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### ***Tallahassee Museum assistant curator wins book award***

**Tallahassee, FL** -- Gwendolyn Waldorf, Tallahassee Museum assistant curator, is the recipient of the Georgia Historical Society's 2007 Lilla M. Hawes Award for her book *The Genesis of Grady County, Georgia* (Sentry Press).

The book, about the families and communities that formed Grady County and the rise of Cairo as its county seat, was a special project for Waldorf. "The heirs of Julien B. Roddenberry of Cairo selected me to write a county history based, in part, on their family's collection of records," said Waldorf. "The project was of particular interest to me because my grandparent's farm was in northwest Grady County, and also because of my love for research."

"Before compiling the book, I spent a lot of time reading county and state records to document the information in the correspondence and family stories, and to fill in the gaps," said Waldorf. "It was a challenging task because Grady County wasn't created until the early twentieth century, so its nineteenth-century history had to be unraveled from Decatur and Thomas county records."

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The Grady County Historical Society nominated the book for the Hawes Award, which was presented at the Georgia Historical Society's 168<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in April. The Lilla M. Hawes award was established in 1993 and is given for the book judged the most worthy contribution to Georgia county or local history published during the previous year.

*The Genesis of Grady County, Georgia* is available for purchase through the Grady County Historical Society Museum at 1 North Broad Street, Cairo, Georgia or [www.gradyhistorical.org](http://www.gradyhistorical.org). All proceeds from book sales benefit the Grady County Historical Society.

Waldorf commends Rebecca Rodenberry Cline for her work compiling multiple appendices of county information as well as finding the maps and illustrations used in the publication. "It was fun and satisfying to work with her because she knows the county so well," said Waldorf. "It was a labor of love for her, and became one for me!"

**The Tallahassee Museum, celebrating 50 years of creating memories and enriching lives**

The Tallahassee Museum is a 52-acre Museum located in SW Tallahassee on beautiful Lake Bradford (3945 Museum Drive) where history, nature, and wildlife are intertwined to tell an intriguing story about Florida's natural and cultural history. This unique Museum, 1880s farmstead, historical buildings, natural habitat zoo and scenic grounds provides hands-on learning and entertainment for all ages. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Admission Fees: \$8/Adults, \$7.50/Seniors (65+) & College Students (with valid ID); \$5.50/Children (4-15); and free for children 3 and under. Admission is free for members. For more information: (850) 575-8684 or [www.tallahasseeuseum.org](http://www.tallahasseeuseum.org)

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