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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHTIME LECTURE AT THE ARCHIVES ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 12:00 PM**  
***FOOD IN THE NATIVE SOUTH AND THE CURIOUS CASE OF COONTIE***  
**PRESENTED BY ANDREW FRANK**

Montgomery, AL (09/08/2021) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) will continue its 2021 *Food For Thought* lunchtime lecture series on **Thursday, September 16, at 12:00 PM**. Andrew Frank will present ***Food in the Native South and the Curious Case of Coontie***. The pre-recorded program will be held **virtually only** through the ADAH's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/AlabamaArchives](http://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArchives) and YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/alabamaarchives](http://www.youtube.com/alabamaarchives).

This presentation will examine the diversity of food in the Native South and indigenous women's role in planting, gathering, and preparing food for their community. Southeastern native women shared knowledge about food preparation that continued their society's traditions and protected the community from harm. Frank will demonstrate this work through a discussion of coontie, a poisonous cycad plant native to the region, which, when prepared properly, makes a starchy flour. Coontie was a staple of the Native South.

Dr. Andrew Frank is a professor of history at Florida State University specializing in the history of the Florida Seminoles and the Native South. In addition to numerous book chapters and journal articles, Dr. Frank is the author of *Before the Pioneers: Indians, Settlers, Slaves, and the Founding of Miami* (University Press of Florida, 2017) and *Creeks and Southerners: Biculturalism on the Early American Frontier* (2005). His research has been supported by grants and fellowships from institutions that include the American Philosophical Society, American Historical Association, Newberry Library, and Huntington Library.

**For additional information call (334) 353-4689.** *Food for Thought* 2021 is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Alliance, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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 Museum of Alabama is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 242-4364.

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