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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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August 2026 Lunch & Learn

***The Proof is in the Dough: Rural Southern Women, Extension, and Making Money* By Dr. Kathryn Beasley**

The Georgia Archives will host its August Lunch & Learn presentation, *The Proof is in the Dough: Rural Southern Women, Extension, and Making Money*, presented by historian and author Dr. Kathryn Beasley. The program will take place on Friday, August 14, 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, and no registration is required.

In this presentation, Dr. Kathryn L. Beasley will discuss her research on rural women in Alabama and Florida who used the skills they learned through the Cooperative Extension Service's home demonstration programs to earn extra income for themselves and their families between 1914 and 1929. Drawing from her book, [*The Proof Is in the Dough: Rural Southern Women, Extension, and Making Money*](#), published by the University of Georgia Press in 2025, Beasley explores how white and African American women applied agricultural, domestic, and entrepreneurial skills to create new economic opportunities in the rural South. Her work highlights the resourcefulness of these women and the ways they used food production, handicrafts, small businesses, and other strategies to improve their lives and shape ideas of financial independence before the Great Depression.

About the Speaker

Kathryn L. Beasley received her PhD in history from Florida State University. She grew up with a close association with the Cooperative Extension Service, which sparked her interest in agricultural and rural history. She is a recipient of the Southern Association for Women Historians' A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for the best article in the field of southern women's history. Her writing has also appeared in *The Alabama Review*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, the *Journal of the NACAA*, *Peanut Science*, and the *White House Quarterly*.

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.