



Press Release

For Immediate Release
December 2, 2014

Contact: Georgia Ann Conner
334.328.9088

ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
THE SLAVES' GAMBLE FOR FREEDOM: CHOOSING SIDES IN THE WAR OF 1812
PRESENTED BY GENE ALLEN SMITH

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, December 18th**. Join us at **noon** as Gene Allen Smith presents *The Slaves' Gamble for Freedom: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812*.

Peter Denison, Charles Ball, and Ned Simmons are not household names or well-known heroes of the War of 1812. Yet all three faced important choices about which side to support during the conflict. In this month's presentation, Smith will follow the lives of these three slaves and explore the daily struggle all slaves faced, the choices they made, and the way the young United States responded to the possibility of social and racial unrest. The response of the young republic during this period to the possibility of slave participation in the War of 1812 ultimately sealed the fate of slaves for the next half century, until the American Civil War.

Gene Allen Smith is a Professor of History at Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth. During the 2013-14 academic-year he served as the Class of 1957 Distinguished Chair in Naval Heritage at the United States Naval Academy. Author or editor of books, articles, and reviews on the War of 1812, naval and maritime history, and territorial expansion along the Gulf of Mexico, his most recent book is *The Slaves' Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812* (2013). Since 2002 he has also served as the Director of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU.

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!**

###

Alabama Department of Archives & History
624 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130
www.archives.alabama.gov