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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
THE MAGIC OF MARBLE: SYLACAUGA'S LANDMARK
BY RUTH BEAUMONT COOK
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, July 15** as **Ruth Beaumont Cook** presents *The Magic of Marble: Sylacauga's Landmark*. This program is in conjunction with the Alabama Tourism Department's Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns.

Since the time of the first quarries in the 1830s, Sylacauga's marble has been compared in purity and strength to the marble found in the Carrera quarries near Pietrasanta, Italy. "The Magic of Marble: Sylacauga's Landmark" tells the story of the 32-mile long bed of mostly white "madre cream" marble that runs beneath the City of Sylacauga and the surrounding area. Giuseppe Moretti, who created Birmingham's cast iron statue of Vulcan, described it as "brilliant and full of life." The Magic of Marble is also about Gantt's Quarry, which once thrived as the company village of the Alabama Marble Company and created lasting memories for those who worked or grew up there during the first half of the 20th century.

Ruth Beaumont Cook is the author of two books of narrative history. Her first, *North Across the River*, published by Crane Hill in 1999 and 2000, tells the story of textile mill workers in Georgia who were arrested and charged with treason by General Sherman in the summer of 1864. Her second book, *Guests Behind the Barbed Wire*, received the bronze medal in the Outstanding History Book of the Year category from Independent Publishers Group for 2008. It tells the story of Camp Aliceville, one of the largest German POW camps in the country during WWII. Ruth is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where she studied German and English education. She has lived in Alabama since 1970 and serves on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Writers' Forum.

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought lecture series is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. 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) 353-4726.

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