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July 2024 Lunch & Learn ***Eatonton: Georgia's Literary Capital* by Melissa Swindell**

The Georgia Archives Lunch & Learn presentation, *Eatonton: Georgia's Literary Capital* by Melissa Swindell, will be held onsite. The presentation is on Friday, July 12th, 2024, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Georgia Archives, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA.

The Lunch and Learn presentation is free, and no registration is required.

Did you know that Eatonton, Georgia is home to about 10% of the distinguished writers in the state of Georgia? Or that the Georgia Writers Museum is one of only two museums in the country to showcase multiple authors within its walls? Join Melissa Swindell for *Eatonton: Georgia's Literary Capital* to learn more about the notable writers from middle-Georgia who influenced literature across the country and abroad.

Melissa Swindell began her museum career at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History (NMAH), where she researched colonial American foodways for the American Enterprise exhibit. Her favorite experience at NMAH was exploring the collections behind the scenes, from the inkwell that Abraham Lincoln used to sign the Emancipation Proclamation to the bongo drum that Desi Arnez played on *I Love Lucy*. Although she has always enjoyed learning about history, this experience brought it to life. At that point, she knew her mission was to show people that history is not boring and static, but rather it is often stranger than fiction and can be fun and engaging for people of all ages.

Melissa returned home to Georgia from Washington, D.C., with the passion and experience to bring history to life for the people visiting museums in our state. Today she serves as the Executive Director of Georgia Writers Museum, and she cannot wait to introduce readers across the state and beyond to our hometown writers.

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Georgia Archives identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people, and assists state and local government agencies with their records management.

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