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GEORGIA ARCHIVES PRESENTS ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY DAY 2025

Archives & Genealogy Day will be held at the Georgia Archives on Saturday, October 4, 2025. This event offers two tracks dedicated to expanding genealogy skills, research, and resources. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Georgia Archives, Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH), and the Clayton County Tourism Authority.

Register for either track here: <https://tinyurl.com/GAArchivesAGD2025>.

Track 1 – “From Plan to Practice: Hands-On Genealogy Workshop” 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Registration required; Limited Seats, \$30)

The Georgia Archives will host a full-day workshop led by retired genealogy librarian Laura W. Carter and Georgia Archives staff. This program combines pre-event learning with on-site research support to help participants turn a research plan into results.

Before the workshop, registered participants will receive access to a series of short videos (20-30 minutes each) covering essential genealogy skills. Topics include how to prepare for a research trip, create an effective plan, and navigate key resources such as census records, vital records, probate files, and historical newspapers.

During the workshop on October 4, attendees work directly with Laura Carter and Archives staff, gaining hands-on experience, learning new techniques, and addressing research challenges. The event is best suited for those with some prior genealogy experience, though motivated beginners are welcome.

Registration is required for this track; seating is limited; \$30 registration fee.

Schedule:

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - Tour of Reference Room and Resources
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Hands-on Research in Reference Room
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Progress Discussion with Laura Carter
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. - Hands-on Research in Reference Room
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Wrap-Up & Discussion

Note: All participants must have a FamilySearch.org account before the event.

**Track 2 – “Expanding Your Search with Georgia’s Local Resources”
10:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. (Open Registration; Walk-ins Welcome; Free)**

This track highlights unique regional resources available through local institutions across Georgia. From collaborative efforts in Thomasville to the archival collections at Columbus State University and the new statewide Finding Aids portal from Georgia Public Library Service, these sessions will help genealogists discover materials and partnerships that extend beyond traditional research paths.

This track is free; registration is encouraged but not required; walk-ins welcome. The following sessions are offered after the welcome and introduction at 9:45 a.m.

Session 1: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Panel: *Connecting the Records: Community Collaboration for Genealogical Research in Thomasville*

Panelists: Lillian Wingate, Executive Director, Thomasville Genealogical Library; Nancy Tinker, Executive Director, Thomasville Landmarks; Daniel Pittman, Executive Director, Jack Hadley Black History Museum; Whitney White, Executive Director, Pebble Hill Plantation; Austin Bell, Executive Director, Thomasville History Center

Collaboration among archives, libraries, and museums gives genealogists a fuller, more connected view of the people and places in their communities. This session opens with brief overviews of five Thomasville partners: Thomasville Genealogical Library, a research library with family files, local histories, and county records; Thomasville Landmarks, a nonprofit that preserves historic places and maintains related documentation; Jack Hadley Black History Museum, a museum preserving African American history in Thomasville and southwest Georgia through archives, photographs, and artifacts; Pebble Hill Plantation, a historic site interpreting plantation and estate-era history with family papers, photographs, and plantation records; and the Thomasville History Center, an institution that collects, preserves, and interprets community history. A moderated panel will follow to discuss how linking collections across repositories reduces dead ends and helps researchers find relevant records faster.

Session 2: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Mystery of W. F. Gann

by David Owings, Associate Dean of Libraries and Head of Archives and Special Collections, Columbus State University

Follow the search for W. F. Gann, a 1920s Columbus doctor who challenged Prohibition in a 1925 newspaper column. With only a name and the decade as a starting point, Owings pieced together Gann’s story and uncovered his true identity using resources at the Columbus State University Archives. Learn the research steps he followed and how you can apply the same approach to your own genealogical research.

Session 3: 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Georgia Public Library Service – The Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries Portal

by Joshua Kitchens and Lauren LeDesma

Explore a growing statewide resource for genealogy research in public libraries. The GPLS’s [Finding Aids @ Georgia Public Libraries Portal](#) offers access to over 300 collection inventories from 16 participating libraries, with more added regularly. This session will introduce researchers to the portal, highlight the types of collections it includes, and explain how libraries can get involved.

Registration is only required for Track 1 but encouraged for Track 2. Seating is limited for Track 1. The deadline for registration is September 26, 2025.

To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/GAArchivesAGD2025>.

To cancel, please call 678-364-3807. For Track 1, refunds will not be issued to any attendee who does not attend the workshop and fails to cancel their registration by the cancellation deadline of September 26, 2025.

Lunch will not be provided at this event. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch or to dine out at any of Morrow's nearby restaurants. A list of nearby restaurants will be provided on the day of the event. Refreshments are sponsored by the [Friends of Georgia Archives and History](#) and the [Clayton County Tourism Authority](#).

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people. The Archives also assists state and local government agencies with their records management. This work is done within the framework of the USG's mission to create a more highly educated Georgia.