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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON JANUARY 17 AT 12:00
FOLKLORIST RUBY PICKENS TARTT: COMPOSING A NEW SCORE
PRESENTED BY TINA NAREMORE JONES

Montgomery, AL (01/09/2019)- *Food for Thought* begins another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, January 17 at 12:00** when Tina Naremore Jones presents ***Folklorist Ruby Pickens Tartt: Composing a New Score***.

Livingston native Ruby Pickens Tartt (1880-1974) was an internationally-known folklorist and writer. During a life that spanned nearly a century, Tartt was one of the foremost chroniclers of folklore, folk music, and slave narratives in rural Alabama. In 1936, she was appointed chair of the local Federal Writers' Project in Sumter County, through which she collected the life stories and folk tales of former slaves and gained a deep interest in preserving southern black culture. In this presentation, historian Dr. Tina Naremore Jones will examine Tartt's remarkable life and the valuable insight her work provides into the history of Alabama's rural communities.

Dr. Jones is the executive director of the Division of Economic Development and Outreach and professor of English at the University of West Alabama. She earned both her B.A. and M.A.T. degrees in English from Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama) and a Ph.D. in American Literature from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Jones is co-editor of the anthology *Belles' Letters: Contemporary Stories of Alabama Women*, one of four editors for *Tartts: Incisive Fiction from Emerging Writers*, and a contributing writer to the anthology, *Alabama Women: Their Lives and Times* (2017). Jones has served on numerous boards and committees including the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, the Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area, the Sumter County Fine Arts Council, the Alabama Folklife Association, and Black Belt Treasures.

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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