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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 5, 2019

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON FEBRUARY 21 AT 12:00
SCOTTSBORO UNMASKED: DECATUR'S STORY
PRESENTED BY PEGGY ALLEN TOWNS

Montgomery, AL (02/05/2019)- *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, February 21 at 12:00** when Peggy Allen Towns presents ***Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur's Story***.

Towns' presentation will discuss the famous legal saga of the Scottsboro Boys, nine young African Americans who were falsely accused of rape by two white women in 1931. The case produced two landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings that continue to influence the judicial system. Towns will present new aspects of this well-known story by exploring events in Decatur, the site of the infamous re-trials, and how they affected the local community.

Peggy Allen Towns is a native of Decatur, Alabama. She was employed by the United States House of Representatives, retiring in 2011 with 20 years of Congressional service. She is the author of two books *Duty Driven: The Plight of North Alabama's African Americans During the Civil War* (2012) and *Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur's Story* (2018). Ms. Towns has done extensive research on the African American community in her home town and has been instrumental in raising awareness and educating the public about the history and indelible contributions of African Americans. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work.

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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