



# *Our* GEORGIA ARCHIVES, *Our* GEORGIA HISTORY—

Is it worth  
saving

**Emergency :**  
Georgia Archives— Access Limited  
Open 2 days a week with limited staff.





# THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

*Our Archives, Our History, Our Georgia Heritage*

## SAVE THE ARCHIVES!

**Restore a minimum of \$1.15 million to the Georgia Archives budget to return its operations to 5 days a week of public access hours and eliminate staff reductions.**

Over the past decade, the Georgia Archives has been eviscerated by budget cuts, reductions in staff and reductions in public hours from five to two days a week.

Once an award-winning institution, the Georgia Archives is now struggling to meet its mandate of service to the citizens and state government. Georgia was among the first state archives established (1918), has won many awards for its programs and state-of-the-art archival facility, and was a respected leader in archives, government records programs and research use.

### TIMELINE OF THE ARCHIVES BUDGET CRISIS

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2012:** Secretary of State Brian Kemp announces that the Georgia Archives will be closed to all public access beginning November 1, 2012. He cites as reason the requirement for a 3% budget reduction for all state agencies. Secretary Kemp proposes taking the required cut of \$750,000 entirely—and only—from the State Archives.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2012:** In one week, over 10,000 people sign online petition to Save the Georgia Archives, including lawyers, state and local officials, small business owners, film producers, family historians, teachers and students. Extensive coverage continues in local, state news and social media.

**OCTOBER 18, 2012:** Governor Nathan Deal intervenes by restoring \$125,000 to the Secretary of State's budget to keep the Archives open 2 days a week through June. Deal also proposes that the Archives be transferred to the Board of Regents effective July 1, 2013, pending approval of the Georgia Legislature.



*Atrium of the Archives Building*



*Public Research Room*



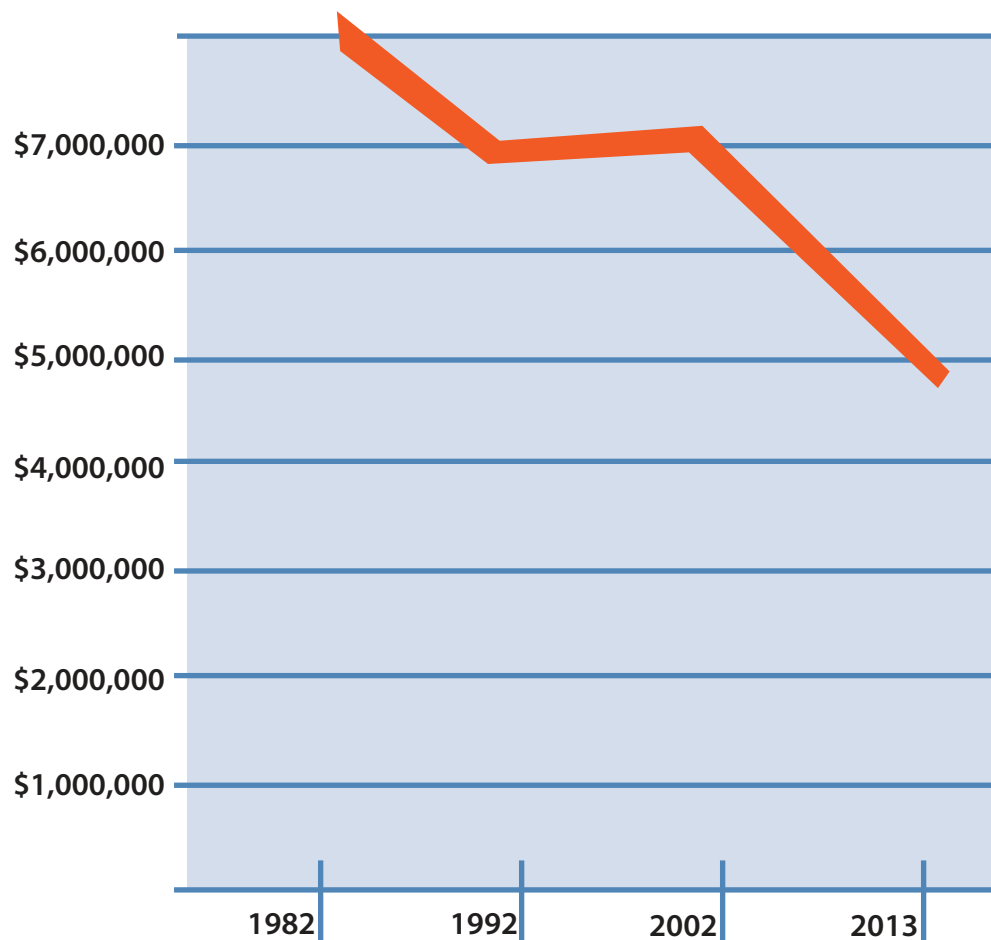
*Shown above, items from the Archives collections, from top to bottom: Girl Scout troop visiting Andersonville Cemetery, Memorial Day 1976; Act Concerning Free Persons of Color and Their Guardians; City of Albany in 1920; World War I era Third Liberty Loan Campaign war bond*



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## BUDGET FOR THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES from 1982 — Projected 2013



*Shown in 2011 dollars*

	Budget	Budget in 2011 dollars
1982	\$3,297,000	\$7,523,000
1992	\$4,166,000	\$6,538,000
2002	\$5,409,000	\$6,620,000
2013 (projected)	\$4,819,000	\$4,819,000

**Since FY 2008, the overall state budget has been reduced by 22% while the Archives budget has been reduced by 29%.** It has been made to bear a larger share of the cuts by SOS Karen Handel and SOS Brian Kemp. Our goal is to restore the Archives budget to a minimum of \$5.4 million.



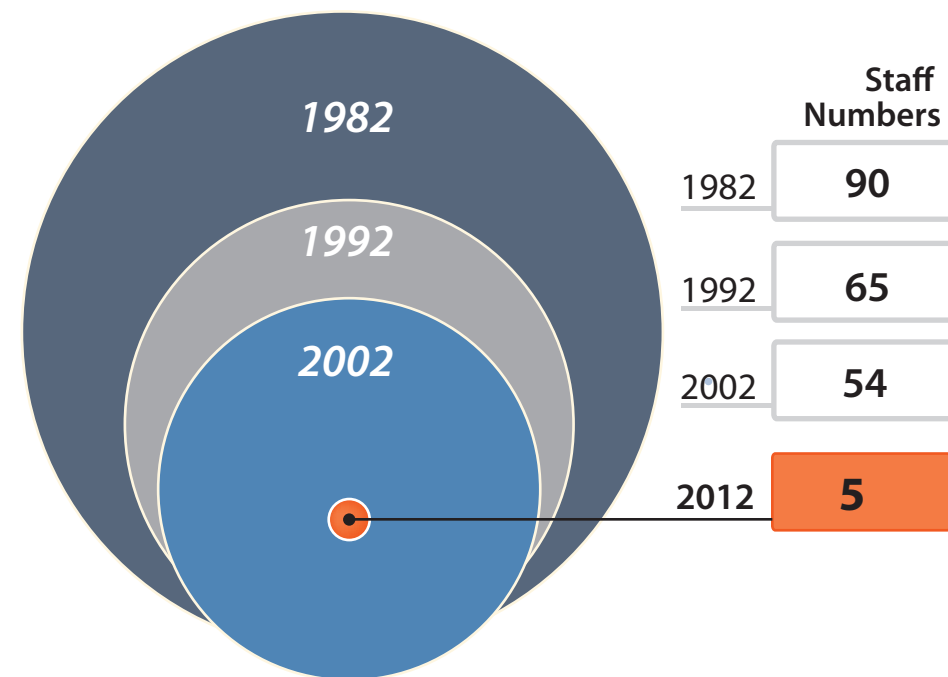


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## STAFFING & PUBLIC HOURS AT THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

from 1982 — 2012



– 94%

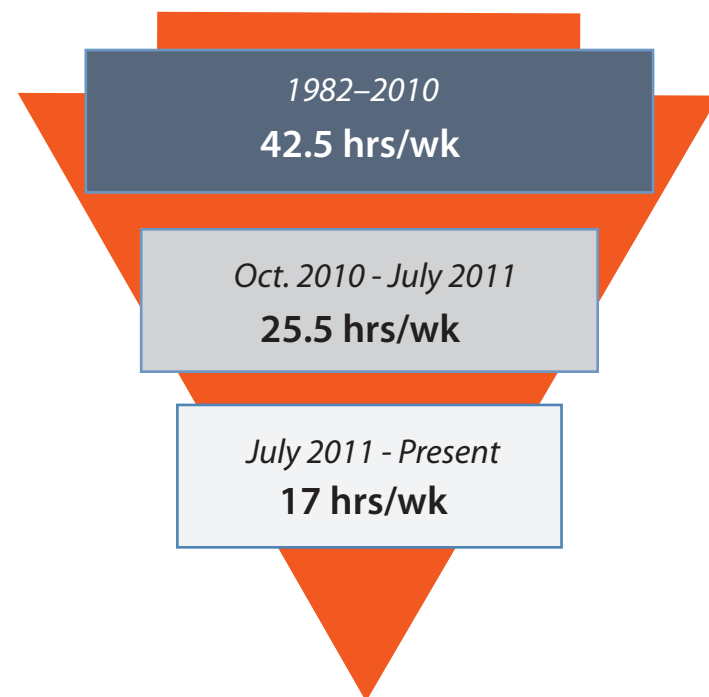
*decrease in Archives staff as of October 2012*

**Georgia's State Archives is now open to the public only 2 days a week—the fewest hours of any state archives in the United States.**

In contrast to Georgia, the Mississippi and Virginia Archives are open 6 days a week, the South Carolina Archives is open 5 days a week, and the Alabama Archives is open 4 days a week plus every second Saturday.

– 60%

*decrease in Public Hours*



***CLOSED to PUBLIC***  
*rest of the week*



# THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

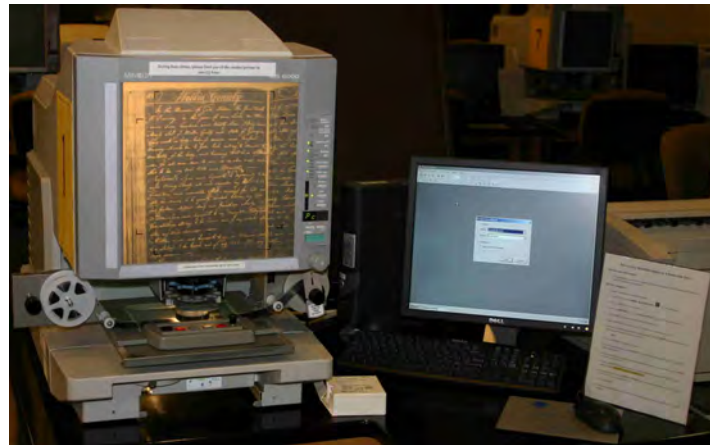
*Our Archives, Our History, Our Georgia Heritage*

## CITIZENS, LAWYERS & OFFICIALS HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO STATE RECORDS

**Georgia citizens, government officials and the legal community need predictable and ready access to essential records:**

- To provide evidence of government accountability.
- To support due process of law.

Georgia Archives holdings have been used for a range of court cases including land claims, boundary disputes, utility right-of-way, and claims against state agencies.



*County Records Microfilm Index being digitized by Archives' staff to increase public access. Lack of staff & funds will halt this project.*

*“ Our law firm uses the Georgia Archives to retrieve copies of primary source documents for both legislative history that predates the internet and for historical court filings from Georgia Supreme Court, Georgia Court of Appeals, and county state and superior court cases that have been archived.”*

*— Molly O.,  
Atlanta*

*“I work at a law firm. The only place to find past administrative agency decisions and regulations is at the Archives. This decision impacts the business community.”*

*— Sybil Turner, Atlanta*



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## RECENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ARCHIVES

- Secretary of State Brian Kemp recently negotiated a dispute about the Bibb-Monroe county line. When no records of a survey could be found, it cost \$1.5 million in litigation. Kemp notes, *"Settling disputes can be very expensive if you don't have the documents."*
- Savannah River boundary dispute with South Carolina settled using records of an 1787 agreement that gave Georgia the right to certain lands south and southwest of the River, as well as all islands in the River.
- Cobb County used GDOT maps to establish right-of-way for utility property interest.
- Georgia Pacific used environmental records to determine the type of air filter that was placed in the burner smoke stacks at their plant in Warm Springs.
- Physicians and researchers used public health records to compile data about epidemics.
- City and county officials regularly request copies of their charters and founding documents.
- Ongoing historical research and discovery about our unique state history:
  - Facts and images for Civil War 150th anniversary commemorations in Georgia.
  - New discoveries about our African-American legacy in Georgia. The Archives holds many records for African-American history and genealogical research not available in private collections.
  - Cemetery preservation and relocation projects throughout the state.

In fiscal year 2010, the Archives received **14,624** reference requests for Georgia state records.



Coweta County  
Map, 1826



Shown above, items from the Archives collections, from top to bottom: Henry Crawford Vinson, Baldwin County, 1861; Graduation from Infantry School, Fort Benning, 1940s; Postcard of the Gen. Stewart Monument in Liberty County.



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## A UNIQUE NATIONAL RESOURCE for FILM & TV PRODUCTION

**The Archives is as an important resource for national and local film producers.**

Recent examples include visits by director Spike Lee, chef and TV star Paula Deen and various documentarians and filmmakers.

*"This is all so exciting!  
I have found out that my great-  
great-great-granddaddy was a  
politician before the Civil War.  
Never would I have dreamt that."*

*"I'm most excited to tell my sons  
how deep we go back in the  
state of Georgia."*

— Paula Deen on her research  
results at the Georgia Archives.

*"I have found  
that we are  
deeply, deeply  
vested in this  
state."*

— Paula Deen



Paula with Professional Genealogist Nathan Mathews

NBC's acclaimed series *"Who Do You Think You Are?"* follows celebrities tracing their family trees. A scene in Season 1 of this show features Spike Lee viewing records at the GA Archives. A Season 3 episode with Paula Deen included a visit to the GA Archives.

Emmy-winning producer **Ben Loeterman** spent many hours at the GA Archives locating historical materials for his recent documentary *"People vs. Leo Frank."*



Spike Lee



Ben Loeterman





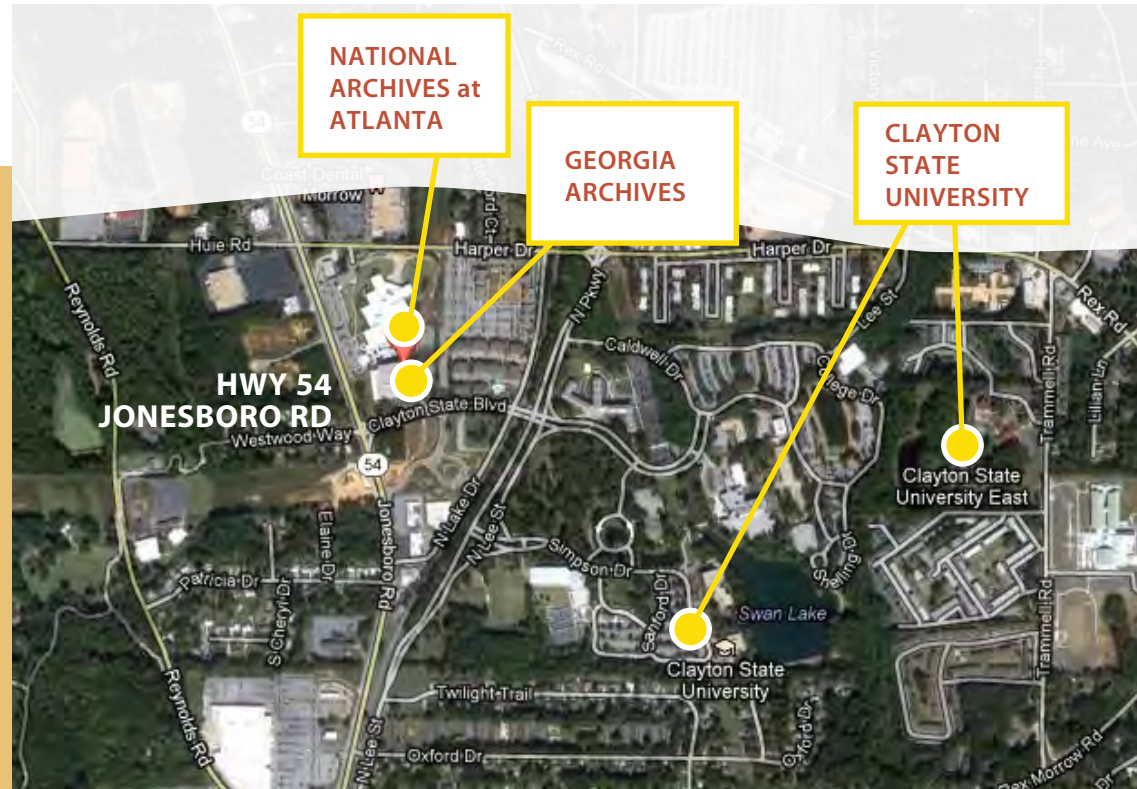
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## KEY PART of “LIVE, WORK, PLAY” CLAYTON COUNTY UNIVERSITY STATION

**The Georgia Archives is an anchor destination in Clayton County’s developing University Station cultural “live, work & play” venue.**

Enhanced by a high-speed technology backbone, this area connects genealogical research, museum and archival studies, tourism, cultural and university facilities. Located adjacent to the National Archives at Atlanta and to Clayton State University, the Georgia Archives is a key part of this development.



Between July 2009 and June 2010, a total of **6,354** researchers visited the Archives. The average visitor comes from 130 miles away. \*

*\* Source: 2010 University of Michigan study*

*“...my name along with numerous others on the Guest Sign-In, did not list a Georgia address.*

*On my visit I spent money in Georgia—at a motel, restaurants, retail establishments, and gas stations. I contributed to the Georgia economy and paid sales and use taxes to benefit the coffers of the State of Georgia—all because of the Georgia Archives!”*

*— Out-of-state visitor to the Georgia Archives, September 2012*





# THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

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## THE COALITION TO PRESERVE THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES: Our Community & Organization Partners

### STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS:

- Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- Association of Professional Genealogists, *Georgia Chapter*
- Daughters of the American Revolution, *Georgia State Society*
- Friends of Georgia Archives and History
- Georgia Association of Historians
- Georgia Genealogical Society
- Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board
- Georgia Professional Genealogists
- Georgia Records Association (GRA)
- Georgia Salzburger Society
- Society for Georgia Archeology
- Society of Georgia Archivists
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, *Georgia Division*

### NATIONAL PARTNERS:

- Alpha Delta Pi Sorority

### REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (ONE COUNTY OR MORE):

- Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, *Metro Atlanta Chapter*
- Burke County Genealogical & Historical Society
- Carroll County Historical Society
- Cherokee County Historical Society
- Coastal Heritage Society
- Coastal Museums Association  
*(representing 34 institutions)*
- Cobb County Genealogical Society
- The Columbus Museum
- Coweta County Genealogy Society
- Georgia Salzburger Society, *Greater Atlanta Chapter*
- The LAMAR Institute
- The S.E.A.R.C.H. Institute  
*(Southern Expeditionary Archaeological Research & Cultural Heritage Preservation)*
- Savannah Area Genealogical Association
- Savannah Heritage Emergency Response
- Troup County Historical Society

### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Bonaventure Historical Society
- Friends of the Cannonball House  
*(Macon)*
- Heritage Sandy Springs
- Hickory Hill and the Tom Watson Birthplace  
*(Thomson)*
- Historic Augusta, Inc.



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## THE COALITION TO PRESERVE THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

[www.fogah.org](http://www.fogah.org)

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Shown above, items from the Archives collections, from top to bottom: Henry Crawford Vinson, Baldwin County, 1861; Albany, Group of letter carriers gathered on the step of the post office building located on the corner of Broad and Jefferson Streets, early 1920s; Postcard of the Gen. Stewart Monument in Liberty County.