



*Alabama* DEPARTMENT OF  
**ARCHIVES & HISTORY**  
Find Your *Story*

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
December 4, 2017

**Media Contact: Mary Beth Wasden**  
marybeth.wasden@archives.alabama.gov  
(334) 353-4636

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON DECEMBER 21 AT 12:00  
WHERE ALABAMA BEGAN: ARCHAEOLOGY AT OLD ST. STEPHENS  
PRESENTED BY GEORGE SHORTER**

Montgomery, AL (12/4/2017)- *Food for Thought* concludes another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, December 21 at 12:00**. George Shorter will present ***Where Alabama Began: Archaeology at Old St. Stephens***.

From fort to trading post to territorial capital, St. Stephens is the birthplace of Alabama. However, the town's story is one that is unknown to most Alabamians. By 1818, St. Stephens boasted 400 buildings and a population of at least 3,000. The town was named the territorial capital of Alabama in 1817, and hosted the inaugural meeting of the territorial legislature in 1818. By the early 1820s, after the capital relocated, the town began to decline. It had virtually vanished by the beginning of the Civil War. This month, archaeologist George Shorter will shed light on St. Stephen's story through exciting new archaeological discoveries.

George Shorter earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology both from Louisiana State University. He worked as a landscape architect for almost thirty years and then joined the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies where he supervised numerous archaeological projects including research at Fort Morgan, Dog River near Mobile, and the Creek Indian village Fusihatchee near Montgomery. Shorter began research at the historic site of Old St. Stephens in Washington County in 1997. He continues his work today with the St. Stephens Historical Commission.

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) 353-4689.**

*Food for Thought 2017* is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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.

###

Alabama Department of Archives & History  
624 Washington Ave.  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)