

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
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## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil  
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BOOK TALK AND SIGNING,  
*EUGENE ALLEN SMITH'S ALABAMA: HOW A GEOLOGIST  
SHAPED THE STATE* BY AILEEN HENDERSON  
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, September 1, 2011**, as Aileen Henderson presents ***Eugene Allen Smith's Alabama: How a Geologist Shaped the State***. This informative talk and book signing will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Appointed state geologist by the legislature in 1873, Eugene Allen Smith was a professor, geologist, and naturalist who traveled by mule-drawn wagon throughout Alabama after the Civil War to find natural resources that could be used to develop industry in the state. Henderson will discuss the hardships and accomplishments of the man who devoted his life to finding ways to transform Alabama from an agricultural state to an industrial giant.

Aileen Kilgore Henderson, an Alabama native, attended Judson College and the University of Alabama. She taught school in Alabama, Texas, and Minnesota. During WW II, she was an airplane engine mechanic, photo lab technician, and theater manager in the Women's Army Corps. Her first book won the "Milkweed Prize" for Children's Literature and the Alabama Library Association Award. She is a member of Alabama Writer's Forum and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Her book will be available to purchase by NewSouth Books. Also, visit the new "The Land of Alabama" gallery on the second floor, showing the geology and geography of our state.

The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history, free. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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