



Contact: Robin Klemm
Telephone: 678-364-3807
Email: Robin.Klemm@usg.edu
Website: GeorgiaArchives.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2026

July 2026 Lunch & Learn

Georgia @ 250: Uncovering the Lives of Patriots, Refugees, and Frontier Families **By Larry W. Thomas**

The Georgia Archives will host its July Lunch & Learn presentation, *Georgia @ 250: Uncovering the Lives of Patriots, Refugees, and Frontier Families*, presented by historian and genealogist Larry W. Thomas. The program will take place on Friday, July 10, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Georgia Archives (5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260). This event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, genealogists have an opportunity to examine how the Revolutionary War shaped families in Georgia. At the time of the war, Georgia was less than fifty years old and still developing its governmental institutions, leaving researchers with thin, scattered, and sometimes missing records.

In this presentation, Mr. Thomas will explore the experiences of Patriots, Loyalists, refugees, and frontier settlers while demonstrating how genealogists can locate surviving evidence despite disrupted courts, shifting county boundaries, and incomplete military records. Participants will learn practical research strategies for identifying Revolutionary-era ancestors through indirect evidence, analysis of friends, associates, and neighbors, and lesser-known record sets such as petitions, land lotteries, and post-war documentation.

About the Speaker

Larry W. Thomas is a retired U.S. Army Captain with 23 years of service in aviation, transportation, and logistics. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, an MBA in Management Information Systems, an FAA airplane mechanic license, and Project Management Professional certification. Thomas began researching his family history more than 30 years ago, starting with his Thomas family, who have lived in Georgia since the 1750s. He began researching for clients in 2008 and presenting regularly in

2015 and operates AtlantaGenealogy.com. A graduate of ProGen 38, Thomas has assisted with the television program *Finding Your Roots*, including the Julia Roberts and Terry Crews episodes. He serves on the board of the Georgia Genealogical Society, is president of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and is a past vice president of the Georgia Genealogical Society.

America250 Programming

This event is part of the Georgia Archives' America250 programming, which commemorates the nation's 250th anniversary by exploring Georgia history and its connections to the broader American story. On this day, visitors will also have the opportunity to view Georgia's recorded copy of the Declaration of Independence as part of the exhibit *Revolution in 1776: Georgia's Signers and Copy of the Declaration of Independence*, on view May 15 through July 18, 2026. For more information about this exhibit and upcoming programs, visit: GeorgiaArchives.org.

About the Georgia Archives

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.