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**October 2024 Lunch & Learn**  
***40 Acres and a Mule: African Americans' Pursuit of Land Ownership in Georgia***  
**by Toni Stevens**

The Georgia Archives Lunch & Learn presentation, *40 Acres and a Mule: African Americans' Pursuit of Land Ownership in Georgia* by Toni Stevens, will be held onsite. The presentation is on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Following the Civil War, most African Americans in the South continued to work the land, but meaningful land reform never occurred, and the great majority of Black southerners struggled to obtain their own farms. This presentation highlights the use of the Digital Library of Georgia, the New Georgia Encyclopedia, and archives to explore the obstacles faced by Black farmers, the programs that sought to ameliorate discriminatory conditions in the agricultural industry, and the Black-owned farms that play an important role in today's economy.

Toni S. Stevens became an "education enthusiast" while studying race and education in a sociology course at Columbia University. After graduating, she completed the NYC Teaching Fellows program, earned a Masters in Education, and worked in NYC public schools researching strategies to improve English comprehension. In 2016, Toni moved to Atlanta, where she taught English in Fulton County Schools helping to raise state test scores. In 2018, she received the Teach on Project grant, and her work was featured in various media outlets. Currently, Toni serves as a lecturer at Spelman College as she completes her Doctorate in Humanities with a specialization in English at Clark Atlanta University.

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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