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“WHAT CONSTITUTES A STATE?”

Men who their duties know, but know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain.”—Sir William Jones, 1746-1794.

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

This Department was established by legislative enactment and approved by Governor William J. Samford, on February 27, 1901. It is a part of the Executive Department of the State, with headquarters in the Capitol. Thomas M. Owen initiated the law and was for twenty years, until his death in 1920, director of the Department. Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen succeeded him.

The Department of Archives and History is charged with the care of the State archives and with the general promotion of the history of the State. It has brought together a large collection of historical portraits, an excellent historical reference library, numerous historical museum objects, and has published and distributed a number of historical bulletins. With the view of popularizing history it has initiated, with the approval of Governor Bibb Graves, the publication of *The Alabama Historical Quarterly*, of which the director is editor.

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