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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

Morrow, GA, June 14, 2017 – Next month, the Georgia Archives will host our monthly Lunch and Learn Lecture and hold a special one-day document display. On Friday, July 14, our Lunch and Learn program will be on Native American ancestry research. On Saturday, July 1, in celebration of Independence Day, the Georgia Archives will have a special showing of Georgia's recorded copy of the Declaration of Independence. Both events are free and open to the public. No registration required.

Friday July 14, 2017 at 12:00 noon, Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, Certified Genealogist®, will present "About That Native American Grandmother: Clues That Help & Hinder Our Family Stories." Stories of Cherokee ancestry are common among families whose ancestors were established in the southeast prior to the Trail of Tears. An estimated forty-four percent of native southerners believe they have Indian ancestry. Many feel strongly compelled to accept the challenge to either document or disprove these stories, but are uncertain about how to proceed. Because genealogical research includes placing our families in legal and social context, the discussion will begin with a very brief history of the state of Georgia's interaction with three tribes that resided in Georgia - the Creeks, Cherokees, and Natchez - and how descendants of these native people were affected by the government's legal maneuvers. Using three case studies of families who have native ancestral stories and whose ancestors were racially identified as black and white, attendees will gain guidance about how to conduct Native American research and how to recognize the clues that can be used as evidence and provide credibility for their stories. Genetic genealogy has become a valuable tool, and today's families with native stories often DNA test with the hope to use these results to accept or reject evidence of this ancestry. The use of DNA results as evidence of native ancestry will also be discussed.

The program requires no registration and is free and open to the public. Lunch and Learn programs begin at 12:00 noon and last about an hour.

Saturday, July 1, 8:30am to 5:00pm, in celebration of Independence Day, the Georgia Archives will exhibit Georgia's recorded copy of the Declaration of Independence. Archives staff will be on hand to answer questions.

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Georgia Archives identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people, and assists state and local government agencies with their records management. This work is done within the framework of the USG's mission to create a more highly educated Georgia.

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