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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON FEBRUARY 18 AT NOON
VISIONS OF FLYING MACHINES: EARLY AERIAL EXPERIMENTERS IN ALABAMA
PRESENTED BY BILLY SINGLETON**

Montgomery, AL (2/5/16) - *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating and informative presentations on the rich history of Alabama at the **Alabama Department of Archives and History** on **Thursday, February 18 at noon**. Billy Singleton will present *Visions of Flying Machines: Early Aerial Experimenters in Alabama*.

The development of the airplane has been described as “the landmark event in America’s cultural evolution.” Although credited with the first powered, controlled, and sustained flight in a heavier-than-air machine, Orville and Wilbur Wright were not the first experimenters to attempt to achieve this historic milestone. This month, author and retired pilot Billy Singleton will discuss the legacy of early aeronautical experimenters in Alabama and the claims that their efforts preceded or contributed to the success of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk.

Billy Singleton has been involved in the aviation industry for more than four decades. A retired commercial airline pilot, he is currently employed as a corporate pilot based in Birmingham. A native of Alabama, Singleton has served as Chairman of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame and Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham and is currently a member of the Friends of the Archives Board of Directors. He received a Bachelor’s Degree from Troy State University and a Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is the author of two books and has published more than two hundred articles relating to aviation history and safety.

Food for Thought 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 brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission to *Food for Thought* is always FREE.**

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. It 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. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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