL
Pub Date: 1998

Gulluh Fuh Oonuh= Gullah for You: A Guide to the Gullah Language
Author: Geraty, Virginia Mixson
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 427.975799 GERATY
Pub Date: 1997

The Sapelo Collection
Author: Wayne, Kay
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8 SAPELO
Pub Date: 1997
**Portrait of an Island**  
*Author:* Teal, Mildread  
*Pub Date:* 1997  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 508.758 TEAL

**Journal of a visit to the Georgia Islands of St. Catharines, Green, Ossabaw, Sapelo, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland, with comments on the Florida islands of Amelia, Talbot, and St. George, in 1753**  
*Author:* Bryan, Jonathan  
*Pub Date:* 1996  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 975.8742 BRYAN

**Gullah Images: The Art of Jonathan Green**  
*Author:* Green, Jonathan  
*Pub Date:* 1996  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 759.13 GREEN

**Gullah Statesman: Robert Smalls from Slavery to Congress, 1839-1915**  
*Author:* Miller, Edward A.  
*Pub Date:* 1995  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* B SMALLLS

**The glass bottle tree**  
*Author:* Coleman, Evelyn  
*Pub Date:* 1995  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 813.54 COLEMAN

**The Water Brought Us: The Story of the Gullah-speaking People**  
*Author:* Branch, Muriel Miller  
*Pub Date:* 1995  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 975.87 BRANCH

*Author:* Sea Island Translation and Literacy Team  
*Pub Date:* 1995  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 226.4 BIBLE

**Bo Rabbit Smart for True: Tall Tales from the Gullah**  
*Author:* Jaquith, Priscilla  
*Pub Date:* 1995  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 398.2452 JAQUITH

**Sapelo’s People: A Long Walk into Freedom**  
*Author:* McFeely, William S.  
*Pub Date:* 1994  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 975.8 MCFEELY

**The Crucible of Carolina: Essays in the Development of Gullah Language and Culture**  
*Author:* Montgomery, Michael  
*Pub Date:* 1994  
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 427.973 CRUCIBLE
The John Couper Family at Cannon’s Point
Author: Ferguson, T. Reed  Pub Date: 1994
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 929.2 COOPER FAMILY

Black Charlestonians: a social history, 1822-1885
Author: Powers, Bernard Edward  Pub Date: 1994
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.7 POWERS

Sea Island Roots: African Presence in the Carolinas and Georgia
Author: Barid, Keith E.  Pub Date: 1991
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 305.896073 SEA

Sapelo Time is Winding Up: Tales from a Georgia Sea Island
Author: Ferlatte, Diane  Pub Date: 1991
Auburn Avenue Research Library: CAS 398.2 FERLATTE

Early days on the Georgia tidewater: the story of McIntosh County and Sapelo: being a documented narrative account, with particular attention to the County's waterway and maritime heritage; plantation culture and uses of the land in the 19th century; and a detailed analysis of the history of Sapelo Island
Author: Sullivan, Budy  Pub Date: 1990
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8737 SULLIVAN

Drums and Shadows: Survival Studies Among the Georgia Coastal Negroes
Author: Georgia Writers’ Project  Pub Date: 1986
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 975.8 DRUMS

Geechies: Poems, 1972-1982
Author: Millard, Gregory  Pub Date: 1985
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.54 MILLARD

The 30s, Donnybrook Decade in St. Louis Public School Power Plants: A Geechee Mavericks Quests in a Jim Crow City
Author: Young, F. Weldon  Pub Date: 1984
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B YOUNG

Black Liberation on Cumberland Island, in 1815
Author: Bullard, Mary Ricketson  Pub Date: 1983
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 975.8746 BULLARD

An Abandoned Black Settlement on Cumberland Island, Georgia
Author: Bullard, Mary Ricketson  Pub Date: 1982
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8746 BULLARD
Sketches in Sepia: Gullah and Other Poems
Author: Townsend, Saide  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.54 TOWNSEND  
Pub Date: 1975

The Lost Legacy of Georgia’s Golden Isles
Author: Fancher, Betsy  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 917.58 FANCHER  
Pub Date: 1971

Georgia’s Land of the Golden Isles
Author: Vanstory, Burnette  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.8 VANSTORY  
Pub Date: 1970

The Carolina Low Country
Author: Society for the Preservation of Spirituals  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 917.57 SOCIETY  
Pub Date: 1931

Our Today’s and Yesterdays, A Story of Brunswick and the Coastal Islands
Author: Cate, Margaret Davis  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.874 CATE  
Pub Date: 1930

The King's Highway (now Route 40) through the coastal plantations between Georgetown and Charleston: route traveled by George Washington during his southern tour in 1791
Author: Allan, Susan Johnson Robinson  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 975.7 ALLAN  
Pub Date: 1930

Slave Songs of the United States
Author: Allen, William Francis  
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 784.756 ALLEN  
Pub Date: 1867
Electronic Materials and Mixed Media:

**Cruising Guide to Coastal South Carolina and Georgia**
*Author:* Young, Claiborne S.
*Auburn Avenue Research Library:* 797.109757 CRUISING 1996

**Been in the Storm so Long, A Collection of Spirituals, Folk Talks and Children’s Games from Johns Island, South Carolina**
*Author:* Carawan, Guy  
*Pub Date:* 1990  
*Call #:* CD 782.42086 BEEN

**Slave Songs of the Georgia Sea Islands**
*Author:* Parrish, Lydia Austin  
*Pub Date:* 1942  
*Call #:* WR 784.7 PARRISH

**Gullah voices from slave ships to sea island plantation, living African culture and language**
*Author:* Kinlaw-Ross, Eleanor  
*Pub Date:* 1997  
*Call #:* CAS 973.00496 KINLAW

Archival Resources:

**Cruising Guide to Coastal South Carolina and Georgia**
*Author:* Brimelow, Judith M.
*Auburn Avenue Archives Division:* M-FILM 929.3757 STATE
Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:

- Gullah Geechee Nation
- Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
- Sea Isles
- Sea Islands and Communities
- Gullah Language
- Gullah Creole OR dialect
- Gullah /Gullahs OR
- Geechees/ Geechies
- Georgia Sea Isles
- Georgia islands AND West African AND low country
- Glynn county AND Gullah OR Geechee AND African influence
- Queen Marquetta Goodwine OR Queen Quet
- Golden Isles OR Georgia Sea Isles
- Golden Isles Highway AND slavery routes AND south Georgia
- Native Americans OR Indigenous Americans AND Gullah or Geechee AND social cooperation
- Native Americans OR Indigenous Americans AND Gullah or Geechee AND land ownership
- Property ownership OR land ownership AND Indigenous Americans AND Gullah or Geechee
- Saltwater OR freshwater Geechee
- Low country/ Lowcountry
- Rice company AND Rice plantation AND Savannah, Georgia AND Georgia Sea islands
- Geographical isolation AND rice plantation AND Georgia Sea islands
- Indigo dye AND Indigo blue AND African print marking
- Indigo dye AND Indigo blue AND Gullah garments AND economy
- Sweetwater baskets AND economy AND Gullah or Geechee community
- Sierra Leone AND Angolan influence AND Gullah or Geechee community
- West African AND Gullah or Geechee community AND cultural similarities

- Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) Program
How to Use Booleans:

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Boolean Operators are simple words to maximize search results.

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