

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GGS Member,

The 2011 session of the Georgia General Assembly saw the budget of the Georgia Archives slashed, yet again. The situation has become so dire that the Archives is open to the public only two days per week. This once proud and nationally respected institution is but a shadow of its former self. Staff positions have been eliminated, and programs abolished or much diminished.

Of all state archives, the Georgia Archives has the dubious distinction of being open to the public the fewest number of hours per week.

It is time for a change. It is time that our elected officials be made aware that we, the citizenry, are outraged that our access to public records is limited to seventeen hours per week (Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The following chart from the Friends of the Georgia Archives and History illustrates the decline in Archives budget and staff over the past 30 years:

Year	Budget	Budget in 2011 Dollars	Number of Staff
1982	\$3,297,000	\$7,523,000	90
1992	4,166,000	6,538,000	65
2002	5,409,000	6,620,000	54
2012 (projected)	4,819,000	4,819,000	18
Reduction since 1983		-36 %	-80%

Source: <http://www.fogah.org> 2011

Action is needed now. Do not wait until the 2012 session, or it may be too late. I urge you to contact your state representative, your state senator, Gov. Nathan Deal, and Secretary of State Brian Kemp. Let them know that you support the Georgia Archives and that you want to see its budget restored and public access hours expanded.

You can find the name and contact information for your state representative and senator at: <http://www.legis.ga.gov>.

Secretary of State Brian Kemp may be contacted through the link on the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sos.georgia.gov/> or send a letter to: Secretary of State Brian Kemp, 214 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

You may e-mail Governor Deal through the "contact us" link at: <http://www.Gov.GA.Gov>, or send a letter to: Gov. Nathan Deal, State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Thank you.

Linda Hughes, President
Georgia Genealogical Society