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“There Is My Country: Georgians Who Followed the Sun”

The Georgia Archives Lunch and Learn presentation, “There Is My Country: Georgians Who Followed the Sun,” by Dr. Roger C. Byrd, will be held onsite. The presentation is on Friday, September 8, 2023, 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.

Dr. Roger C. Byrd will uncover the compelling tales of ten individuals who departed Georgia in search of promise on the American frontier. Each story unravels their motivations, passions, and experiences as they navigated novel challenges and prospects away from their homes. Dr. Byrd will vividly bring these characters to life, showcasing their adaptability and resilience in an uncharted world. Through their struggles, triumphs, and lasting legacies, he will glean insights into the essence of pursuing dreams and embracing opportunities with unwavering determination. This journey offers a distinctive outlook on the obstacles faced by Georgians venturing westward, underlining lessons in courage, resilience, and tenacity. Larger themes encompass the courage of departure, the allure of the West’s opportunities and perils, and the responses to dire circumstances. By delving into these subjects, Dr. Byrd unravels the motivations behind these risky ventures and the impact of their unique trajectories on history. Prepare to be inspired, challenged, and compelled to reflect on the choices we make and the enduring echoes they leave throughout time.

Roger Byrd is an Associate Professor of Social Science and Behavioral Sciences at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia. Dr. Byrd is also BPC’s Director of Prison Programs, overseeing the school’s implementation of post-secondary educational opportunities and Second Chance Pell programming within prison facilities. Prior to his career in education, Dr. Byrd served as a Georgia State Representative for 22 years. During his tenure, Dr. Byrd chaired two standing committees and was a member of three state boards with jurisdiction over a variety of issues ranging from transportation to services for people with disabilities. After retiring from the legislature, he returned to serve for 2 years as House Messenger and Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the House. Dr. Byrd is active on a number of boards focused on higher education, advocacy, and public charity. His book on higher education in prison, *Sisyphus No More*, published by Rowman and Littlefield

Publishing was nominated as book of the year by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. He has also written and illustrated two children's books and a devotional book for inmates.

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.