



## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
"A BLESSED WORK IN A SOMBER WORLD":  
SELECTIONS FROM THE HANK WILLIAMS READER  
PRESENTED BY STEVE GOODSON

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the **Alabama Department of Archives and History** on **Thursday, June 19th**. Join us at **noon** as Steve Goodson presents "*A Blessed Work in a Somber World*": *Selections from the Hank Williams Reader*.

*The Hank Williams Reader* is the first book of its kind devoted to this giant of American music. It collects more than sixty of the most compelling, insightful, and historically significant writings about Alabama native Hank Williams that have appeared since the storied singer-songwriter first achieved stardom in the late 1940s. Drawn from a broad array of sources, these writings illustrate the ways in which individuals have attempted to capture in words the man, the artist, and the legend. Join us this month as co-editor Steve Goodson reads and discusses selected highlights from these writings, providing insight into Williams' life, career, and posthumous legend.

Steve Goodson was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and grew up in nearby Prattville. He received his B.A. in History from Auburn University at Montgomery in 1988, and earned his Ph.D. in History from Emory University in 1995. He then joined the faculty at the University of West Georgia, in Carrollton, where he is now a full professor and department chair. His book *Highbrows, Hillbillies, and Hellfire: Public Entertainment in Atlanta, 1880-1930*, published by the University of Georgia Press, won the Georgia Historical Society's Bell Award as the best book on Georgia History published in 2002. He is also co-editor of *The Hank Williams Reader*, which was published in 2014 by the Oxford University Press.

Copies of *The Hank Williams Reader* will be available for purchase at the event. This ArchiTreats presentation made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission is always FREE!**

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[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)