



Contact Penny Cliff
Telephone 678.364.3807
Email Penelope.Cliff@usg.edu
Website <http://www.georgiaarchives.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2018

5 Generations: From Enslavement to Public Service in Atlanta, December Lunch and Learn Georgians in World War I Exhibit

Morrow, GA, November 14, 2018 – On Friday, December 14, noon-1:00 p.m., the Georgia Archives’ Lunch and Learn program will be about the documentary, “5 Generations: From Enslavement to Public Service in Atlanta” by historian and Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) award-winner, Laurel Wilson. The documentary won the 2017 GHRAC Award for Local History Advocacy.

Laurel will share her experience in creating a documentary about local African American heritage. She will discuss her use of myriad resources in shaping the narrative of one Metro Atlanta family's journey from Reconstruction through modern times, as well as some of the challenges associated with African American genealogical research and digital media production. Those in attendance are encouraged to view her documentary in advance, and she will welcome questions throughout her presentation. “5 Generations” is available on the Vimeo website: <https://vimeo.com/215567955/215567955>

Laurel is a public historian who is passionate about African American heritage and innovative historical narrative. For the past four years, she has used genealogical methodology and various digital media to interpret the lives of those buried in the segregated part of the Decatur Cemetery. For her efforts, she has been the recipient of the GHRAC Award for Local History Advocacy, the Margaret Ewing Endowment for the Enrichment of Research in Family and Oral Histories, and the Decatur Hometown Hero Award. She holds a master's degree in Heritage Preservation with a concentration in Public History from Georgia State University.

Lunch and Learn Programs are free and open to the public and are sponsored by Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH). No registration is required.

The Georgia Archives’ new exhibit, “Georgians in World War I” is open through January 19, 2019. This fascinating exhibit includes unique items taken from the vaults at the Georgia Archives. One exhibit item is Sergeant Robert G. Burton’s Bible from the Robert Burton Collection.

Robert Burton’s Bible was given to him by his aunt. He carried this Bible with him into battle. On July 30th or 31st, 1918, north of Chateau-Thierry in France, a German bullet went through his arm and into this Bible, where

it is still embedded. He spent a month and a half in the hospital, then returned to his company as they started their drive in St. Mihiel.

Sergeant Robert G. Burton Robert of Monroe, Walton County, Georgia, enlisted in the National Guard when he was 18 and was sent to the Mexican border in 1916. After the United States entered the First World War, Burton sailed for Europe on November 1, 1917, and served in Co. A, 151st Machine Gun Battalion. Burton participated in the Battles of Luneville Sector, Esperance Souain Sector, the Champagne Marne Defensive, the Aisne Marne Offensive, the St. Mihiel Offensive, Essey and Pannes Sector, and the Meuse Argonne Offensive. He returned to the U.S. on April 26, 1919, and was discharged on May 13, 1919.

To view the World War I exhibit, please visit the Georgia Archives Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Georgia Archives will be closed Thursday, November 22nd, Friday, November 23rd, and Saturday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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. This work is done within the framework of the USG's mission to create a more highly educated Georgia.

###

For more information, please contact Penny Cliff: Penelope.Cliff@usg.edu

Georgia Archives – 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260 – 678-364-3710