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February 2026 Lunch & Learn Series:
Black Georgians, Spanish Florida, and the Seminole
By Dr. Paul Pressly

The Georgia Archives will host its February Lunch & Learn presentation, *Black Georgians, Spanish Florida, and the Seminole*, presented by Dr. Paul Pressly. The program will take place on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Georgia Archives (5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260).

This event is free and open to the public, with no registration required.

From the beginning of the Revolutionary War to the eve of the First Seminole War in 1817, hundreds of people of color in Georgia and, to a lesser extent, South Carolina crossed the borders and boundaries separating the Lowcountry from Spanish coastal Florida and from the Seminole. *A Southern Underground Railroad* constitutes a powerful counter-narrative in American history, showing how enslaved men and women sought freedom and human dignity not within Jefferson's "Empire of Liberty," but beyond the expanding boundaries of the United States. It is a potent reminder of the strength of Black resistance in the post-Revolutionary South and of this community's ability to shape the balance of power in a contested region.

About the Speaker

Paul Pressly is an educator and historian. He is the author of two University of Georgia Press books: *On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World* (winner of the Georgia Historical Society's Bell Award) and *A Southern Underground Railroad: Black Georgians, Spanish Florida, and Indian Country*. He is also a recipient of the Governor's Award in the Humanities and the Georgia Historical Society's John McPherson Berrien Award.

America250 Programming

This event is part of the Georgia Archives' America 250 programming, which commemorates the nation's 250th anniversary by exploring Georgia history and its connections to the broader American story. For more upcoming programs, visit: tinyurl.com/GAArchivesPrograms2026.

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.