



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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**ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
*ITERATIONS OF AFTERLIFE: CHANGING VIEWS OF THE "FUTURE STATE" IN
THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH*
BY DONNA COX BAKER**

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, October 15, 2015 at noon**. Donna Cox Baker will present *Iterations of Afterlife: Changing Views of the "Future State" in the Antebellum South*.

Between 1820 and the beginning of the Civil War, southerners entered a period of questioning about the nature of the world beyond death. The growing interest in science and the disdain for superstition had squelched some of the mystical and magical that had formerly attached itself to contemplation of the afterlife, leaving something rather gray and vague in its place. The questioning of the period yielded a heaven more vivid, a hell less certain, and a southern population feeling a greater freedom to wonder. This month, Donna Cox Baker will discuss and explore the fascination with the "future state" by many southerners of the antebellum period.

Baker is the editor-in-chief of *Alabama Heritage* magazine and the acquisitions editor for history for the University of Alabama Press. She earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama with an emphasis on the history of the U.S. South and southern religion. Her *ArchiTreats* presentation will be based on her doctoral dissertation, *Views of the Future State: Afterlife Beliefs in the Deep South, 1820–1865*.

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 brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission is always FREE!** To view the full 2015 *ArchiTreats* schedule visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

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