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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2026

Georgia Archives to Host Michael N. Henderson for October Lunch & Learn

The Georgia Archives will welcome author, lecturer, and family history researcher Michael N. Henderson for its October Lunch & Learn program on Friday, October 9, 2026, at noon. Henderson will present "First in Our State: A Revolutionary Achievement," sharing his genealogical journey and the research that led him to become the first African American member of the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

A retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander and native of New Orleans, Henderson began researching his family history nearly four decades ago. His research has taken him through numerous archival repositories and led to discoveries about his ancestors' experiences in French and Spanish Colonial Louisiana, including their connections to the American Revolution.

During his presentation, Henderson will discuss the genealogical research that led to his induction into the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution in 2010 and his subsequent election as president of the organization's Button Gwinnett Chapter in 2012. He will also share his efforts to bring greater recognition to overlooked Revolutionary War Patriots, document his family's history, and encourage others to explore their own ancestry.

Henderson is the author of *Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation*, which explores his family's history and the complex social structure of French and Spanish Louisiana. His research into the life of his enslaved ancestor, Agnes, who gained her freedom in 1779, was featured on the PBS series *History Detectives*. He has presented his research at numerous genealogical and historical conferences, including the National Genealogical Society Annual Conference, RootsTech, and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

The presentation coincides with the Georgia Archives' traveling exhibit, "First in Our State: A Revolutionary Achievement," which highlights Henderson's genealogical research and his efforts to bring greater recognition to overlooked Patriots of color. Originally produced by the Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society and the City of Sugar Hill, the exhibit is on loan to the Georgia Archives as part of its America250 commemoration and will remain on display through November 20, 2026. Visitors are encouraged to explore the exhibit during their visit to learn more about Henderson's research and family history.

This event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. The Georgia Archives is located at 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260.

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.