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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON DECEMBER 20 AT NOON**  
***DRESSING FOR STATEHOOD: TEXTILES OF EARLY ALABAMA***  
**PRESENTED BY DIANE BARNARD**

Montgomery, AL (12/03/2018)- *Food for Thought* concludes another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) on **Thursday, December 20 at 12:00**, when ADAH Collections Curator Diane Barnard presents ***Dressing for Statehood: Textiles of Early Alabama***.

From the deerskin and fur trade of the colonial and territorial eras through its antebellum years, textiles richly influenced the economic and social history of Alabama. The local general store of the Alabama village was a major pipeline for textiles, clothing, and the latest fashion news for women and men. Newspapers of the period are filled with advertisements from general stores touting their latest shipment of European fabrics, trims, accessories, and clothing. Textiles and clothing shipments served as vital links to the world outside Alabama. Today, they provide historians an expanded avenue through which to explore transportation, economic, and cultural links to the state. In this presentation, Barnard will discuss textiles of early Alabama and how they provide a valuable historical record for the modern world.

Diane Barnard holds a B.A. in Art History from Towson State University, Maryland, and is currently completing her dissertation from Auburn University in clothing and textile history. She loves all things southern and has chosen to concentrate her research primarily on the Deep South and its eastern seaboard and western European roots. She joined the staff of the ADAH in August 2018 as a collections curator. Her home is in Loachapoka, Alabama, in a 168-year old house she shares with her husband, son, and four dogs.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE**. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided. **For additional information call (334) 353-9270.**

*Food for Thought 2018* is sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and made possible with support from the daughters of Judge Alex A. Marks, in his memory.

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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