

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Troup County Archives

### Adding Decades of Government Storage Space with Patterson Pope

*Government storage in a dank, dark basement without heat, air conditioning and a humidity problem? It's not ideal. Nor is it that unusual. Recognizing its collection of boxes, stacked without much structure over nearly a decade wasn't the best situation for records control, Troup County Archives in Georgia turned to Patterson Pope for a fresh approach.*

#### THE PROBLEM

In the Southeast, tornadoes and hurricanes are a concern for archives and government storage. At least the 1960s bunker, later underground bank vault, housing the Troup County Archives' government storage was secure from that worry. Yet, there were other challenges to deal with.

*"The work conditions were awful,"* said Alex Hughes, Troup County records manager. Nearly

3,000 cardboard boxes of records for each of the three government bodies were stacked on top of one another, wherever there was space. Archives staff had *"no physical control of those boxes at all,"* Hughes said. *"We had no idea of what was here and what was where....it was not an ideal space at all."*

#### THE SOLUTION

Troup County Archives three government bodies all contributed to a budget for renovating the bunker into a better storage space. The Archives' team, working with Patterson Pope, decided to install new high-density mobile storage from Spacesaver.

*"We went mobile instead of static primarily because of the fact that we wanted to get more in this space,"* Hughes said. Going with high-density mobile storage, they doubled their storage capacity.

After the staff went through the archives to identify and order boxes, and get current with Georgia Department of Archives and History retention policies, Patterson Pope's Safety and Records Logistics Manager and her team removed the documents to secure offsite storage. After a flawless build by what Hughes described

as a *"professional, easy to work with"* installation team, Judy Baker and her team returned to help establish the new document control system for the revamped storage.

With Patterson Pope, Troup County Archives:

- » Streamlined access to essential records related to judicial proceedings as well as county and city business
- » Gained document control for a decade's worth of archived boxes
- » Met a firm deadline on a tight taxpayer-funded budget without interrupting the ability to respond to document requests
- » Expanded storage capacity to meet future need for 30-50 years or more



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**Patterson Pope went “far beyond anything I could have dreamed. Patterson Pope may be my favorite vendor.”**

Shannon Gavin Johnson  
Executive Director  
Troup County Archives

## THE OUTCOME

The Archives has evolved from confusing clutter to organized government storage with plenty of room to grow according to Shannon Gavin Johnson, Troup County Archives' Executive Director.

Gavin Johnson estimates the mobile storage solution provides the Archives with space for 30 years of government documents. In fact, she said, if the Archives is “careful with its retention policies” it could continue to rely on the bunker storage space for another 50 years. Maybe even longer with digitization of records.

The Troup County Archives team is overwhelmingly enthusiastic about their new government storage solution. Gavin Johnson said, “*this is about the best you can do.*”

For Patterson Pope's team, that's a great testament to the success of our quality process for end-to-end storage solutions.



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Troup County Archives in LaGrange Georgia holds Troup County government and court records, the city of LaGrange documents, and files from Troup County education. All three local government entities enjoy records management and archival services from this non-profit organization.

