



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH: A HISTORY OF ALABAMA'S CAHABA COAL FIELD
PRESENTED BY JAMES S. DAY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on Thursday, **November 21st** as James S. Day presents *Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama's Cahaba Coal Field*.

The Cahaba Coal Field is a mineral-rich area that stretches across sixty-seven miles and four counties in central Alabama. Relatively short-lived, the Cahaba coal-mining operation spanned from discovery in the 1840s through development, boom, and finally bust in the mid-1950s. Join us this month as James S. Day reconstructs the historical moment that defined the Cahaba Coal Field and the diverse people who lived and worked in the district. Largely obscured today by pine trees and kudzu, the mining districts of the Cahaba Coal Field forever influenced the lives of countless individuals and families and ultimately contributed to the whole fabric of the state of Alabama.

James S. Day is Professor of History at the University of Montevallo. He holds a B.S. in engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, an M.A. in history from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in history from Auburn University. His monograph, *Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama's Cahaba Coal Field*, combines technological and social history to examine the industrial development of central Alabama. At UM, Day teaches courses in Colonial America, Revolutionary America, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian America, the Gilded Age, U.S. History since 1945, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the History of Alabama's Constitutions. He also has developed Staff Ride/Terrain Walk courses on the Civil War battles of Shiloh and Chickamauga. Copies of *Diamonds in the Rough* will be available for purchase on November 21st.

This ArchiTreats presentation is 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.

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