

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
P.O. Box 300100  
624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil  
334-353-4726

Release Date: Immediately

ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
*PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY  
OF ALABAMA IN THE CIVIL WAR* BY BEN SEVERANCE  
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, December 20, 2012**, as **Ben H. Severance** presents ***Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War***.

“John Henry Turpin, a 25-year-old druggist from Greene County, who served in the 28th Alabama Infantry at the Battle of Murfreesboro. On the morning of the first day of the battle, he was shot in the left arm while leading his company in a charge across a cotton field. Captured by the enemy during the regiment's retreat, Turpin subsequently had his injured arm amputated while languishing in a Union prison.” This is one example of the stories that accompany the photographs in the book *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War*, by Ben Severance.

In this book, Severance has compiled over 230 rare photographs of Alabamians during the Civil War. For his presentation, he will draw on a sample of these images, explain his selection process, place each individual in his/her historical context, and then demonstrate the value of using photographs to depict the literal face of war.

Ben H. Severance is an associate professor of history at Auburn University Montgomery. A former officer in the U.S. Army, his areas of expertise are the American Civil War and American Military History. Severance is the author of *Tennessee's Radical Army: The State Guard and Its Role in Reconstruction, 1867-1869* (University of Tennessee Press, 2005) and the just released *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War* (University of Arkansas Press).

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. The book, *Portraits of Conflict*, will be available for purchase. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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

###