



## **Passing the History Torch**

**Pictured:** Director emeritus Elbert Hilliard, incoming director Katie Blount, director Hank Holmes. Founded in 1902, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has had only six directors. Katie Blount will be the seventh. Image courtesy of MDAH.



To the MDAH Volunteers,

As many of you know, I am retiring (January 2015) from MDAH after more than forty-two years with the agency. The current project in which I am involved, the founding of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, will allow us to showcase history that has not often been presented before. The museums will tell the many stories of ALL Mississippians. I leave MDAH knowing that we have remarkable volunteers and employees to share these stories, and that the good work of preserving our history will continue.

I now place the “history” torch into the very capable hands of my successor, Katie Blount. With my sincere gratitude, I would like to thank the MDAH volunteers for your service during my tenure.

Sincerely,

ht holmes

Director, MDAH



## Test Your MDAH History Facts

1. The Natchez Indians had a ranked society based on matrilineal kinship and were mound builders with a complex belief system. Their leader was called the Great Sun. Their War Chief was called:

- a) Touch the Clouds
- b) Red Jacket
- c) Tattooed Serpent
- d) Rain-in-the-Face

2. Hiram Revels became the first African American to be seated in the United States Senate. John Roy Lynch credited what action by Revels as the primary factor in Revels's being elected to the United States Senate?

- a) Publishing his articles on racial equality
- b) Moving prayer delivered to Mississippi Senate
- c) Founding of schools for African American children
- d) Working as an elder in the Mississippi District

3. Jimmie Rodgers, known as the "Father of Country Music," was born James Charles Rodgers outside Meridian, Mississippi, on September 8, 1897. Rodgers was well known for his innovative songs called:

- a) Blue Yodels
- b) Red Trains
- c) Yellow Dogs
- d) Orange Skies



Answers on last page.

**Make your reservations today for the Figgy Pudding workshop! Details below.**



*Now Bring Us  
Some Figgy Pudding*

Come to the Manship House Museum to learn about the Victorian tradition of Christmas plum pudding. Jeff Klingfuss will demonstrate how to make your own plum pudding using modern methods.

**Thursday, November 20 ♦ 2-3 p.m.**

Manship House Museum ♦ 601-961-4724

info@manshiphouse.com

Free ♦ Reservations Required



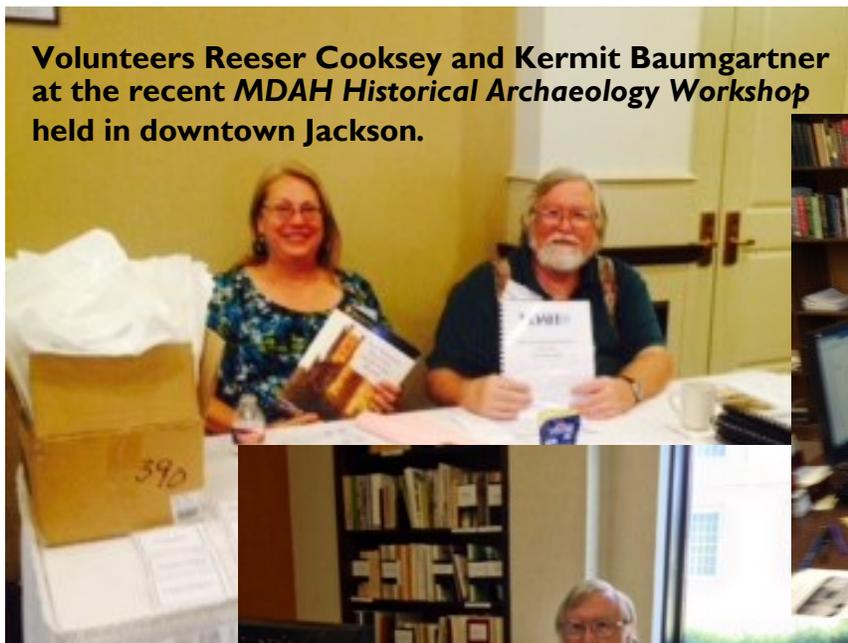
Manship House Museum 420 E. Fortification Street Jackson, MS 39202 ♦ Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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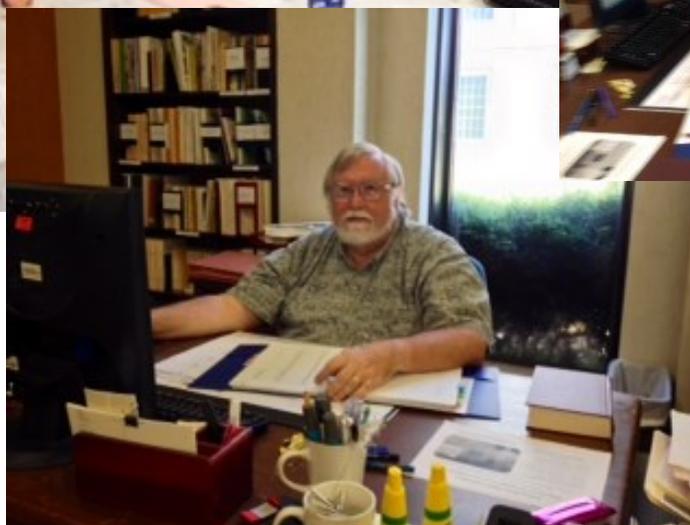
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## Archaeology and Historic Sites, Jackson Office

News from Patty Miller-Beech, Images courtesy of Volunteer Reeser Cooksey



**Volunteers Reeser Cooksey and Kermit Baumgartner at the recent MDAH Historical Archaeology Workshop held in downtown Jackson.**



**Left:** Kermit Baumgartner  
**Above:** Reeser Cooksey

**Thank you,  
Kermit and Reeser!**

Volunteers Reeser Cooksey and Kermit Baumgartner are pictured above staffing the welcome table for the recent *Historical Archaeology Workshop* hosted by MDAH.

When not assisting us with workshops, Kermit and Reeser help us in other areas. Reeser has most recently begun scanning in reports to our online database that archaeological consultants use to perform background research.

Kermit has been essential as our greeter for the Search Room and helps guide everyone visiting to where they need to go. Kermit has also assisted the Mississippi Archaeological Association at the recent State Fair by answering questions and staffing the table there.

background. His formal education includes a B. A. in history, a M. Ed., and some work towards a doctoral degree. He has worked in museums—including an internship at the Smithsonian—and has experience in collections. Baumgartner is a man of many talents. He is also fluent with sign language!

Reeser has a degree in history and is certified in CPR and electronic instrumentation technology. In the past, she has worked in a library and doctor's office.

These archaeology volunteers certainly have interesting backgrounds, which helps in that they never meet a stranger when patrons come to their area.

## Archaeology and Historic Sites, Clarksdale Office

*News from John Connaway*

We always look forward to reports from MDAH archaeologist John Connaway. He recently sent us a list of volunteers whom he supervised at one site in north Mississippi from 2007 through 2014. The list totaled 329 people! This was a mixture of students, college interns, traditional volunteers, service groups such as the Boy Scouts, and professors.

John works solo with the exception of when he has these wonderful volunteers, which seems to be very often! What an amazing team! To access the list of volunteers who have served MDAH under John in the last seven years (hopefully, we have not left anyone out), follow this link: [http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/emailupload/uploads/Carson2007-2014 volunteers, students, etc..docx](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/emailupload/uploads/Carson2007-2014%20volunteers,%20students,%20etc..docx)



*Image courtesy of Benny Roberts.*

## Student Volunteers

*News and Images from Jessica Kelly*



Kesicia Dickinson is a student at JSU, pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in secondary education. She's been completing community service hours for JSU in the Museum Division's education section. She's been researching and writing the script for a living history character that will be portrayed by an actor during living history days and special events.

Kesicia has chosen to create an African American character in the midst of the Great Migration, who hopes to leave Mississippi for Chicago. The character will make its first appearance at the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, both slated to open in 2017.



Courtney Body is also a sophomore at JSU. She is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Political Science and is considering completing a minor in History. Courtney currently works as a receptionist in the Political Science department and is a Certified Patient Care Assistant.

She has also volunteered at organizations such as Harmony Care Kitchen, Love's Kitchen, March of Dimes, and Toys for Tots. Courtney has been working as the Volunteer Hostess at the Old Capitol Museum for over a month, which will go towards the community service requirement at JSU.

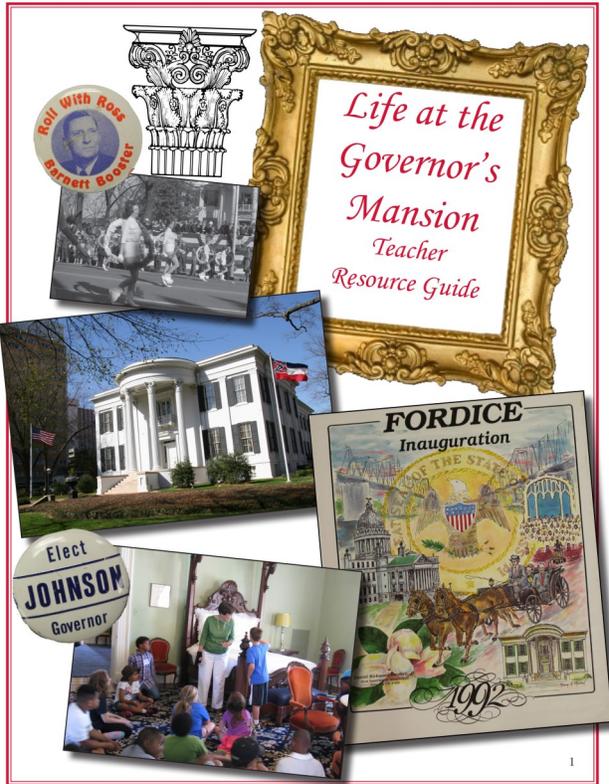


Jerlean McCoy is a senior at JSU majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Business Administration. Jerlean currently works at the Mississippi Board of Nursing where she is responsible for accounts payable, payroll, and travel, among other things.

In accordance with the Service Learning requirement at JSU, Jerlean worked in the MDAH Finance Office as a Financial Service Volunteer. Cynthia Butler said, "Jerlean was very energetic and kind. She did a month of work in four days. Great job!" Carol Campbell agreed and said, "She was really nice and did a great job!! Fast, too!!"

## Museum Division Education

News from Claire Gwaltney



**New Governor's Mansion Site Packet recently completed by volunteer Gail Buzhardt. These packets are made available to teachers who bring students to the Mansion as a way of enhancing their visit.**



As always, volunteers are making a big impact in museum division education! Gail Buzhardt has recently completed work on a Governor's Mansion Site Packet. The packet, which contains primary source documents, a true-or-false quiz, and a look at life in the Mansion will be online and made available to teachers who bring students to the Mansion.

Approximately 2,000 Mississippi students visit the Mansion each year and this packet will extend the field trip experience into the classroom with pre and post-visit activities that encourage critical thinking and creativity.

As the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Civil War comes to a close, volunteer (and military history buff) Sean Baker has marked the occasion with a film activity packet entitled *Struggle for Vicksburg*.

Designed to be used by teachers alongside a documentary of the same name, Sean tracked down 1863 newspaper articles about the siege along with diary excerpts from Vicksburg resident Emma Balfour, Confederate soldier Daniel P. Clore, and Union soldier W.F. Hollingsworth.

To accompany these first-hand accounts, Sean also put together a collection of worksheets, multiple-choice questions, and vocabulary to inform students about the siege. Sean's film activity packet will soon appear with other teacher resources on the MDAH website at <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/learn/classroom->

**Volunteer Sean Baker designed a film activity packet entitled *Struggle for Vicksburg*. It is now included in MDAH teacher resources.**

**Image courtesy of Sean Baker.**

## MDAH Volunteers and Employees Share Mississippi History

*News and Images from the Editor*

FEMA Corps members hailing from across the United States were treated to a day of Mississippi history. Members visited the Old Capitol Museum followed by a walking tour to the Governor's Mansion led by Historic Preservation staff member Todd Sanders. After the group enjoyed docent-led tours at the Mansion, Todd escorted them to the State Capitol, which is undergoing a large restoration project. After Kathy Broom and Joy Matthews toured them through the Capitol, the group enjoyed lunch at the Farmer's Market on High Street. Next, they went on a garden tour at the Eudora Welty House and Garden, where volunteers and employees shared the story of the famous Mississippi writer.

The last stop was a visit to the Mansion House Museum. Director Mari-lynn Jones explained the importance of the site, followed by a presentation by blues scholar Dr. Brinda Willis and a fabulous performance by blues singer J. J. Thames. This presentation was funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and allowed the members to learn more about music in Mississippi.

It was evident that the members paid close attention during their day of history, as many were able to accurately answer questions posed to

them by their training specialist, Tameka Eatmon, at the end of the day.

**Left: FEMA members on walking tour with Todd Sanders.**



**FEMA Corps members learn about Mississippi during its early years from Clay Williams at the Old Capitol Museum.**



**The group posed for the picture above at the Governor's Mansion.**



# MDAH Volunteers and Employees Share Mississippi History

*News and Images from the Editor*



Mansion curator Lauren Miller is very appreciative of the docents who serve that site — visitors always learn so much from them!

The recent FEMA Corps tour participants were able to answer Mississippi history questions accurately at the end of the day of touring. Lauren especially wants to thank Jean Clarkson (pictured left), Luran Buchanan (pictured below), and Teeny Bond for sharing our state's history with these members.



Carol Rietvelt

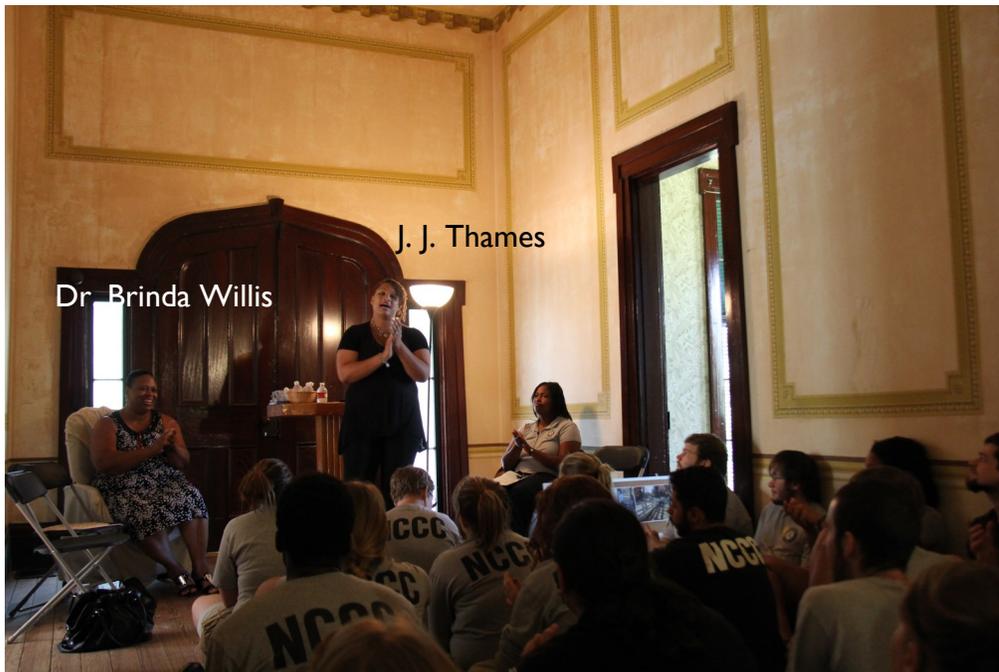
***Eudora Welty House and Garden guide Carol Rietvelt (above) tells the members about the garden at the site. In January 2011, Ameri-Corps members installed a double compost bin and a gravel drive in the garden.***

***The group is pictured (right) with a replica of the Liberty Bell at the Capitol. Replicas of the Liberty Bell were presented to all states in the 1950s by the Secretary of the Treasury in recognition of their war bond sales.***



## MDAH Volunteers and Employees Share Mississippi History

*News from the Editor*



**Above: Blues expert Dr. Brinda Willis (seated) with the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau gave a thorough history of the blues in Mississippi while performer J. J. Thames (standing) gave a thrilling performance. Photo courtesy of MDAH.**



**Right: The smiles on the faces of these young members say it all. The visit was enjoyed by everyone! They will have many memories of our great state thanks to the MDAH volunteers and employees!**



**Images on left and above courtesy of MDAH.**



## Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

*News and Images from Becky Anderson*



Grand Village of the Natchez Indians hosted their 27th annual *Student Days* October 22 and 23. Classes from eight schools attended *Student Days*: Amite County, Amite School Center, Beechwood, Brookhaven Academy, Cathedral, Enterprise Attendance Center, Morgantown, and Tensas Academy. Thanks to these schools and the help of our volunteers, we helped to enlighten and entertain about 550 people!

*Student Days* volunteers included, Tom Varnado, Wilkie Collins, Pat Martin, Kay McNeil, Clark Burkett, Jim Barnett, Marianne Raley, and Professor David Higgs from Copiah Lincoln Community College.



We are extremely proud of our volunteers and we could not sponsor this program without their support of time, energy, and knowledge. They take time from their schedules to help us teach as many children as we can by showing them how indigenous people and colonists survived 300 years ago. It is one thing for a student to read about a culture or a moment in history; it is another thing entirely to see it come to life.

Our volunteers bring history to life and we really cannot thank them enough!



**Top: Volunteer Clark Burkett reenacting history.**

**Middle: Professor David Higgins volunteers his time to share early Mississippi history with young students.**

**Bottom: Retired Historic Grand Village Director Jim Barnett returns to the site as a volunteer.**

# Jane Austen Society National President in Jackson

*News and Images from Megan Bankston*



**Left: Megan Bankston, Suzanne Marris, Iris Lutz, Lee Anne Bryan.**

**Below: Lori Toyota and volunteer Ann Bittick register attendees.**



**Left: JASNA—MS president Carolyn Brown, Carla Wall, Iris Lutz, and volunteer Freda Spell.**



**The crowd seated before the presentation.**

**Below: Attendees gathered after Lutz's presentation at the English-inspired reception for tea and blueberry scones .**



The Eudora Welty House and Garden partnered with the Mississippi region of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) to welcome JASNA national president Iris Lutz to Jackson the weekend of September 6-8.

During Lutz's visit, JASNA—Mississippi and Jackson Friends of the Library hosted a reception in her honor at the Eudora Welty Library, where Lutz presented a visual tour of "Houses in Jane Austen's Life and Fiction." Over 130 were in attendance, including many Welty volunteers and friends.

Also during her visit, Lutz enjoyed a tour of the Welty House by Welty scholar Suzanne Marris and was given a copy of *Thirteen Stories* by Eudora Welty. Lutz said that she looks forward to reading Mississippi's famous author.

# New Temporary Exhibit at Welty

News and Images from Megan Bankston

A new temporary exhibit titled *Moments of Learning in the Life of a Writer* is now on display at the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG). Completed by Lee Anne Bryan, EWHG education and outreach coordinator, the exhibit focuses on the educational establishments Welty attended from elementary to graduate school. The list includes Davis Grammar School, Central High School, Mississippi State College for Women, the University of Wisconsin, and Columbia University.

The exhibit features Welty's contributions to various extracurricular activities and explores inspiration for certain details in Welty's fiction. Welty's college and graduate school transcripts can be seen as well. Interestingly, Welty received a B- in typing!

The exhibit is free and open to the public during normal working hours—Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be up in the Welty House Education and Visitors Center until September 5, 2015.

**Below: Welty's yearbook picture from Columbia University is on the top row.**



**“Learning stamps you with its moments. Childhood’s learning is made up of moments. It isn’t steady. It’s a pulse.” – from *One Writer’s Beginnings*, 1984**

Tours of the Eudora Welty House and Garden are by reservation on Tuesdays through Fridays at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.



**Panels line the hallway in the Visitors Center showing report cards, letters, photographs, and an original poem by Welty.**



**A new case has been constructed by the exhibits team to hold Welty's yearbooks from Central High School, Mississippi State College for Women, and the University of Wisconsin.**

## Jackson Photo Book Signing

*News and Images from Megan Bankston*



Photographer Ken Murphy signing Jackson.

Photographer Ken Murphy was honored with a reception and signing for his latest photo book *Jackson* at the Eudora Welty House and Garden on August 11.

Numerous Welty friends and visitors came to support Ken and Lemuria Bookstore owner John Evans, who published the book. Signed copies of *Jackson* are available for purchase at the gift shop in the Welty House Education and Visitors Center.

## Rolean Brinson Assists Volunteer Services

*News from the Editor*



Rolean Brinson pictured at the Winter Building. Image courtesy of MDAH.

MDAH volunteer Rolean Brinson works as a Training and Civic Liaison Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Jackson office). Originally recruited by MDAH as a volunteer to help with the Civil Rights Museum project, Rolean went the extra mile for us by helping Volunteer Services coordinate a field trip to the FBI.

To enhance the volunteer work at MDAH, we are active



Image courtesy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

in a networking support group for volunteer managers. This group, DOVIA MS (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies), often takes field trips to explore the volunteer process in other organizations. When the group asked to visit the FBI, we were very proud that we had a volunteer who could help facilitate this meeting for us. Rolean spent many hours planning our visit,

running background checks, and working with dozens of professionals and special agents to host this very informative meeting.

We thank you, Rolean, for a meeting that we will never forget. All of us gained a renewed respect for the work of your agency.

## Volunteer Noreen Prouty Hands Guests German Self-guided Tour

*News and Images from Kathy Broom*



Noreen Prouty



Russell, Edeltraude Sato, volunteers Carol and Antonius “Ton” Rietvelt, Capitol Visitor Services is now happy to provide the German version of the self-guided tour information to our foreign friends who need it.

Be sure to read in future newsletters about other foreign translations of the self-guided tour offered at the Capitol. Because of this special help by our MDAH volunteers, even more visitors can learn about our beautiful building.

Guests Ursula and Hans Ruhland of Germany were happy to receive the German translated self-guided tour of the State Capitol from volunteer Noreen Prouty. Although

most of our international guests speak English, or will have someone who can translate, we occasionally have those who cannot. Thanks to the translation work of Katja

## Mississippi State Capitol is Ohio Couple’s 50<sup>th</sup> Capitol to visit

*News and Images from Kathy Broom*

At noon on October 23, Kim and Don Hooper of Cincinnati, Ohio, arrived at the Mississippi Capitol to complete their visits of the fifty capitols. Much to their delight, volunteer Betty Henry welcomed and gave them special Mississippi pins normally reserved for international visitors.

Since Judy Lacy was not able to do so after completing her fourth tour (whew!) for the morning, and it wasn’t “tour time,” Joy Matthews offered to give them a tour in honor of their eventful day. Pictures were taken, friendly

greetings shared, and a warm feeling about Mississippi was planted.

Upon arriving home on October 25, before unpacking, the couple e-mailed Joy to express appreciation of their visit, “You and everybody there made our visit to the 50th capitol very special. We would love to come back to Mississippi and explore more of your state as well as Jackson itself.”

We don’t know why they visited the Mississippi Capitol last, but it seems the MDAH volunteers extended their hospitality



in such a way that this visit to Mississippi would become their first instead of their only.

## Capitol Visitor Services welcomes Joy Matthews as Assistant Coordinator

*News from Kathy Broom*

Brenda Davis and Kathy Broom are pleased to announce Joy Matthews as the Assistant Visitor Services Coordinator. Joy began October 1, 2014, in her new position but isn't completely new to serving the guests of the Capitol. Her responsibilities entail assisting in all aspects of Visitor Services—leading scheduled group tours, scheduling the volunteers, and helping to coordinate tours with the legislators and their constituents.

Her relationship with MDAH began as a volunteer at the State Capitol in August 2013. During the 2014 Legislative Session, Joy was hired by Joint Legislative Services at the Capitol to assist Visitor Services in leading the scheduled group tours during that extra-busy time. From there, she continued to volunteer at the Capitol and as a receptionist for the Administrative



*Photo courtesy of Arnold Lindsay, Press Secretary, Mississippi Senate.*

Division of MDAH.

Joy received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mississippi State University. Before joining MDAH she was an elementary school

teacher in Jackson and Yazoo City.

Joy enjoys meeting visitors from so many different places and giving group tours at the State Capitol.

## Parking at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building

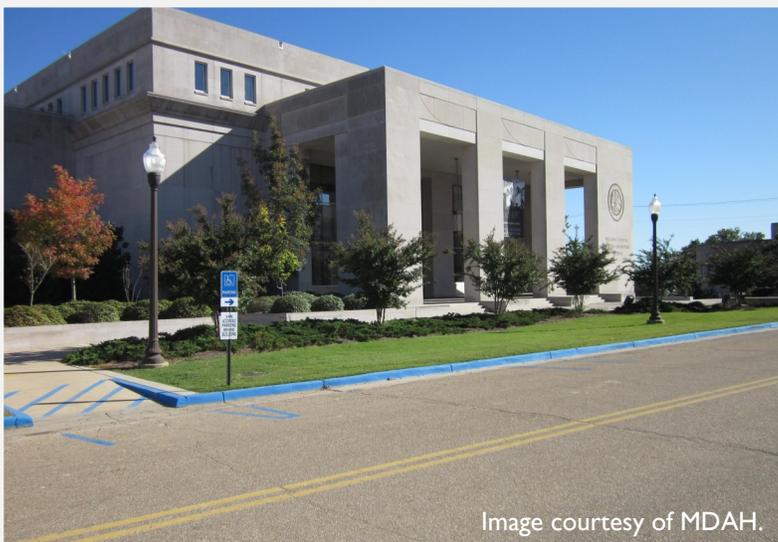


Image courtesy of MDAH.

The William F. Winter Archives and History Building now has a prominent handicap parking area directly in front of the building. Marked in a brilliant cobalt blue, these parking spots are very easy to find!

Additional parking is available behind the two levels of the Old Capitol Museum as well as the streets surrounding the building.

So, don't be a stranger! Come visit the research room and discover things about Mississippi and your family. If Cleopatra were alive and visiting our great state, the Archives would surely be her first stop!

# Mini History School Exclusively for MDAH Volunteers

To make reservations, contact Elizabeth Coleman at 601-576.6985 or [ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us)



## Old Capitol Museum



Le Page Du Pratz drawing courtesy of MDAH.



### Monday, January 5, 2015

**1 p.m.**

*First Mississippians (archaeology)*, Pam Lieb

**2 p.m.**

*Frontier Mississippi 1800-1840*, Clay Williams

**3 p.m.**

*Historical Images in the Archives*, Jeff Rogers

### Monday, January 12, 2015

**1 p.m.**

*Beginning Genealogy*, De'Niecechsi Layton

**2 p.m.**

*Architectural History of Mississippi circa 1700 to circa 1945*, Todd Sanders

**3 p.m.**

*Debunking Myths and Promoting Truths Along the Mississippi River*, Clinton Bagley

### Monday, January 26, 2015

**1 p.m.**

*Vignettes of History from the Blogosphere*, Jim Woodrick

**2 p.m.**

*Mississippi Homespun: Nineteenth-Century Textiles and the Women Who Made Them*, Mary Lohrenz

**3 p.m.**

*Conserving Your Family Photographs*, Jeff Rogers



## Holiday Fun at MDAH

### **Now Bring Us Some Figgy Pudding**

November 20 (2 to 3 p.m.) at the Manship House Museum. Learn from Jeff Klingfuss the art of making plum pudding using modern methods. Reservations required. Free. 601-961-4724.

### **Christmas at the Governor's Mansion**

December 2–19 at the Governor's Mansion. The historic section of the Governor's Mansion features traditional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. (Closed weekends and Mondays.) Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more. The Governor's Mansion will be closed for tours from Tuesday, December 23, through Monday, January 5, 2015. The Mansion may be closed at other times during the month for official state functions. To confirm the availability of the Mansion for tours or for information, call 601-359-6421.

### **Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour**

Friday, December 5, 4:30–8:30 p.m. This popular annual event features traditional seasonal decorations at the Eudora Welty House and Garden, Governor's Mansion, Manship House Museum, and Old Capitol Museum. The train town of Possum Ridge and the historic Christmas trees exhibit in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building will also be on the tour. For more information, call 601-576-6800.

### **Years of Yuletide: Christmas in Jackson**

December 2–31 at the Old Capitol Museum. This exhibit highlights various Jackson Christmas traditions with selected artifacts and photos. Call 601-576-6920.



### **Sounds of the Season**

December 5, 12, and 13, noon at the Old Capitol Museum. Enjoy local choirs in the Old Capitol Museum's rotunda. Hinds Community College Choir will perform on Friday, December 5; Scotland Baptist Church on Friday, December 12; and Mississippi Young Singers on Saturday, December 13. For more information call 601-576-6920 or email info@oldcapitolmuseum.com.

### **Winter Holidays**

December 2–24 and 29–31 at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. Enjoy the model trains of Possum Ridge and period toys and Christmas trees. Exhibit open Mondays, noon–4:30; Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Group tours of ten or more are available by reservation Tuesdays–Fridays, December 2–19. For more information or to make a reservation, call 601-576-6800.

### **Celebration of Christmas Trees**

December 4–30 at Historic Jefferson College. Local school groups and home educators adopt Christmas trees and decorate them for class projects. For more information call 601-442-2901.

### **Statehood Day**

Wednesday, December 10, noon at the Old Capitol Museum. Celebrate Mississippi's 197th birthday with the annual Statehood Day Address and portrayals of Speaker of the House John R. Lynch, Governor Andrew H. Longino, Architect William Nichols, and Secession delegate John Wood, as they reflect on key events that occurred in the state's first capitol building. Reception to follow. For more information call 601-576-6920.





## Answers

### MDAH history facts

1. The Natchez Indians had a ranked society based on matrilineal kinship and were mound builders with a complex belief system. Their leader was called the Great Sun. Their War Chief was called:

**c) Tattooed Serpent**

2. Hiram Revels became the first African American to be seated in the United States Senate. John Roy Lynch credited what action by Revels as the primary factor in Revels's being elected to the United States Senate?

**b) Moving prayer delivered to Mississippi Senate**

3. Jimmie Rodgers, known as the "Father of Country Music" was born James Charles Rodgers outside Meridian, Mississippi, on September 8, 1897. Rodgers was well known for his innovative songs called:

**a) Blue Yodels**



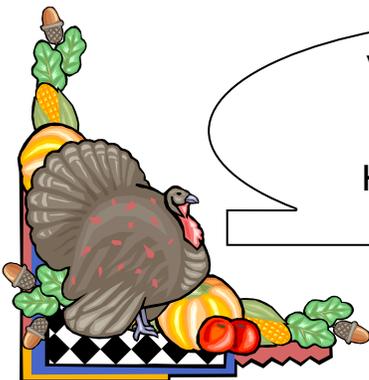
Picture of two museums work site taken from Human Resources office on October 30, 2014.

## 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/>



We wish all MDAH volunteers a Happy Thanksgiving!

MDAH Volunteer Newsletter

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

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H.T. Holmes, 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. ©