



2009 is SLA's 100th birthday, and we all get to celebrate. It all begins later this month at Leadership Summit in Savannah, where the Georgia Chapter welcomes you to full days of learning, planning, and celebration.

It is customary at this point in the host chapter's welcome to assure you that there will be No Snow at the Summit site. If you've already looked at our [wiki](#) of local information you already know we are not expecting snow in Savannah. I should perhaps take the opportunity to warn you about the kudzu – don't stand still too long or it'll grow all over you.

This is a time for SLA to reflect on the old and the new, and that suits Savannah, the port of Georgia. Georgia was one of the original 13 colonies that later became the USA. General James Oglethorpe landed in what is now South Carolina, came up the river and decided to settle on the side that is now Georgia. (Sorry, South Carolina.) The site's best defensive feature was the surrounding swamp, so maybe that's not much to boast about. You'll see Oglethorpe's statue in Chippewa Square when you come to our Thursday evening Welcome Reception and Centennial Celebration.

What was happening here around the time John Cotton Dana was busy founding SLA? Many of you will know that in 1912 Juliette Gordon Low founded what became the Girl Scouts of the USA, bringing the idea from her other home in the UK to Savannah. Her house in the Historic District is now a destination for Girl Scouts from across the country.

In 1909 Shoeless Joe Jackson played here for the South Atlantic League, but he moved along to another team you may have heard of.

A few years earlier, in 1904, one of the first car showrooms in the US opened at the [Bryson Auto Exchange](#), facing Chippewa Square. (The Packards have all gone now.) That's where we'll be on Thursday evening for the Welcome Reception, Centennial Celebration, Birthday Party and Savannah-style Social.

See you on the Square,

Irene McMorland
Georgia Chapter President 2008
Casey Long,
Georgia Chapter President 2009