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PRESS RELEASE

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON MARCH 21 AT 12:00
VOTING ON THE WAR: THE 1863 ALABAMA ELECTION
PRESENTED BY BEN SEVERANCE

Montgomery, AL (03/07/2019)- *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, March 21 at 12:00** when Ben Severance presents ***Voting on the War: The 1863 Alabama Election***.

In 1863, during the height of the Civil War, Alabamians participated in a crucial election. The war was not going well for the Confederacy and the ballot box afforded Alabama's electorate an opportunity to voice its opinion by either electing men who would press on to victory, or men who would seek a negotiated peace with the Union. Despite indications of anxiety and doubt, the voters affirmed Alabama's dedication to seeing the conflict through to the end. This presentation will profile the politicians who led Alabama through this grueling ordeal and explain why most of them retained the people's confidence and were reelected.

A former officer in the U.S. Army, Dr. Ben Severance joined the faculty at Auburn University at Montgomery in August 2005. His specialties are the Civil War, Reconstruction, Antebellum America, and American Military History. Dr. Severance has published two books: *Tennessee's Radical Army: The State Guard and Its Role in Reconstruction, 1867-1869* and *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War*. He is currently writing a book on Alabama's political climate during the Civil War.

Food for Thought 2019 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 brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission to Food for Thought is always FREE.**

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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