



Christopher Davidson &
Joshua Buchanan at the
2024 GHRAC Awards

From the State Archivist: Reflections

As we approach the end of another year, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. The Georgia Archives has seen a year of remarkable growth and transformation, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team and the unwavering support of our community.

Highlights of the Year

Starting late last year, we resumed adding collections to the Digital Library of Georgia and continued adding during the year. This allows those images to have wider visibility. With the generous support of the R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, we continued scanning our records and adding them to the Virtual Vault on GeorgiaArchives.org where we now have over 1.82 million images. In response to our large format camera dying (it was over twenty years old) we acquired and used end-of-the-year funds from the University System of Georgia to purchase a 150 mp large

format camera, which is much more efficient than the old one and will allow us to scan and upload images at a quicker pace and at a higher image quality. In addition to our monthly Lunch & Learn Lectures, which are usually recorded and available on our YouTube channel, we now have at least 5 special programs each year; the African American History and Genealogy Symposium, the April History Symposium, Genealogy @ the Archives, Genealogy Day, and now, thanks in part to a grant from the Clayton County Tourism Authority, the American Indian Heritage Symposium. All year long, our guest speakers and staff shared fascinating stories and insights into the history, archives, and people of Georgia while our creative exhibits brought the past to life for attendees of all ages. We offered workshops on Essential Records, Emergency Planning and Response for Essential Records, and Wet Salvage and other preservation topics. Thanks to grant funds from the Clayton County Tourism Authority we upgraded the equipment in our second-floor classroom, so new programs will look even better on our YouTube channel.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the new year, we have several exciting projects on the horizon, including a new permanent exhibit sponsored by the Daniel Appling Chapter of the Daughters of 1812, focusing on Daniel Appling and the Appling Sword. We are also planning new programs and exhibits promoting the stories and experiences of Georgians. Starting in January, we will begin remaining open during the lunch hour to better serve our research patrons.

Thank You

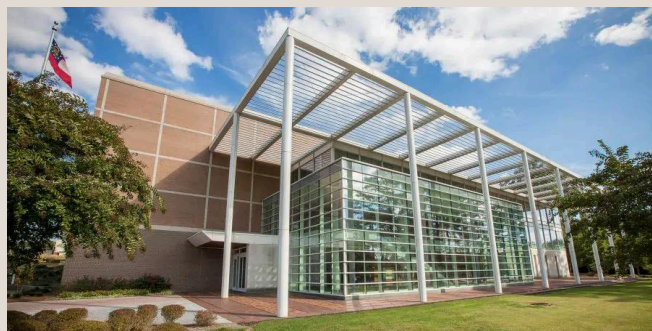
None of this would be possible without the support of our patrons and friends. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission of preserving and sharing our rich history. As we move into the new year, I am confident that, together, we will continue to make great strides in our work.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Christopher Davidson
State Archivist/Associate Vice Chancellor
Georgia Archives
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
Georgia Archives

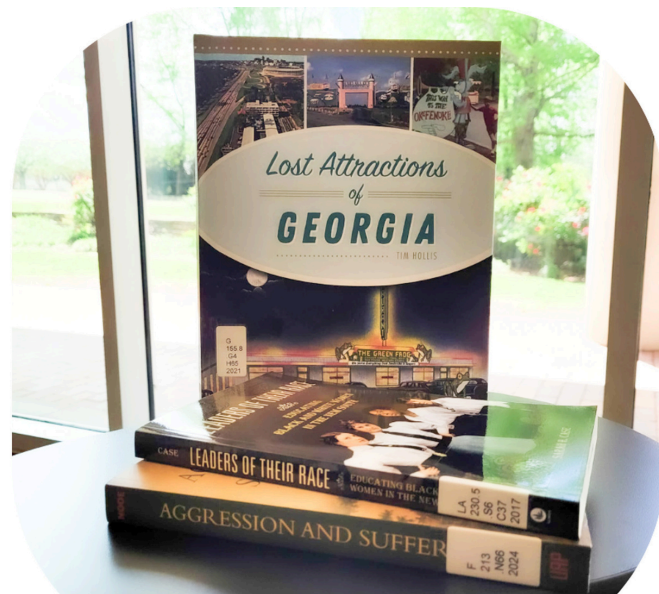


Adding to the Georgia Archives' Reference Library

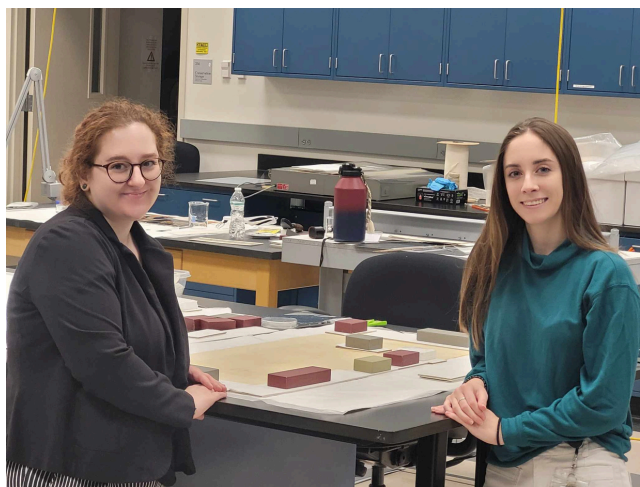
The Georgia Archives has enriched its reference library with over a dozen new books, offering fresh perspectives on Georgia's history and culture. This acquisition was made possible by the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH) and the Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Book Fund, established to honor Thomas's decades of dedication to preserving Georgia's heritage. The new titles cover diverse topics, including legislative history, military campaigns, race relations, gender dynamics, and cultural milestones, such as music in Macon and the state's architectural legacy. These resources are accessible onsite at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA.

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., a renowned historian and genealogist, has long championed the preservation of Georgia's past, sharing his expertise through roles in historic preservation and a weekly genealogy column in the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*. His continued involvement with FOGAH and the book fund underscores his dedication to historical education. Donations to the Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Book Fund or FOGAH support the Archives' mission to preserve and make accessible Georgia's historical record.

Visit GeorgiaArchives.org or FOGAH.org for more details.



The 2024 Pre-program Conservation Internships



Laura Schneider & Grace Mattaliano
in the Conservation Lab

This summer, the Georgia Archives welcomed pre-program conservation interns Grace Mattaliano and Laura Schneider, sponsored by the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH). Grace, an Art History major from Connecticut College, and Laura, a Collections Research Associate at the Madison Historical Society, honed their skills in book and paper conservation under the guidance of expert conservator Sigourney Stanford. Through hands-on projects like mending fragile maps and mastering delicate tape removal techniques, they preserved Georgia's historical records while building essential expertise for their future careers in conservation.

The internship provides a critical foundation for aspiring conservators, blending practical training with an understanding of conservation ethics. Learn more about how their experiences at the Georgia Archives highlight the vital

role of programs like this in shaping the next generation of conservation professionals.

For more details, read the full article on GeorgiaArchives.org.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

2025 Program Schedule January - June

Exhibit

January 4 - April 12

Foundations of Higher Learning:

Georgia's Early Colleges and Their Legacy

Lunch & Learn

January 10, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Sir James Wright and the Price of Loyalty in Georgia

Greg Brooking

African American History & Genealogy Symposium

January 30 - February 1

Theme: *Civil Rights Movement*

Lunch & Learn

February 14, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Civil Sights: Sweet Auburn, a Journey Through Atlanta's National Treasure

Gene Kansas

Lunch & Learn

March 14, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Unspoken: The 1946 Moores Ford Lynching

Stephanie Calabrese

Lunch & Learn

April 11, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Keeping the Chattahoochee: Reviving and Defending a Great Southern River

Sally Bethea

April History Symposium

April 11 - 12

Theme: *Georgia's Waterways*

Lunch & Learn

May 9, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Jimmy Carter, Citizen of the South

Kaye Minchew

Genealogy @ The Archives

June 7

Lunch & Learn

June 13, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

A Southern Underground Railroad: Black Georgians and the Promise of Spanish Florida and Indian Country

Paul Pressly

Georgia Archives' New Phase One Camera

The Georgia Archives proudly announces the acquisition of a state-of-the-art Phase One iXH 150MP camera, revolutionizing its digitization capabilities. Boasting unparalleled 150-megapixel resolution and a precision RS 72mm MkII/f5.6 lens, this cutting-edge equipment delivers exceptional image quality, faithfully capturing intricate details and textures across various media types, including fragile photographs, oversized maps, and bound volumes. The camera's advanced technology ensures adherence to the highest archival preservation standards, enabling rigorous quality control and safeguarding materials during digitization. Its versatility enhances the Archives' ability to digitize collections quickly and accurately, significantly expanding accessibility for researchers and preserving records of high conservation concern.

One of the first projects to utilize this technology is the digitization of the District Survey Field Notebooks Collection, an invaluable resource documenting Georgia's earliest land surveys conducted for land lotteries between 1805 and 1833. By preserving these rare records, the Archives secures critical insights into the state's historical landscape and land distribution practices. The Phase One camera marks a transformative milestone in the Archives' mission to preserve Georgia's history. Its long-term impact will be profound, as it supports the expansion of digital collections and ensures the preservation of the state's most delicate and priceless historical documents for future generations.

Read more about the Georgia Archives' new Phase One camera on GeorgiaArchives.org.

Looking Back at This Year's Programs

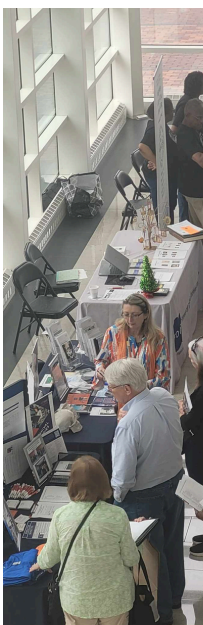
The Georgia Archives had an exciting program schedule in 2024, offering events that highlighted history, genealogy, and cultural heritage. From the African American Symposium, presented in partnership with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society's Metro Atlanta Chapter, focused on Georgia's institutions of higher education and their impact on the African American community to the American Indian Heritage Symposium that showcased the history and heritage of Georgia's Native American communities, this year's programs celebrated the diverse stories and histories of the state. Other standout events included Genealogy @ The Archives, presented in partnership with the Georgia Genealogical Society, and Archives & Genealogy Day, which featured workshops for beginning genealogical researchers and sessions on using religious records for genealogical research.

The Archives also continued its Lunch & Learn series, offering monthly lectures on a wide variety of topics related to Georgia and Southern history. These free sessions provide valuable insights into the region's past and foster engagement with historical scholarship.

For those unable to attend, many of these sessions have been recorded and are now available on the Georgia Archives' YouTube channel. Visit the channel to explore these presentations and deepen your knowledge of Georgia's history: [Georgia Archives YouTube Channel](https://GeorgiaArchives.org/YouTubeChannel).

Stay tuned for another year of exceptional programming in 2025!

A Year in Pictures



Top Row (Left to Right): 2024 Georgia Archives Institute, Michael Thurmond & Madelyn Reardanz at the 2024 GHRAC Awards, and Erica Woodford presenting on "The Enslaved People Project" during the August Lunch & Learn
Middle Row (Left to Right): Tables at College Day, Penny Cliff (Director of the Clayton State University Master of Archival Science Program) talking with visitors, and the Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS) table during Genealogy @ The Archives
Bottom Row (Left to Right): Georgia Archives staff visit the State Capitol Building during Staff Development Day, attendees at the 2024 GHRAC Awards, and Tamika Strong (President of GGS) during Genealogy @ The Archives