

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA



Welcoming New Colleagues, Exploring Family Histories: People, Genealogy, and More at the Georgia Archives

Welcoming Our Newest Georgia Archives Team Members

The Georgia Archives is delighted to welcome four new staff members who have recently joined our team. Each brings a unique background, skill set, and passion for history, archival work, and public service. We are excited to introduce them and look forward to the great work they will contribute to the Archives as they continue their careers.

Lily Kim – Archive Paraprofessional

Lily Kim, a Savannah native, joined the Georgia Archives in May 2024 as an Archive Paraprofessional. She holds a double B.A. in History and Spanish from Georgia Southern University and an M.A. in History from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville, where she focused on early medieval and premodern Spain. With a strong interest in historical research, Lily also has teaching experience, having worked as both a research assistant and a teaching assistant in the History and Spanish departments during college.

At the Georgia Archives, Lily assists patrons with original documents and plays a key role in processing collections. One of her most exciting projects is working on the Archives' upcoming podcast, Peach Preserves, where she and her colleagues aim to share lesser-known stories from Georgia's history. She is particularly interested in how archival materials reveal details beyond just the words on a page, bringing history to life in unexpected ways.

Rachael Mockalis – Administrative Assistant

Rachael Mockalis joined the Georgia Archives in August 2024 as an Administrative Assistant and is often the first friendly face visitors see when they arrive. She grew up in Cobb County, GA, in the Acworth/Kennesaw area, and

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Top Row (L to R): Lily Kim and Rachael Mockalis
Bottom Row (L to R): Ashley Oscarson and Camilla Stegall

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pursued a B.A. in English at Columbus State University before earning her M.F.A. in Creative Writing and a Graduate Certificate in Arts and Cultural Management from the College of Charleston.

Rachael first discovered her love for archives while working at the Lowcountry Digital Library, where she scanned and wrote metadata for archival materials. That experience solidified her passion for making historical documents accessible to the public. At the Georgia Archives, she helps patrons register, answers questions at the front desk, and works on various behind-the-scenes projects, many of which involve organizing and managing data. One of her current projects involves compiling information for a collection to make it more easily searchable in the Archives' internal system and online finding aids.

Ashley Oscarson – ODRA Assistant

Ashley Oscarson joined the Georgia Archives in August 2024 as an ODRA (Original Document Reading Area) Assistant. Born in Florida but having spent most of her life in Metro Atlanta, Ashley has long been passionate about history and research. She earned her B.A. in History from Agnes Scott College and is currently pursuing her M.L.I.S. at Valdosta State University.

Ashley's background is rooted in genealogy, and she also has experience working in a public library's special collections. In her role at the Georgia Archives, she assists patrons as they interact with historical documents, helps with pulling and refiling materials, and performs basic processing tasks. She's also contributing to the Archives' social media outreach. One of the things she enjoys most about working at the Archives is being a part of a supportive team and having daily opportunities to learn more about archival work and the collections every day. She is particularly excited about expanding her archival skill set through both formal and informal education and looks forward to attending the Georgia Archives Institute this summer.

Camilla Stegall – Collections Management Archivist

Camilla Stegall became part of the Georgia Archives team in October 2024 as a Collections Management Archivist. Originally from the Midwest, she lived in Iowa and Wisconsin before moving to Georgia in 2010. She earned her undergraduate degree in History from Kennesaw State University, with minors in Public History and German Studies, before pursuing her M.L.I.S. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Camilla brings a wealth of experience to the Georgia Archives, having worked with archives and rare books at institutions such as the Kennesaw State University Archives, the Bentley Rare Book Museum, the Atlanta History Center, and the Theodore Roosevelt Center. In her role, she works behind the scenes to prepare collections for patron use and manages metadata in ArchivesSpace to make materials more searchable. She finds endless fascination in archival work, from handling Georgia's copy of the Declaration of Independence to reading personal letters from the Civil War. Camilla is particularly looking forward to assisting with cataloging new books for the reference library. She encourages visitors to check out the "New Book" cart the next time they visit the Archives!

A Warm Welcome

The Georgia Archives is thrilled to have Lily, Ashley, Rachael, and Camilla on board. Their diverse backgrounds and shared passion for history and archival work will undoubtedly enhance our institution. When you visit the Archives, we encourage all to introduce themselves and get to know these fantastic new team members.

Welcome to the Georgia Archives, Ashley, Lily, Rachael, and Camilla!

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GENEALOGY TIDBITS BY KENNETH H. THOMAS, JR.

Genealogy Events Calendar:

March 1: Registration opens for the 2025 Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR) Virtual Institute and closes on July 3, 2025. The institute will take place from July 27–August 1. Learn more here: ighr.gagensociety.org/ighr-2025.

May 23–26: The National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference will be held in Louisville, KY. Visit the NGS Conference website for full details on registration, fees, and accommodations: conference.ngsgenealogy.org.

August 23: Friends of Georgia Archives & History (FOGAH) Annual Meeting. The tentative program includes a panel of authors discussing how to publish your book, either through self-publishing or regional publishers such as Arcadia. (This session will not cover university presses.) Check FOGAH.org for membership information and meeting updates. Also note: Annual Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase.

Beginner's Focus:

Who is my second cousin, or why is someone my first cousin, once removed? These designations are confusing to non-genealogists, and thus a chart is helpful. See the cousin finder chart at Family Tree Magazine: familytreemagazine.com/freebie/relationshipchart. Anyone who is a “removed” cousin is someone of a different generation (regardless of age), such as the child of your first cousin, is your first cousin once removed.

Society Focus:

Southwest Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., founded 1968:

- Address: P. O. Box 4672, Albany, GA 31706
- Membership Fee: \$25.
- Meetings: Monthly meetings on the first Saturday of the month (except July), at 2 p. m. at the Northwest Branch of the Dougherty County Public Library, 2507 Dawson Rd., Albany, 31707.

They are working on a comeback and hope to increase membership. See their Facebook page for more details: facebook.com/groups/swggs.

DNA:

If you have an account at FamilyTreeDNA.com, whether your own or one you manage for someone else, they've set a deadline of April 30 to change your password and update your contact information. This applies even if your email is simply attached to someone else's results. If you miss the deadline, you may have to go through a process to renegotiate access to your data.

While you're at it, be sure to designate a beneficiary—someone you trust—to take over management of your DNA results if something happens to you. This step is often overlooked but ensures your hard-earned data remains useful to future researchers.

African American Genealogy Focus:

The Freedman's Bank is a separate source than the Freedmen's Bureau Records and the bank's records can be found on Ancestry.com under U.S., Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874. Georgia records survive for Augusta and Savannah, but they covered a wide region. The freed men and women who opened accounts were often asked to give the names of their parents and their children, so for the ones I checked out related to Sapelo Island, Georgia, it was a goldmine. See the bibliography attached to the Ancestry site.

Website News:

If you're working with photographs, whether to identify, store, write on them properly, or more, I highly recommend the work of Maureen Taylor, also known as the Photo Detective. She has several great books that are well worth having and is the national expert on historic photographs. Her site is well worth the visit: maureentaylor.com.

Georgia Archives Research Tidbit:

Georgia county tax digests are one of our great resources that not every state has preserved. Most of the pre-1860s digests are digitized and online (we hope), the post-Civil War ones (c. 1872 forward) for every county in Georgia can be found in their original format at the Georgia Archives. You can even find records from counties where the courthouse may have burned after 1872 because these are the state's copies, not the county's. While some are digitized and on Ancestry.com, most are not. Depending on your historical or genealogical project, you may need to check these out in person at the Georgia Archives in the Original Document Reading Room.

Contact Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., P. O. Box 901, Decatur, GA 30031, or email him through his website, kenthomasongenealogy.com.

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Georgia's Waterways Explored at 2025 April History Symposium — Recordings Now Available

The Georgia Archives' 2025 April History Symposium, held April 11–12, brought together scholars, environmental advocates, and the public to explore the past, present, and future of Georgia's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. This year's theme, Georgia's Waterways, highlighted the essential role water has played in shaping the state's economy, ecology, and identity.

Keynote speaker Sally Bethea, author and founding director of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, opened the symposium with reflections from her memoir *Keeping the Chattahoochee*. Other sessions featured local and regional experts on topics ranging from Civil War naval history to the political movements that saved Georgia's coast. Presenters also examined archaeological traces of life along Georgia's shorelines, innovative water reuse in Clayton County, and the evolution of river use across three centuries.

The event, free and open to the public, was held in person at the Georgia Archives in Morrow and sponsored in part by the Clayton County Tourism Authority and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH).

If you missed the symposium or want to revisit your favorite sessions, all presentations are now available to watch on the Georgia Archives' [YouTube channel](#).

To learn more about upcoming events at the Georgia Archives, visit GeorgiaArchives.org.

Explore Georgia's Trademark History in the Virtual Vault

Take a closer look at Georgia's commercial past through one of the Georgia Archives' most visually engaging digital collections: Trademarks and Union Labels, 1894–1959.

This unique collection features early trademarks and union labels registered with the State of Georgia by companies doing business in the state. From Coca-Cola and Chanel No. 5 to Wonder Bread and Snickers, the collection includes early logos and marks from some of the most recognizable brands of the 20th century.

Registered to protect against counterfeiting, these marks served as legal proof of adoption before nationwide trademark protection became available through the Lanham Act in 1946. Each entry typically includes a sample of the trademark or label, the name of the registrant, and the date of filing. Some entries also contain affidavits describing the trademark and its adoption.

To preserve both the trademark and the registration information, many pages were scanned twice, once to show the full label and again with the label carefully lifted to display the text beneath. Entries are arranged chronologically, with an alphabetical index in each volume.

Whether you're interested in advertising history, branding, or design, this collection offers a glimpse into how companies once presented themselves to the world and how they protected their identity.

Browse the Trademarks and Union Labels collection today in the Georgia Archives' Virtual Vault: vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/trade.

**Coming Up at the Georgia Archives:****May 9, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**

Lunch & Learn: *Jimmy Carter, Citizen of the South*
by Kaye Minchew

June 13, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch & Learn:
A Southern Underground Railroad
by Paul Pressly

July 11, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch & Learn:
The Atlanta Journal Constitution's Archives
by Allison Schein