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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY ANNOUNCES NEW DOCUMENTATION PROJECT:
COLLECTING A CRISIS: ALABAMA DURING COVID-19

Montgomery, AL (5/18/20) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) announces the launch of a new documentation project called *Collecting a Crisis: Alabama during COVID-19*. The initiative will add to the agency's collections a variety of materials that tell the story of Alabamians' experiences during the pandemic and the associated economic crisis. The ADAH is asking the public to contribute materials including photographs, audio recordings, video, journals, blogs, social media posts, three-dimensional items, and more.

Materials may be donated in digital or print formats. Examples include photographs documenting the activities of families while practicing social distancing; journals and diaries written by adults or children; artwork or special projects completed in quarantine; or materials documenting the experiences of healthcare workers and COVID-19 patients. Equally important are materials reflecting the economic effects of the pandemic on businesses and communities, such as protest signs, correspondence to public officials, or guidance for safe business operations upon reopening.

"Alabamians have experienced an extraordinary two months of disruption to work, school, and community life," said ADAH director Steve Murray, "and the crisis will continue in some form for months to come. Preserving the distinctive records of this period is vitally important for ensuring that future generations will understand how the coronavirus suddenly and, perhaps permanently, changed our society."

If you are interested in donating materials, please visit www.archives.alabama.gov to complete an online form, or contact ADAH Registrar Haley Aaron at (334) 353-4726 or haley.aaron@archives.alabama.gov.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government-records repository, a special-collections library and research facility, and 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 ADAH is currently closed through May 25, 2020. Visit www.archives.alabama.gov for the latest information about agency closures and cancellations.

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