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PRESS RELEASE

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON SEPTEMBER 20 AT NOON
NOTT, OUR DOCTOR: HOW MEDICINE, RACE, RELIGION & EVOLUTION COLLIDE
PRESENTED BY ERIK PETERSON

Montgomery, AL (9/5/2018)- *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, September 20 at 12:00**, when Erik Peterson presents ***Nott, Our Doctor: How Medicine, Race, Religion, and Evolution Collide***.

In the years before the Civil War, pioneering Mobile physician Josiah C. Nott (1804-1873) helped shape the medical profession both in Alabama and beyond. He established the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and took a leading role in the creation of a state medical school in Mobile. Nott was a staunch advocate of a scientific approach to medicine, and an important researcher on the spread of Yellow Fever, a disease which had killed four of his children.

Nott's articles and books on what he considered the biological concepts of racial difference earned him both international praise and derision. This month, historian Dr. Erik L. Petersen will discuss Nott, his controversial views on race and evolution, and his role in the development of modern medicine.

Dr. Erik L. Peterson is assistant professor of the history of science at the University of Alabama, where he specializes in the history of race and biology. He is the co-host of *Speaking of Race*, a cross-disciplinary podcast investigating the international story of race and science. Petersen's recent article, *Race and Evolution in Antebellum Alabama*, appeared in the book *Evolution Education in the American South* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). And his book with anthropologist Jim Bindon entitled *One or Many? A Brief History of Science & Race from Christopher Columbus to Today* is due to hit bookstores soon.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE**. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided. **For additional information call (334) 353-4689.**

Food for Thought 2018 is sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and made possible with support from the daughters of Judge Alex A. Marks, in his memory.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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