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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MARTIN T. OLLIFF TO PRESENT BOOK TALK AT THE ARCHIVES ON OCTOBER 11 AT 12:00**  
***GETTING OUT OF THE MUD: THE ALABAMA GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT AND HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, 1898-1928***

Montgomery, AL (9/28/17) – On **Wednesday, October 11 at 12:00**, author Martin T. Olliff will present a book talk on his publication ***Getting Out of the Mud: The Alabama Good Roads Movement and Highway Administration*** at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in Montgomery. Admission is **free**.

*Getting Out of the Mud* recounts the story of the Good Roads Movement and early twentieth-century progressivism in Alabama. By the early 1900s, amidst economic prosperity and the nation's automobile boom, Alabamians were increasingly interested in traveling. Roads, however, were substandard, rutted, and often muddy. From these conditions, reformers of the rising middle-class were inspired to begin the Good Roads Movement. In *Getting out of the Mud*, Olliff explores how these Alabamians overcame strained resources and significant political obstacles to build a modern road system.

Martin Olliff is a professor of history and the director of the Wiregrass Archives at Troy University Dothan Campus. His edited volume, *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie: Alabama in World War I*, was published in 2008 by the University of Alabama Press. Dr. Olliff has served on numerous governing boards, including the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Governor's Mansion Commission, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and the Dothan Landmarks Foundation. He sits on the editorial boards of both the *Alabama Review: A Quarterly Journal of Alabama History* and *Provenance: Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists*.

For more information about the book talk, call (334) 353-4689.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 242-4364.

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