



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
Find Your *Story*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2017

Media Contact: Georgia Ann Hudson
georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov
(334) 353-3312

**MICHAEL FITZGERALD TO PRESENT BOOK TALK AT THE ARCHIVES ON MARCH 23 AT 12:00
RECONSTRUCTION IN ALABAMA: FROM CIVIL WAR TO REDEMPTION IN THE COTTON STATE**

Montgomery, AL (3/10/17) – On **Thursday, March 23 at 12:00 pm**, Michael Fitzgerald will present a book talk on his new publication *Reconstruction in Alabama: From Civil War to Redemption in the Cotton State* at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in Montgomery. Admission is **free**.

Released in March 2017 by LSU Press, Fitzgerald's book offers a compelling and innovative new look at the process of rebuilding Alabama following the Civil War. Focusing on an array of issues largely ignored until now, Fitzgerald analyzes the differences over slavery, secession, and war that divided Alabama's whites, mostly along the lines of region and class. BY examining the economic and political implications of defeat, he demonstrates that class and regional divisions over economic policy, as much as racial tension, shaped the complex reality of Reconstruction in Alabama.

Michael Fitzgerald received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1986 and is currently Professor of History at St. Olaf College, where he teaches southern and African American history. His work deals centrally with Alabama in the Civil War era. Fitzgerald is the author of several books, including *The Union League Movement in the Deep South: Politics and Agricultural Change during Reconstruction*, *Urban Emancipation: Popular Politics in Reconstruction Mobile, 1860-1890* and *Splendid Failure: Postwar Reconstruction in the American South*.

Copies of Fitzgerald's book will be available for purchase at the presentation. For more information, call (334) 353-4689.

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. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

###