

America250 at the Georgia Archives

As the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of American independence, the Georgia Archives is helping connect the public with Georgia's Revolutionary-era history through programs, collections, and online resources.

Throughout 2026, our America 250 activities have explored the people, events, documents, and ideas that shaped Georgia during the Revolutionary era. Whether you are a researcher, educator, student, or simply interested in Georgia history, many of these resources are available to explore online.

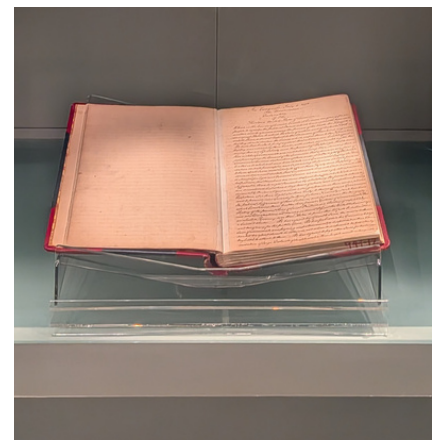
The Georgia Archives' display of Georgia's copy of the Declaration of Independence also drew attention beyond the Archives this summer, with local news coverage highlighting the document and the opportunity for visitors to see it in person.

Watch and Learn

[CBS NEWS
ATLANTA](#)

[WSBT
STORY](#)

The Georgia Archives YouTube channel makes it easy to revisit our America 250 programming or discover presentations you may have missed. Our Revolutionary War Era playlist brings together programs exploring the people, events, and historical context surrounding Georgia's role in the American Revolution.



[Declaration of Independence, Commissions, Colonial and State Officers Appointments, Assembly, Colony of Georgia, RG 49-1-10, Georgia Archives, University System of Georgia](#)

[WATCH THE
PLAYLIST](#)

Among the programs available is Clayton State University's panel discussion, *The Declaration of Independence at 250: A Revolutionary Idea That Established a New Nation*, held at the Georgia Archives on June 30. Featuring historians from across the University System of Georgia, the discussion examined the Declaration from several perspectives, including the Continental Congress and self-government, religion and the Declaration, and how the document was remembered in the antebellum South.

Held on the same day that Georgia's copy of the Declaration of Independence was on display, the program offered visitors an opportunity to engage with both the document itself and the broader ideas and historical context surrounding it.

Explore the Sources

Primary sources allow us to explore the Revolution through the records left behind by the people who experienced it. The Georgia Archives' America 250 webpage brings together resources for exploring Georgia's Revolutionary-era history, including links to primary sources and additional information for researchers, educators, and students.

[EXPLORE
RESOURCES](#)

Whether you are developing classroom activities, conducting National History Day research, exploring family or local history, or are interested in learning more about Georgia during the Revolutionary era, the page offers a starting point for further exploration.

America 250 programming at the Georgia Archives will continue throughout 2026. Watch our website, newsletter, and social media channels for additional programs, resources, and opportunities to explore Georgia's Revolutionary-era history.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Save the Date!

ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY DAY



DATE
Saturday,
October 3, 2026



TIME
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
*Check-in starts
at 9:00 am*



LOCATION
Georgia Archives
5800 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260

TWO TRACKS TO EXPLORE

1 TRACK 1
Hands-on Genealogy
Research Workshop

OR

2 TRACK 2
Presentations on
State-wide Resources



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
Georgia Archives

**MORE INFORMATION
& REGISTRATION**
Coming Soon!

New Exhibit Open: *Georgia Celebrates the United States Constitution*

Now on display at the Georgia Archives, *Georgia Celebrates the United States Constitution* explores Georgia's role in creating and ratifying the U.S. Constitution and the ways Georgians have commemorated that history over time. Featuring original records and other materials from the Georgia Archives' collections, the exhibit highlights Georgia delegates Abraham Baldwin and William Few, the state's ratification of the Constitution, and later commemorations of the document.

The exhibit will remain on display through November 14 and is free to view during regular Georgia Archives hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[**LEARN MORE
HERE**](#)

GENEALOGY TIDBITS BY KENNETH H. THOMAS, JR.

Calendar:

September 19, Friends of Georgia Archives and History Meeting

The Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH) will host an all-day event at the Georgia Archives showcasing speakers and vendors, with the theme being Researching in Lesser-Known Institutions. See FOGAH.org as more information becomes available.

Beginner's Focus:

Ancestry.com has added or enhanced a number of their features, so if you are a subscriber to that site, check out all the new things that are being added. Not all of them appear on all accounts at the same time, as the rollout takes a while. Some are still in BETA. These include HINTS to your family tree, which should always be studied to be sure they are accurate. They are now putting document hints at the top of the hints, rather than some undocumented family trees already on Ancestry. On the family tree profile area, the area where a certain ancestor on the tree has his or her own screen, or profile page, they now allow you to put a note there with some already stated themes, like birth is documented, so you would know that this item is accurate. Some of these notes lead to Stickies, where you can create your own comments.

Society/Library Focus:

The Augusta Genealogical Society has a good book collection. They moved a few years ago from their long-time downtown building to an office park away from downtown. Check their website, AugustaGenealogicalSociety.org, and if you are going to Augusta, make an appointment to use their library, as it has limited hours. They also have great programming, which you can learn more about on their website.

If you are going to Augusta, don't forget about the Georgia Heritage Room and their great collection at the Central Augusta Downtown Public Library, at 823 Telfair St. The room is only open weekdays from 10-5 and on Saturday by appointment. See their website for more information: [Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System – Georgia Heritage Room](https://Augusta-RichmondCountyPublicLibrarySystem.org/GeorgiaHeritageRoom).

DNA:

The only new thing at this time on DNA is back to Ancestry.com and its update to the ThruLines feature in their DNA section.

African American Genealogy Focus:

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) holds its 2026 National Conference virtually on Saturday, October 24. This one-day symposium is dedicated to advancing Afro-American genealogy, historical preservation, and evidence-based family research. Open to AAHGS members and non-members at relatively low cost. There will be three educational tracks: Beginners, Intermediate/Advanced, and Moderator-Led Discussion. (continued on next page)



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

GENEALOGY TIDBITS (CONTINUED)

Details are at tinyurl.com/3w79t7wx. See also the AAHGS Metro Atlanta Chapter's website (AAHGSATL.org). AAHGS has 34 chapters and celebrates its 50th year in 2027. They also have local meetings.

Website News:

This website covers a lot more than conferences, so don't overlook it just because of the name. Genealogy Conference Keeper is a free email service from the National Genealogical Society. It's easy to sign up, and you get a weekly email. It's chock-full of tips on what other groups are doing, what's been posted on major websites, and upcoming meetings. You can sign up, then after a few months, if it's not useful to you, you can cancel. Go to their website, ConferenceKeeper.org/contact-us, to sign up.

Georgia Archives Research Tidbits:

The Georgia Archives has a great collection of published United States Pension volumes. Each volume is devoted to a different war or group of wars, covering the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the Mexican War, and so forth. There are also individual volumes for Civil War pensioners from the former Confederate States, as these pensions were issued by each state, thus volumes on Georgia, Texas, and others. Check the online card catalog to see what titles exist. Most of them were abstracted and edited by Virgil White of Tennessee. These are also found at many other libraries with genealogy collections, but the Georgia Archives has a good number of them, so you can search for an ancestor easily across the entire set of volumes and wars in one place.



Questions? Contact Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.:
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COMING UP AT THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

SEPTEMBER

September 11
12 pm - 1 pm
Lunch & Learn

*Raising the Dead in
Rose Hill Cemetery*

by Kathleen O'Neal
and Liz Riley
Creators of the Rose Hill
Cemetery Project

September 11
New Exhibit

*First in Our State: A
Revolutionary Achievement*

Honoring Michael N.
Henderson

September 19
FOGAH Meeting

*Researching in
Lesser-Known Institutions*

Information coming soon to
FOGAH.org!

OCTOBER

October 3
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
**Archives & Genealogy
Day**

Information coming soon to
GeorgiaArchives.org!

October 9, 12 pm - 1 pm
Lunch & Learn

First in Our State
by Michael N. Henderson
Author of *Got Proof!*