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PRESS RELEASE

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON SEPTEMBER 21 AT 12:00
BEFORE ALABAMA: THE MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY
PRESENTED BY CLAY WILLIAMS

Montgomery, Alabama (9/6/2017)— *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, September 21 at 12:00**. Clay Williams will present ***Before Alabama: The Mississippi Territory***.

Before becoming its own territory and then entering the Union as the twenty-second state in 1819, the land that would become Alabama was originally part of the Mississippi Territory. This month, historian Clay Williams will explore the history and culture of the region from the late 1790s to 1819, including the end of colonial rule, the formation of the territory, relationships with Native Americans, and the Creek War.

Clay Williams graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in History and Public Policy Administration. He currently serves as the Sites Administrator for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, overseeing operations for six museum sites throughout the state. Williams is the co-author of *Battle for the Southern Frontier, the Creek War and the War of 1812* (The History Press, 2008) and is currently working on a volume for the *Heritage of Mississippi Series on Frontier Mississippi (1800-1840)*. Williams resides in Brandon, MS, with his wife and daughter.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE!** The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **For additional information, call (334) 353-3312.**

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 or call (334) 242-4364.

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