

Native American Days 2015 Extends Into the Night

News from Mark Dingeldein and Mark Howell

Native American Days 2015 was a great success! Before the event, there were 48 hours of rain. However, during the three-day festival there was great weather. Festival participants enjoyed clear skies, with temperatures in the low 70s. There was just enough rain to lift the statewide burn ban for our first ever “Great Fire (*Luak Chito*),” but not enough for things to get mired in mud.

Over three days (October 28-30) schools throughout the Mississippi Delta (and Arkansas) bused their students and teachers to Winterville for a day of cultural enrichment, arts and crafts, and Native American games. All **4,143** seem to have a wonderful time. The “Great Fire” held on Thursday night was a huge success, with well over 400 people negotiating the darkness to watch, listen, and participate in drumming, chanting, and dancing with Native American culture bearers.

The Winterville staff wants to thank all of our volunteers for the tremendous help they provided in making our festival such a success. We also want to thank all the children, teachers, and everyone else who took time out of their busy schedules to celebrate Native American culture in the Delta. We look forward to seeing all of our visitors again, and to make new friends next year.



School children pictured with Two Bears, of the Apache Nation. Thousands of children were able to learn more about various tribes during the three -day Native American Days event at Winterville Mounds. Image courtesy of Claire Gwaltney.

Dear MDAH Volunteers,

We are very thankful for our MDAH volunteers. Everyday, there seems to be a project completed, a visitor greeted, or a teacher provided with educational resources because our wonderful volunteers have worked with us to meet the needs of the public. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks. We thank you for being part of our MDAH family.

Sincerely,

Katie Blount, director



Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. After two centuries, the Choctaw retook control of an ancient site which is an earthwork mound built circa 100 BC–400 AD. The Choctaw consider this site to be the place of their origin. The name of this ancestral mound which, for a time, was administered as a Mississippi state park is:
 - A) Emerald Mound
 - B) Nanih Waiya
 - C) Tishomingo
 - D) Tombigbee

2. President Andrew Jackson received which nickname by the first Mississippians (Native Americans)? **Note: Read carefully. This is a difficult question.**
 - A) Sharp Knife
 - B) Tall One
 - C) Old Hickory
 - D) The Hero of New Orleans

3. The Chickasaw were known for their military prowess. Which explorer was attacked repeatedly by this tribe when traversing Mississippi?
 - A) Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle
 - B) Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville
 - C) Hernando de Soto
 - D) Louis Jolliet

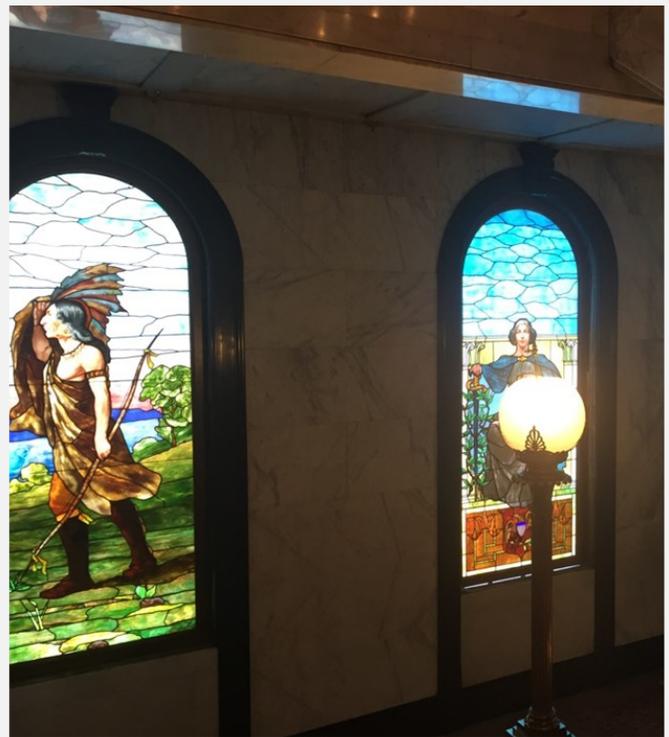
Answers are on the last page.

Bottom, right: *State Capitol photo of Louis J. Millet windows back “at home.” Please see more Capitol restoration photos on pages 11 and 12.*

Photo courtesy of Benjamin Eubanks, information technology specialist, State Capitol

Inside this issue:

Test Your Knowledge	2
Winterville Mounds	1, 3, and 4
Grand Village & Historic Jefferson College	5
Archaeology	6
Manship House Museum	7, 8
Governor’s Mansion	9
State Capitol	10–12
Education	13
Eudora Welty House and Garden	14
Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour	15
Bulletin Board	16



Native American Days at Winterville Mounds Learning from Grandfather Larry Parker



1



2



3

1) From left: *Vanessa Neldon, Larry Parker, and Amanda Simpson* are pictured at the recent Native American Days event at Winterville Mounds. Parker is the first volunteer that Mark Howell and Susie Smith recruited when they were hired to work at the site more than eight years ago. Parker has been training his granddaughters, fellow volunteers, and protégés Vanessa and Amanda, to become archery experts just like he is. Parker and his granddaughters have shared their expertise with thousands of school children at Winterville Mounds.

2) *Amanda Simpson*

3) *Vanessa Neldon*

4) *Larry Parker oversees the archery range which includes a foam bear!*



4

Special note: Larry Parker is a member of the Southern Traditional Archery Association, which sponsors the Catch-A-Dream benefit shoot. Catch-A-Dream grants once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing experiences to children 18 or younger who have a life-threatening illness.

Source: <http://www.catchadream.org/about/>

Native American Days at Winterville Mounds Community Supports Wildly Successful Event



1) Southern Pines singers and dancers from the Choctaw Nation, Mississippi; Image courtesy of Claire Gwaltney. 2) Coco Creppel from the Houma Nation (Louisiana) performing at the nighttime Luak Chito.



3) The wonderful ladies of the Greenville Garden Club volunteered their time and talent to help with the face painting; Image courtesy of Claire Gwaltney.

4) Greenville Garden Club members Merrill Greenlee, Lynn Cox, and Lynn's husband, Greenville Mayor John Cox

5) Ruth L. Spiller and Winterville Mounds Volunteer Coordinator Susie Smith





Student Days at the Grand Village

News and image from Lance Harris



The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians hosted over 700 people for our annual Student Days event.

Schoolchildren and parents not only visited our important historic site, but they also learned about Native American stories and life-ways. Our volunteer group is crucial to making this great event happen!

We would like to thank Jim Barnett, Wilkie Collins, Renee Cornette, Marianne Raley, Pat Martin, David Higgs, and Mark Buckles, as well as Kay McNeil from Historic Jefferson College and Susie Smith and Mandy Benter from Winterville Mounds. Tom Varnado also made a special tipi camp at the Grand Village and demonstrated Native skills.

Celebration of Christmas Trees at Historic Jefferson College

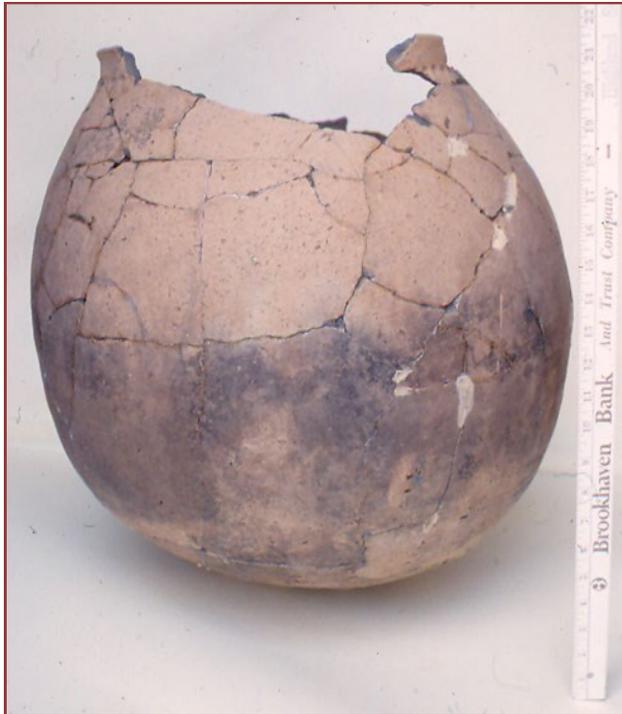
Come see the Christmas trees adopted and adorned with hand-made decorations by area school groups. The trees will be available for viewing throughout the holiday season.



MDAH Archaeologist John Connaway

Report from the North Delta Field Office

News and Image courtesy of John Connaway



Volunteer Amanda Hoogestraat has been working on five bundle burials from the Carson Site, Burial 73, for several weeks, removing the bones from matrix and cleaning them for study. She has found several interesting anomalies that may be the results of disease, such as osteoarthritis and others, dental problems, or genetics. This study is continuing with a report planned for the near future. She is presently visiting the Cahokia Mounds and other sites where she hopes to get additional comparative data that will be helpful in her study. The work will include Burials 67 through 74 which have not been studied by other researchers.

Excavations at Carson Mounds have been on hold much of the summer due to dry conditions and concrete-like soil. Thus, most of the volunteer work since June has been in the Clarksdale office lab.

Ole Miss intern Nikki Mattson started sorting glass beads from the Dog Branch Site. Dog Branch is several miles northeast of Greenwood on the bluffs and is thought to be a Chakchiuma village ca. 1690–1730 +/- . Four house sites have been excavated there by John Connaway and volunteers over the past several years, along with seven burials that contained thousands of glass beads (over forty different designs) and a number of metal artifacts. Many of these were contained in a very large urn (pictured on top, left). Analysis of this material has begun with publication of a report as the long-term goal.

* * * * *



Newsflash!

**Man shot at the Manship House Museum.
Who did it? Go to next page.**

High Noon at the Manship House: Natchez Trace Parkway Assn. Volunteers

Images courtesy of MDAH



The Manship House Museum was the site of author and historian H. Grady Howell Jr.'s discussion of his book *Invocation to Death: The Final Hours of Col. Alexander Keith McClung*. Howell discussed the life of this infamous lawyer/duelist and the art of dueling in the nineteenth century.

After Howell's presentation, volunteers with the Natchez Trace Parkway Association held a dueling demonstration complete with dueling pistols, clothing, and accessories of the period. Bryant Boswell, portraying Alexander McClung in the reenactment, shot his "victim of the day" (aka Tom Watts to the MDAH volunteers and employees) as per the dueling rules of the time.

The Natchez Trace Parkway Association volunteers came prepared with dueling seconds, a surgeon, and other personnel to cart off the body of the victim. Marilyn Jones, director of the Manship House Museum, was delighted by the enormous turnout for the event. She said that Charles Henry Manship actually wrote in his memoirs about a potential duel that he witnessed between McClung and a man with opposing political views named Wash Coffee. Jones said that future programming will be just as exciting and fun!



The Manship House Museum is open by appointment. For groups tours, contact Marilyn Jones to make reservations at 601-961-4724 or mjones@mdah.state.ms.us



1) Author and historian Grady Howell 2) Left to right: Natchez Trace Parkway Assn. Volunteers Bill Lee, Adam Gwin, Bryant Boswell, Tom Watts, John McBride, and Allen Yates 3) Scene from the duel reenactment in front of the Manship House Museum 4) Pistols are being loaded and prepared for the duel. 5) Volunteers Bryant Boswell and Tom Watts pace towards one another giving it their best shot!

Manship House Museum: We Gather Together

News from Marilyn Jones



Be sure to visit the Manship House Museum during the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour on December 4, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. This site will be hopping and popping with music, dancers, crafts, reenactors, and more!



Another successful lifestyle program was held at the Manship House Museum! More than forty people had a delightful afternoon learning about the history of Thanksgiving in Mississippi. Author and historian Grady Howell delivered an informative presentation on this history which began in Mississippi circa 1847.

Jeff Klingfuss followed Grady's presentation with an engaging delivery of culinary events during this time period, mainly focusing on butter and its inclusion in the Thanksgiving meal. In earlier years, Klingfuss worked as a historian at the Manship House Museum and has worked for many years as an Assistant Attorney General. Klingfuss continues to delight Manship House Museum visitors with his culinary skills and knowledge of yesteryear and today.

Marilynn Jones, director of the site then talked about the history of cornbread and the nineteenth century invention of baking powder and its predecessor. Jones said that there is more fun programming to follow, so "stay tuned!"





Governor's Mansion Holiday Schedule

News and image from Megan Bankston



Mansion fence decorated for the Christmas season

Season's greetings! The holidays are almost upon us! The Mississippi Governor's Mansion closed on November 16 to prepare the Mansion for Christmas decorations as well as for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Mansion will open for Christmas tours on Tuesday, December 1 until Friday, December 18. The Mansion will close again on December 21 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and will reopen for regular tours on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.



The State Capitol Is Thankful for its Welcoming and Knowledgeable Volunteers

News from Kathy Broom, Images courtesy of Joy Matthews



Volunteers at the State Capitol are always ready to greet our visitors and inform them about the building's architecture and history. Additionally, they share about the importance of the current restoration project. We are most thankful for their continued, dedicated interest.



1) While Clytice Gardner volunteers as a hospitality attendant at the State Capitol, she loves to stand and greet each visitor as he or she arrives. Who wouldn't want to learn more about this magnificent building after being welcomed by such a magnificent lady!

2) Before Gail Helms conducts a tour for John Kelly and Randy Sutphin of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, all are smiles and looking forward to a good time .



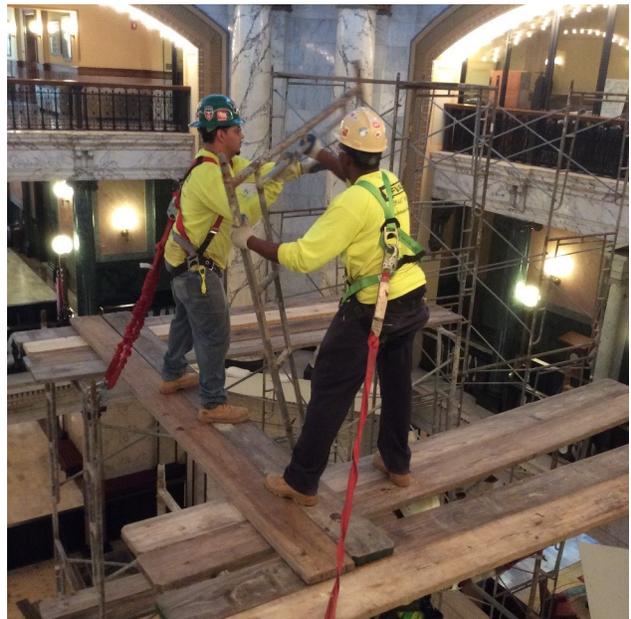
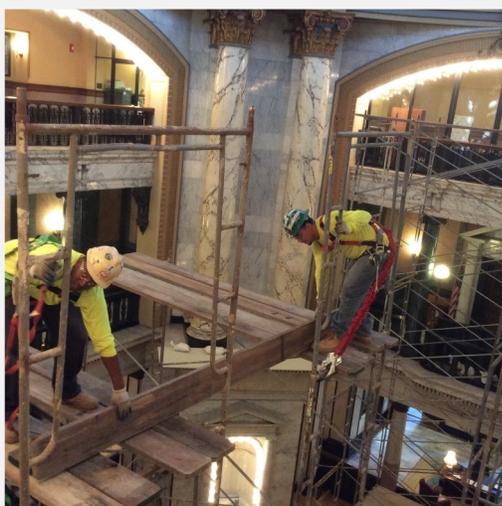
3) Tour guide Steve Clyburn entertainingly tells the history of the Capitol to his special group of guests from Monticello Baptist Church, of which Steve is a member. Of course, those in Monticello are familiar with former Governor Andrew H. Longino, governor noted for spurring the building of the Capitol, for his house still stands in Monticello and is available to tour as well.

See the fantastic pictures of the Capitol restoration taken by volunteers Freda Spell (page 11) and Jane Phillips (page 12).

The State Capitol Is Thankful for its Dedicated Craftsmen Working on the Restoration

News from Kathy Broom, Images courtesy of Freda Spell

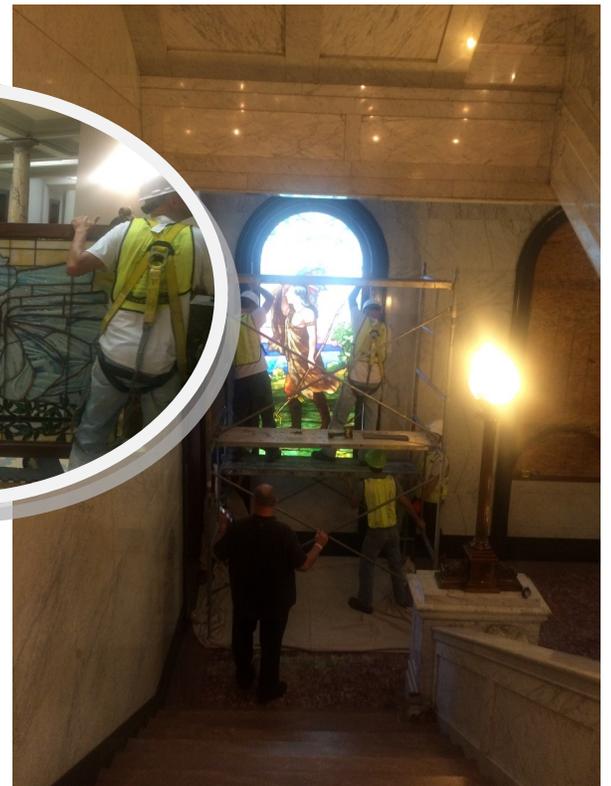
Thanks to volunteer Freda Spell for snapping some spectacular shots of the scaffolding as it was being erected in the rotunda. By the time the 2016 Legislative Session begins, temporary repairs will have been made to the interior dome where the canvas has peeled back from the plaster.



The State Capitol Is Thankful for its Beautiful Windows Being Home Again!

News from Kathy Broom, Images courtesy of Jane Phillips

Thanks to volunteer Jane Phillips for taking action shots of the stained glass windows of the Native American and Mother Mississippi as they were carried into the Capitol by employees of Pearl River Glass Studio, where they had been for several months being cleaned and restored.



How beautiful they look back at home!

Museum Division Education News

Intern Hannah Berman

News and Image from Claire Gwaltney



This fall the museum division education section has been lucky enough to have the talents of intern Hannah Berman. Hannah is a graduate student at Mississippi State University, where she will graduate this spring with a master's degree in history. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career as a museum professional, hopefully in education and programming.

Hannah comes to MDAH with a unique background and some special talents that have led her to become an invaluable member of the education team. Her academic interest in Asian history has allowed her to contribute significantly to MDAH's forthcoming Immigration and Culture Online Teaching Unit, for which she has created student activities centering around the Chinese community in the Mississippi Delta.

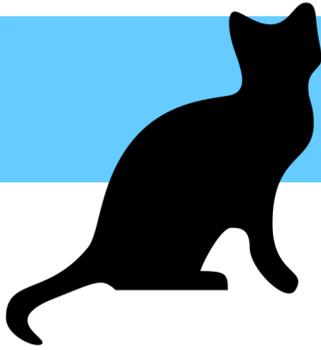
Hannah, who is a graduate of the Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven, is using her artistic talents to help create a Mississippi Civil Rights Coloring Book that will highlight the achievements of Mississippians during the civil rights era in a format designed for young people.



Mississippi State University graduate student Hannah Berman researches in the Archives Library as part of her internship with the Museum Division Education Section.

MDAH Education Resources

If you would like to see some wonderful education resources, please go to our website <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/> and click on the **Learn** tab. You will find activity packets, lesson plans and teaching units, traveling trunks, the Mississippi History on Loan program, publications, speaker schedule, and much, much more!



Sal the Cat, Special Welty Volunteer

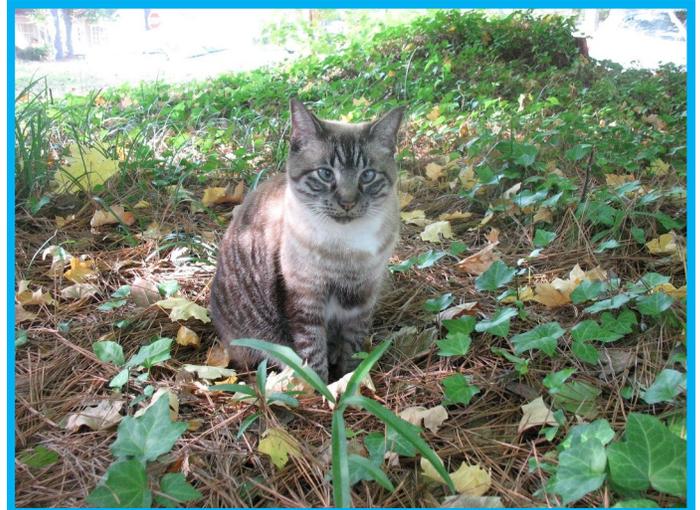
Images courtesy of Molly Knight

One of the most active and longest-serving volunteers at the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG) lives right next door to 1119 Pinehurst, but spends most of his time on the Welty side porch. His name is Sal, and he routinely greets visitors at both the Education and Visitors Center and in the Welty Garden.

Sal has been the neighborhood cat since the Welty House opened to the public in 2006. He can usually be found napping in the garden under the camellias or in the rocking chair on the porch. Visitors love to pet him and scratch him under the chin when they come for tours. He is often featured on the Welty House Facebook page. (Rumor has it that Sal has his own folder of pictures on the Welty shared photo drive.)

Sometimes Sal is a little too helpful—during last year's Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour, he decided to take advantage of the open doors on the Welty side porch to greet visitors inside the house. "I had to crawl under a stanchion and reach under Welty's living room couch to get him out," said Lee Anne Bryan, education staff member. "Thankfully, Betty Uzman from Archives was talking about Eudora's Christmas cards, so the visitors were only mildly distracted from the tour."

Sal loves tour groups, and appears in the garden for school tours. He is also a fixture at summer programming such as Storytime on the Porch and Kids Camp. The Welty House staff and many of the docents have grown extremely fond of this furry volunteer. Come by anytime to see the only four-legged tour guide in town!



"Come by anytime to see the only four-legged tour guide in town!" said Lee Anne Bryan, EWHG Education and Outreach Coordinator.





Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour

Friday, December 4, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

During December, come visit the popular town of Possum Ridge and its trains on display at the **William F. Winter Archives and History Building**. 2015 marks the fortieth year the beloved holiday trains of Possum Ridge have run. Please see the holiday train schedule on the last page.

During the Candlelight Tour, visit the **William F. Winter Archives and History** lobby and enjoy holiday themed home movies from the collection and make festive ornaments and gift tags. A selfie station for the family lets visitors capture the holiday magic.

The **Old Capitol Museum** will have music and freshly made taffy from Malone's Candy Company. Also, there will be Old Capitol holiday ornaments and gift bags for sale.

At the **Mississippi Governor's Mansion**, the Governor and the First Lady will be available for photos. A special guest from the North Pole will greet visitors in the East Garden. Hot chocolate and cookies prepared by mansion chef Matt Huffman will be served.

The **Eudora Welty House and Garden** will showcase Christmas cards from Katherine Anne Porter, Reynolds Price, Elizabeth Spencer, Shelby Foote, Albert Erskine, Fanny Flagg, Richard and Kristina Ford, and others. Enjoy a taste of onion tart from a recipe of K. A. Porter shared with Welty. Fruit cake cookies and hot apple cider will be served in the Visitors Center while guitar virtuoso Barry Leach performs instrumental selections and holiday standards.

Though currently under restoration, the circa-1857 Gothic Revival **Manship House Museum** is opening its doors again for a Victorian Christmas experience. Saint Nicholas will visit the house from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Holiday selfie stations will be set up for visitors to take pictures with Saint Nicholas, in front of a nineteenth century Christmas tree, and in the sitting room with props, including a paper top hat, ladies' hat, fan, spectacles, moustache on sticks. Living history actors will portray the Charles Manship family in the parlor.



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Possum Ridge Train Schedule

WILLIAM F. WINTER ARCHIVES AND HISTORY BUILDING

601-576-6850 • info@mdah.state.ms.us

The model trains of Possum Ridge will remain in place at the Winter Building from Dec. 1 through Dec. 30. Hours are Mondays noon–4:30 p.m., Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Closed December 24-27.



2015



To see the MDAH Calendar of Events

Lots to do, people to see, places to go...

Click the link below.

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/category/events-category/>

Answers

Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. B) Nanih Waiya
2. A) Sharp Knife
3. C) Hernando de Soto

MDAH Volunteer Newsletter

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

Contents © 2015

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Katie Blount, director



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources.