Alabama DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

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ST. STEPHENS AND THE ALABAMA TERRITORY NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM OF ALABAMA

Montgomery, AL (11/10/17) – The Museum of Alabama has debuted a new temporary exhibit called *St. Stephens and the Alabama Territory*. It will be on display in the second-floor lobby of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) through May 11, 2018.

In 1817, Congress established the Alabama Territory and designated the town of St. Stephens as the territorial capital. The Archives' latest temporary exhibit explores the history of this frontier town located along the Tombigbee River.

St. Stephens became an epicenter of commerce, with first class accommodations and entertainment befitting a capital city. In January 1818, the territorial legislature met at St. Stephens and selected Alabama's first congressional representative, drew judicial districts, created new counties, and provided for a census. But Alabama's rapid march to statehood created new centers of political power which marked the town's rapid decline. Lawmakers chose to hold the state's constitutional convention in Huntsville and selected Cahawba as the first permanent capital. By mid-century, once-bustling St. Stephens was a ghost town.

Items on display help us better understand the story of St. Stephens and daily life in the Alabama Territory. The exhibit features material from the collections of the Alabama Archives, as well as unique artifacts excavated from the site of the town, all of which are on loan from the St. Stephens Historical Commission.

The Museum of Alabama is located at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, in downtown Montgomery across the street from the State Capitol. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30 and admission is always free. Parking is available in a free lot directly behind the Archives' building on Adams Avenue. For more information visit www.museum.alabama.gov or call 334-242-4364.

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