

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2021

Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.

NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY®



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OF GEORGIA
Georgia Archives

Ideas for Topics for National History Day 2021 using Collections at the Georgia Archives

Communication in History: the Colonial Experiment

The Transactions of the Trustees are useful for documenting Georgia's colonial experiment. They include Edgemont's Journals, the private record of a leading trustee. Communication to parliament from two different camps, those loyal to James Oglethorpe, and the discontented group of colonists known as the Malcontents, ultimately doomed the vision of Oglethorpe and the trustees.

Transactions of the Trustees for the Establishment of the Colony of Georgia, 1738-1744,
<https://tinyurl.com/yckwkt3s>

Communication in History: Georgia governors' communication with constituents and state departments

https://georgiaarchives.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/classification_terms/153

Georgia's governors left a large quantity of records documenting the state's affairs: correspondence of governors, executive minutes, proclamations, and treaties.

Communication in History: Stage/mail routes went from Washington to Milledgeville to Montgomery. The Federal Capitol had to communicate with the state capitol. Private stage companies with a mail contract. They were advertised through newspapers.

Communication in History: Covering the legislature through newspapers.

Communication in History: Rural power and telephone projects (1950s - 1970s).

Information about bringing rural Georgia "up to standard." The Georgia Archives has inactive corporation files for several phone, power, and telegraph companies.

Communication in History: Trademark Registration books available in the Virtual Vault:
<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/trade>

Communication in History: Transportation and Communication.

Western and Atlantic Railroad: <https://georgiaarchives.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/classifications/22>

Documents in this collection date from 1837 to 1888.

The Western and Atlantic Railroad was founded on December 21, 1836. The city of Atlanta was founded as the terminus of the W&A, with the Terminus marked with the Atlanta Zero Mile Post. The line is still owned by the State of Georgia from Atlanta to CT Tower in Chattanooga. It is leased by CSX Transportation.

Communication in History: Public Service Commission – Public Utilities records (1920-1970)

The state began regulating railroads in 1879. That regulatory agency later became the Public Services Commission. The record group contains information about public utilities throughout the twentieth century.

- <https://georgiaarchives.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/221>
- Public Utility Company files. RG 17/3/4. Substantially requests for rate adjustments and territorial expansions. Includes telephone and telegraph, plus lots of electrical.
- Telephone and Telegraph Company Annual reports. RG 17/3/31.
- Telephone pole line and exchange area maps. RG 17/3/35

Communication in History: Transportation and Communication.

MARTA (the Metropolitan Atlanta Transportation Authority from the 1960s) and earlier transportation records, such as those of the Atlanta Transit Company owned by the Georgia Power Company from the 1920s until the 1960s.

Georgia Power Photograph Collection

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/gpower>

The Georgia Department of Transportation and the earlier Highway Department records are comprehensive in their documentation from the planning, to purchasing right of way, to construction files and photographs.

Communication in History: Publishing the laws.

https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/legislative_intent
<https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research>

Communication in History: Communication through the courts.

The State Supreme Court was established in 1846, and the Archives has records from the beginning.

House and Senate Journals and Acts and Resolutions run unbroken for centuries.

Communication in History: Politicians as communicators. [The Talmadges Governor Records](#): Search Finding Aids <https://georgiaarchives.as.atlas-sys.com/>

Communication in History: Promotion of the state through state agencies.

Georgia established the nation's first state **Department of Agriculture** in 1874. The department gathered statistics and published reports encouraging better practices and marketed state products.

The State Geologist and later **Department of Mines, Mining, and Geology** did extensive surveys and also promoted use of state products. Records starting in the 1890s include photographs, field notes, correspondence, and numerous publications.

Mines, Mining, and Geology Collection

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/p17154coll5>

The Archives has over 90 years of records of the state's efforts to promote and encourage forestry and the sale of forest products such as timber and naval stores.

Communication in History: The role of the media. The Leo Frank case. The role of the press in sensationalism, and police in shaping public opinion.

Leo Frank Clemency Application, 1915

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/frankclem/search>

Communication in History: War Effort, WWII

Lamar Q. Ball Collection

This collection consists of photographs collected by Lamar Q. Ball for his multivolume history of World War II in Georgia. Only one volume of this history, *Georgia in World War II: A Study of the Military and Civilian*, vol. I, 1939, was published. These photographs date from 1934 to 1945.

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/lball>

Communication in History: Using photography

Vanishing Georgia Collection

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/vg2>

Virtual Georgia Collection

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/vrg>