

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
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## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil  
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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
*HANDS ON THE FREEDOM PLOW: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF WOMEN IN THE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE*  
BY GWEN PATTON  
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, February 16, 2012**, as **Gwen Patton** presents ***Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts of the Women in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee***. This presentation is in conjunction with the statewide *Becoming Alabama* initiative.

Montgomery historian and archivist Gwen Patton will share her experiences with excerpts from her essay in *Hands on the Freedom Plow*. This is an anthology of essays by 52 women sharing their experiences during the transformational period of the 1960s-1970s civil rights movement.

Gwen Patton staged her first protest in 1952, when she was 8 years of age, at Montgomery's Liggett's Drug Store lunch counter. She was a youth organizer working with Rufus A. Lewis during the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and worked as an organizer for the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights March. Patton was the first coed elected as student body president at Tuskegee University in 1965. She is recipient of numerous awards. Presently, Gwen Patton is the archivist of special collections at Trenholm State Technical College.

This commemorative event is one in a series of programs affiliated with *Becoming Alabama*, a statewide partnership of state agencies, historical groups, and cultural organizations to commemorate the coinciding anniversaries of the Creek War and War of 1812, the Civil War, and major events in the civil rights movement. For more information on *Becoming Alabama*, visit <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/BA/>.

This ArchiTreats presentation 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 sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)

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