



Christopher Davidson
State Archivist of Georgia

Preserving Georgia's Past, Preparing for the Future

As we approach the close of another year, I want to reflect on what we have accomplished together at the Georgia Archives and share an exciting look ahead. Each year reinforces why our mission matters: to acquire, preserve, and provide access to Georgia's historic records. Through this work, we offer a vital window into the past—revealing how communities, governments, and families have evolved over time. Our collections support research, education, accountability, and civic engagement. The Georgia Archives does more than store history—we bring it to life.

Over the past year, our dedicated staff expanded access to both long held and newly acquired collections. We processed thousands of pages of historical records, digitized rare and fragile materials, and improved our online catalogs to make research more intuitive and accessible. Our reference team assisted patrons from across Georgia and around the world, including genealogists, students, educators, government agencies, and citizens seeking to better understand Georgia's past and apply its lessons today.

We also deepened our connections with local historical societies, libraries, universities, and state and local agencies. These partnerships allow us to share expertise, preserve at-risk materials, and broaden the reach of our programs—encouraging new audiences and the next generation of researchers to engage with archival work. With generous financial support from the Clayton County Tourism Authority, Friends of Georgia Archives and History, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council, our workshops, lectures, and public programs enjoyed strong attendance and reaffirmed how deeply Georgians value their history. I am particularly proud of the expansion of the American Indian Heritage Symposium to a two-day event, the continued strengthening of our disaster planning and response workshops, and ongoing improvements to our library and microfilm inventories and holdings. Our staff's dedication, expertise, and passion remain the foundation of our success.

Looking ahead, we are eager to build on this momentum. In the coming year, we will host the Georgia Archives Institute in June and continue our collaboration with the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council on its awards and grants programs. Our upcoming programming will also align thematically with America250 and will include new permanent and temporary exhibits, such as the Daniel Appling Room, sponsored in part by the Colonel Daniel Appling Chapter, National Society United States Daughters of 1812, South Metro Atlanta. I encourage you to visit our website regularly for details on these and other initiatives.

As we plan for the year ahead, I invite you to consider supporting the mission of the [Georgia Archives](https://www.georgiaarchives.org) with a financial contribution. Donations of any size play a vital role in funding preservation projects, digitization efforts, educational programming, and the acquisition of essential archival supplies. Your generosity directly strengthens our ability to safeguard Georgia's history and make it accessible to all. I also encourage you to consider joining our partner organizations: Friends of Georgia Archives and History, the Georgia Genealogical Society, and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. – Metro Atlanta Chapter, each of which plays an important role in preserving and promoting historical records and scholarship.

Thank you for your continued interest, encouragement, and partnership. It is an honor to serve as your State Archivist. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing our shared work of preserving the documentary legacy of our great state.

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



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Georgia Archives

GENEALOGY TIDBITS BY KENNETH H. THOMAS, JR.

The theme for this column is the American Revolutionary War in our various categories.

Researching Your Own Revolutionary War-era Ancestors:

If your ancestors lived in Colonial America in the 1770s and 1780s, research them to see what they did during the war. Were they patriot military members, patriot supporters who provided supplies to the troops, etc.?

Georgia Archives Research Sources:

While there is a lot online, if you come to the Georgia Archives in-person, you will find a number of good books to learn about your ancestors in the war. For Georgia, there are several books by Robert S. Davis on the matter. One of his books, *Georgia Citizens and Soldiers of the American Revolution* (1979), includes proof of how regular citizens supported troops. Other noted books include David A. Noble's *Patriots in Georgia Revolutionary War Engagements, 1776-1782* (2016) and Bobbie G. Moss's similar title for South Carolina - *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (1983).



Sources for Lineage Society Applications:

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1890, requires each prospective member to document direct lineal descent from a patriot soldier or from a civilian who supported the Revolutionary cause. The national website, [DAR.org](https://www.dar.org), offers guidance on how to get started. DAR also sponsored a series of source guides on the American Revolution, one volume for each colony, written by Eric G. Grundset, then head of the DAR Library in Washington. These books describe manuscript and archival materials for the Revolutionary period and list historical and genealogical studies that supplement the original records. The Georgia Archives holds the hardback volumes for Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, along with Grundset's volume on researching African American patriots. All the colony volumes are also available through the DAR website.

Pension records for veterans and their widows are another key source. The National Genealogical Society (in 1976) and Virgil White (in several volumes) published indexes listing Revolutionary War pensions, and these books are available at the Georgia Archives. The full pension files can be viewed online at [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) and other subscription sites, and transcriptions of many veterans' statements from Southern states can be found at [revwarapps.org](https://www.revwarapps.org).

Society Focus:

The DAR and the Sons of the American Revolution ([sar.org](https://www.sar.org)), founded in 1889, each have active groups in Georgia. If you are interested in joining, you need to be invited to join and then get help

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proving your lineage. Their state websites can be accessed at gasociety.sar.org and georgiastatedar.org.

African American Genealogy Focus:

Many African Americans in Georgia have been able to prove their descent from Revolutionary War patriots and have joined the DAR and SAR; if interested, check the websites previously mentioned.

Other Online Sources:

Mary Bondurant Warren, of Athens, published several books in Kindle format accessible on Amazon.com. Her British Georgia Series and other titles cover a number of important Revolutionary War topics, including Georgia Loyalists, confiscated estates, and British restoration.

Revolutionary War, 250th Anniversary Commemorative Happenings in 2026:

Georgia will mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026 with a wide range of programs and events, many of which are already in development, and others are still to come. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation (georgiitrust.org) is planning a lecture series starting in January for published authors to speak on their books related to the Revolutionary War. The Trust is also going to debut a Virtual Tour of Revolutionary War sites in Georgia, with information and videos from experts on each site. Thus, you can take this tour from home. The Georgia Historical Society in Savannah (georgiahistory.com) is also planning a host of programs and educational tools for teachers and students. The state's 250th commission, which coordinates all planned activities, can be found on Explore Georgia's website: exploregeorgia.org/ga250.

Questions? Contact Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.:

P. O. Box 901, Decatur, GA 30031, or email him through his website, kenthomasongenealogy.com.

Supporting Agencies Across Georgia

Records Management supports state and local government agencies across Georgia by helping develop and update records retention schedules, providing training and guidance on managing records throughout their life cycle, and operating the State Records Center for secure storage and retrieval. This work helps agencies meet legal requirements, stay organized, and make sure records of long-term value are identified and preserved.

This year, the State Records Committee approved several records retention schedule updates, including updates to the Local Government Records Retention Schedules and the State Government Records Retention Schedules, as well as schedule updates for the Secretary of State's Elections Division, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the University System of Georgia. State government agencies interested in updating their retention schedules can contact Rebecca Wood (rebecca.wood@usg.edu), and local government agencies interested in updating schedules can contact Christine Garrett (christine.garrett@usg.edu). For an overview of Records Management services and resources, please visit GeorgiaArchives.org/Records.

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Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, the Georgia Archives will join the nationwide America250 commemoration with programs that look at 250 years of American history through a Georgia lens. Our Lunch and Learn lectures, special programs, and exhibits will highlight how Georgians experienced, recorded, and remembered moments of change and conflict. Explore related records and resources on our [America250: Georgia in the Revolutionary Era](#) page, and visit [GeorgiaArchives.org](#) for the latest on upcoming events.

JANUARY

Exhibit **January 3 - April 18**

Tracing Footsteps: Austin Dabney's Revolutionary Life in Georgia's Records

Lunch & Learn **January 9, 12 pm - 1 pm**

"Piddle, Twiddle, and Resolve": The Second Continental Congress in History and Popular Culture
by Marianne Holdzkom,
Kennesaw State University

FEBRUARY

Special Program **February 5-7**

*Tracing Footsteps:
African American Journeys
Across 250 Years*

In partnership with the
Afro-American Historical and
Genealogical Society
Metro Atlanta Chapter

Special Program **February 12-13**

*Georgia Day Celebration:
Georgia's Charter*

FEBRUARY (CONT.)

Lunch & Learn **February 13, 12 pm - 1 pm**

*A Southern
Underground Railroad*
by Paul Pressly, Author

MARCH

Lunch & Learn **March 13, 12 pm - 1 pm**

*George III and the British
View of the American
Revolution*
by Dr. Patrick Alitt,
Emory University

APRIL

Special Program/ Lunch & Learn **April 10-11**

*Georgia at 250:
April History Symposium*
featuring
*Whose American Revolution
Was It - and Whose Is It?*
by Gregory Nobles,
Georgia Tech

MAY

Lunch & Learn **May 8, 12 pm - 1 pm**

*Trade and Diplomacy in
1700s Native South*
by Matthew Sparacio,
Georgia State University

Exhibit **May 16 - July 18**

*Georgia's
Declaration of Independence*

JUNE

Lunch & Learn **June 12, 12 pm - 1 pm**

*Georgia Remembers
the Revolution*
by David Parker,
Kennesaw State University

Special Program **June 27**

*Genealogy @ The
Georgia Archives*
In partnership with the
Georgia Genealogical Society