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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION *THE ROAD TO WAR: JANUARY – APRIL 1861* BY ROBERT B. BRADLEY AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought begins another year of informative talks on Alabama History at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, January 20, 2011** as **Robert B. Bradley** presents *The Road To War: January – April 1861*. This presentation is in conjunction with the *Becoming Alabama* statewide initiative.

The Road to War will examine the period from January 11, 1861, when Alabama became the fourth state to secede from the Union, until April 12, 1861 when the firing on Ft. Sumter, in Charleston, South Carolina, inaugurated the Civil War. During this period the Confederate States of America was formed with Montgomery as its capital and Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States. The most pressing issue inherited by the opposing powers was the Federal occupation of two forts: one on the Atlantic, the other on the Gulf of Mexico. The program will examine how the stubborn defiance of two US Army officers who refused to surrender their commands led to the flash point that would ignite a horrible and costly war.

Robert (Bob) Bradley is currently the Chief Curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. From 1974-1986, he was a historian with the National Park Service, specializing in the management, preservation, and interpretation of 18th -to mid 20th-century fortifications and military sites. Of his several assignments, his position as Chief Historian at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, South Carolina was his favorite. From 1986-1988, Bradley was Historic Sites Administrator for the Alabama Historical Commission. Since coming to the Archives in 1988 he has been responsible for the preservation, documentation, and conservation of the Department's collection of nearly a half-million artifacts. He is the author of *Documenting the Civil War Period Flag Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives and History*, which is available on the Department's web-site, and he has contributed to a wide variety of Civil War publications. He is also very active in Civil War battlefield preservation.

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. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4712.

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