



## Records Preservation & Access Committee

Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society,  
International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

29 January 2013

Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor  
State of Georgia  
206 Washington Street, Suite 203  
State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Fair Funding for the Georgia Archives

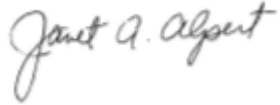
The Records Preservation and Access Committee wants to express our appreciation for your efforts thus far in approving interim funding for the Georgia Archives, partially offsetting proposed additional drastic cuts that threatened the continued existence of this national treasure. However, we still believe additional funds are needed to keep these valuable historical records preserved and accessible to the public. As one of the original thirteen colonies, Georgia played a vital role in the early history of the United States and contains records unique to Georgia and available nowhere else.

The genealogical community works together through The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), a joint committee which includes the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), The National Genealogical Society (NGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) as voting members. The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), and the American Society of Genealogists (ASG) also serve as participating members. Through its member and participating organizations, RPAC represents the interests of several million family history researchers and more than two thousand small business professionals who need access to public records to earn their livelihood. RPAC meets monthly to advise the genealogical community on supporting strong records preservation policies and practices and on ensuring proper access to vital records and other important historical records.

We appreciate the budgetary constraints under which you are working, and understand the need to reduce costs across all services. We are requesting that the cuts to the Archives are proportional to reductions in other administrative functions. We also request that the University System, already suffering from budget cuts, be provided with sufficient funding to keep the archives open and operating. People from all over the United States visit the archives to do family research and they need the archives to be open several days in a row for the research to be meaningful and the trip worthwhile. Genealogy generates tourism revenue as family history researchers visit state and local libraries, cemeteries, archives, museums, and military battlegrounds. Morrow, Georgia is an especially attractive location because it is adjacent to the regional branch of the National Archives.

We also ask you to consider adding a genealogist to the Transition Committee so genealogists can be part of the process and keep the genealogical community informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet A. Alpert". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Janet A. Alpert, Chair