

Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

FALL 2010

Calendar of Events

EWH – Eudora Welty House, Jackson

GV – Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Natchez

GM – Governor's Mansion, Jackson

HJC – Historic Jefferson College, Washington

MHM – Manship House Museum, Jackson

OCM – Old Capitol Museum, Jackson

WWB – William F. Winter Building, Jackson

WM – Winterville Mounds, Greenville

October:

10/1-31 *The Mummy Returns* The famous “Mummy” on display (OCM).

10/6 *History is Lunch* noon–1 p.m. *The Legs Murder Scandal*. Hunter Cole, author (WWB).

10/8 MDAH Board of Trustees Meeting 9 a.m. Regular quarterly meeting at Thad and Rose Cochran Hall (Mississippi University for Women campus, Columbus).

10/9 *EXPLORE! Gross Science* 10–11:30 (ages 6-8) 2-3:30 p.m. (ages 9-12) Science program for children. \$10 fee. Reservations required. (HJC).

To our Volunteers:

October is National Archives Month, an opportunity to showcase our country's rich historical collections and celebrate the value of archives. At the Mississippi Department of Archives and History this value is recognized daily and our professional librarians, historians, and archivists are witness to the importance of the Department's holdings in the research and lives of the individuals who visit the Reading Rooms or request information by telephone or mail.

The Archives and Records Services Division preserves official government records and non-government materials from as early as the mid-1500s through the turn of the 21st century and makes these resources available to the public for research, free of charge. The collections span the subjects of prehistory and Native Americans to the Civil War, the Civil Rights era, and an astonishing array of other Mississippi-related topics. The value of these official documents, diaries, letters, photographs, census records, maps, military records, audio visual materials, publications, digital materials, and more is evident when employees and volunteers are privy to the thrilling moment when a patron finds clues to his or her past, when a researcher stumbles upon the only extant image of a loved one, or when a scholar discovers an electrifying detail that vindicates or undermines his theories.

We invite all Department volunteers to visit the Reading Rooms at the William F. Winter Building and encourage you to use the resources to further research topics of particular interest to you or to simply familiarize yourself with the Department's holdings. First-time visitors should bring a photo ID, necessary for a researcher card. Come visit us and open an exciting new chapter to your life.

Happy researching!

Julia Marks Young

Archives and Records Services Division director

MDAH Volunteer Computer Class Series

Not Your Granny's Card Catalog: The Online Catalog at MDAH

Mystified by our online catalog?

MDAH librarian Jane Phillips will lead an interactive workshop on how to work the online catalog at MDAH. There will be time for questions and hands-on practice, and you will leave with a “cheat sheet” that will make catalog use a snap!

Monday, November 8, 2010

Two identical sessions:

Session 1: 9-10 a.m. ❖ **Session 2:** 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Reserve your spot by Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Space is Limited.

Contact: Elizabeth Coleman 601-576-6985 or ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us

Future workshops will include Microsoft Word.



continued

10/13 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. *The Grand Village is Silent: Diaspora of the Natchez Indians.* Brad Lieb, archaeologist (WWB).

10/20 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer.* Curtis Wilkie, author (WWB).

10/21 Present Meets Past: Voices from Mississippi History 5-8 p.m. (OCM).

10/22 Flag Disposal Ceremony 2-4:30 p.m. Presentation by Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. Ceremonial bonfire by American Legion. Bring your old flag. (HJC).

10/25-28 Horror Week Film Festival & Ghost Tales Around the Campfire 6:30 p.m. Film festival (HJC).

10/27 History is Lunch noon-1 p.m. *Oraien Catledge's Photograph Exhibit.* Beth Batton, Mississippi Museum of Art (WWB).

10/30 Music at the Mounds 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Local musicians perform gospel, jazz, and country music (GV).

November:

11/3-6 Native American Days 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Traditional Native American cooking, dancing, and more. Children's activities. \$1 donation suggested (WM).

Manship House Packs up for Renovation

The Manship House Museum closed on July 1, 2010, to prepare for a nearly half-million dollar repair of the building's foundation. The Manship House Museum staff has been reassigned to other museum sites during the repairs. In the meantime, staff has been packing, cleaning artifacts, and preparing to move the contents of the house to secure and climate-controlled storage.

"The move is going well. We are still hard at work packing and getting prepared to move the furniture and boxes to an off-site storage. This is such an exciting time for the Manship House Museum" said Tyler

Nowell, collections manager of the site.

The Manship House staff is creating a blog to keep volunteers and patrons

abreast of all the changes and happenings during the restoration process. Volunteers will be notified when the blog is online.



Museum Division collections manager Tyler Nowell tags artifacts for storage.

Research Volunteer Dines on History



Volunteer Brian Pugh pictured on his lunch hour in the Archives. Pugh is helping research for the Freedom Riders Fiftieth Anniversary exhibit and educational tools. "We really appreciate Brian's hard work, which has helped us in accomplishing our goals," said Renika Quinn, outreach programs coordinator.

Brian Pugh normally can be found at the State Capitol in his role as a budget analyst for the Legislative Budget Office. However, during his lunch hours and on weekends, Pugh can be found conducting research at the William F. Winter Building for the educational component of next year's Freedom Riders Fiftieth Anniversary exhibit and events cosponsored by MDAH.

Pugh's research is being used by the Museum Division's education section to develop lesson plans to be accessed by Mississippi school teachers. Pugh says that he is also able to do research online and by

reading books in his personal library. "A lot of the information I have gathered about this time period, I have gotten from my own books, especially the *Journal of Mississippi History*." In addition to his service as a research volunteer, Pugh serves as a board member of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Pugh received his undergraduate (public policy administration) and graduate (political science and philosophy) degrees from Mississippi State and is currently pursuing a doctorate in public administration at Jackson State University.

Note: Please email or call Elizabeth Coleman (email: ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us or phone: 601.576.6985) if you want to confirm that we have your correct email address or if you do not wish to receive this electronic newsletter.

continued

11/3 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Dinner at the Mansion*. Lecture by former First Lady Elise Winter (Location: TBA).

11/5 Social Studies Teachers Workshop.
8 a.m.-3 p.m. *Antebellum Mississippi: 1833-1860*. \$40 fee. Reservations required. (.5 CEU available) (OCM).

11/10 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Mississippi Mounds*. Lecture by Sam Brookes, archaeologist. (OCM).

11/13 Historic Baseball
Deep South Vintage Baseball Series. Free. (HJC).

11/13-14 Wirt Adams' Raid Into Natchez Civil War Reenactment
9 a.m.-5 p.m. (HJC).

11/17 History is Lunch
noon-1 p.m. *Native Americans of Mississippi*. Lecture by Rowena McClinton, historian (OCM)

11/20 EXPLORE! Native American Crafts
10-11:30 a.m. (ages 6-8)
2-3:30 p.m. (ages 9-12)
Parents and grandparents welcome. \$10 fee. Reservations required. (HJC).

11/22-1/2 Gifts of Robert Burns, Jr., in Memory of his Parents, Robert and Hortense Burns. An exhibit of prints from the Mississippi Museum of Art (HJC).

December 12/1-31 Food for Thought. Book and food drive. Children's programming on good citizenship (OCM).

Behind the Scenes at Archives and Records Services

Pearl Teacher Spends Summer Vacation with Image and Sound

LeAnna Welch spent her summer volunteering in the Image and Sound section of Archives and Records Services. Welch was recruited by curator Celia Tisdale when Welch called to inquire about an oral history project for

her students. Welch is no stranger to MDAH. Already possessing a master's degree in education, Welch pursued a second master's degree in history at Jackson State University. In order to obtain this second master's degree, it was necessary for

her to write a thesis. Welch conducted her research at the Archives library. Welch said, "I could not have done my master's thesis without the help of Anne Webster and Clarence Hunter. I never realized how much they did for the public until they helped me." She further said, "It has really been great to volunteer here. I love the atmosphere!" Welch works as a teacher at Pearl Junior High School and is an adjunct professor at Jackson State University.



Welch (seated) and curator Celia Tisdale examine a roll of film from the WLBT Newsfilm Collection. Welch inspected and inventoried the film and entered the data in the database.

Volunteer Enjoys Working with Popular Subject Files

Dr. Paul Bragg, a retired clinical psychologist and native of Lexington, Mississippi, has been assisting staff in the Published Information Section of the Archives and Records Services Division since March 2007. He works with the 30,000 subject files, a popular collection that contains a wealth of information on people, places, and events in Mississippi's history. During his first year, he classified and filed a large backlog of items, such as newspaper and magazine articles, flyers, brochures, and



According to Published Information director Jane Phillips, "Paul's dedication, analytical abilities, and passion for Mississippi history have been invaluable to us in managing this important part of the library's collection. He is a pleasure to work with."

programs. Asked what he enjoys most about his work, Bragg said, "The discovery of Mississippi history that I did not know."

Paul recently helped shift the subject file col-

lection into more filing cabinets, enthusiastically moving thousands of files in the cold conditions of the library stacks in order to make them easier to access and manage.

For more MDAH volunteer opportunities visit
<http://mdah.state.ms.us/volunteer/index.php>

Volunteers' Involvement is Archaeology's Asset

Having both volunteers' and interns' involvement in the Archaeology section has been a wonderful asset. It gets students the experience that they need and it gives us a chance to perform outreach to others who may want to become involved in archaeology but aren't quite sure where to start."

- Patty Miller-Beech, MDAH archaeologist

Millsaps Interns Work with Important Collections

MDAH has an archaeology internship program whereby Millsaps College students can earn college credit in



Kailey Rocker (front) on her internship: "I like learning more about the collections and the lab portion of the archaeological projects. I have also been doing a lot of reading about archaeology."

Andy Kennedy (seated) on his internship: "I have liked learning about the different types of lithics and their usage."

their field of study while working side-by-side with professional archaeologists. Two of these students, Kailey Rocker (Robert, Louisiana) and Andy Kennedy (Brandon), have been working in the collections area of Archaeology and Historic Sites. Their work involves accessioning the collections — some of which were entrusted to MDAH care by the National Park Service and the DeSoto National Forest. The interns are currently working with lithic, ceramic, and faunal artifacts.

Indiana Jones Inspires Pursuit of Archaeology

Hinds Community College student Peter Kelly (Madison) serves as a Reference Services volunteer in the Archaeology section, too. Having watched the Indiana Jones movie series growing up, he dreams of one day being a professional archaeologist. His current volunteer work allows him to collate and straighten files that are used by professional archaeologists for research purposes.



Peter Kelly, Archaeology Reference Services volunteer, says he enjoys this volunteer experience. He loves the atmosphere and wants to learn more from MDAH staff. An avid sportsman — Kelly plays semi-professional football for the Jackson Juggernauts — his plans include being a professor of archaeology and doing field work.

continued

12/3 Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight.

4:30-8:30 p.m. Tours of OCM, GM, WWB, and the State Capitol. Possum Ridge train exhibit at WWB.

12/3-21 Christmas at the Governor's Mansion.

Tours T-F 9:30/10/10:30/11 Closed 12/22-1/3. Reservations required for groups of ten or more. May be closed for official functions. (GM).

12/3, 4, 11, 17, 18 Sounds of the Season noon. Local choirs in rotunda (OCM).

12/3-18 Telling Tales Fridays at 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Storytelling with ethical focus. (OCM).

12/5 Christmas Open House 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Winterville Mounds holiday celebration (WM).

For information about Archaeology Month activities in Mississippi please visit the Mississippi Archaeological Association Web site.

<http://msarchaeology.org>

Docents Share Governor's Mansion History with Many Visitors



Earline Raines and visitors from Florida in the Cream Bedroom.



Jean Clarkson and Ackerman Elementary 6th graders in the Green Bedroom.



Peggy Dawson and visitors from Chicago on the portico.



Clytice Gardner and visitors from Kentucky in the Back Rose Parlor.



Jane Jones and Governor's Office pages from Philadelphia in the Back Rose Parlor.



Mary Louise Nosser and West Lauderdale Elementary 4th graders from Meridian in the Cream Bedroom.

Old Capitol Museum's Upcoming Offerings

The Mummy returns to the Old Capitol Museum to greet her adoring fans during the month of October. Also, the second annual *Present Meets Past: Voices from Mississippi History* will be held October 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. This living history event will feature five interesting personalities from the building's past — a treat for people of all ages.

An exciting new program entitled *Holiday Happenings* will be launched in December. This will include a special citizenship program for school groups

— teaching the principles of good citizenship and that giving is better than receiving.

Also, a food and book drive will be held.

The Old Capitol Museum



Todd Sanders portrays the 1861 Old Capitol Keeper F.A. Whiting for visitors to last year's *Present Meets Past: Voices from Mississippi History*. Sanders will reprise his role for the upcoming October 21 program.

is taking part in the annual *Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight* on December 3. On selected Fridays and Saturdays in December, there will be choir performances and storytelling for children. Former governor William F. Winter is the scheduled speaker for *Statehood Day* on December 10. Please check our Web page for more information on these and other upcoming exciting programs.

If you would like to help with any of these events, call Maura Johnson at 601-576-6923.



Wal-Mart DC 6011 Associate Ricky Byers presented a check for \$250 to Historic Jefferson College through the *Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP)* program. Kay McNeil accepted the check on behalf of Historic Jefferson College. Byers volunteers at the site as a special events and behind-the-scenes volunteer.

Old Capitol Museum Docent School

Reserve a spot for the upcoming docent school to be held on

Monday, January 31, and
Monday, February, 7, 2011.

The focus will be on giving guided tours of the Old Capitol Museum.

Call Maura Johnson at 601-576-6923 if you would like to be included.

***Present Meets Past:
Voices from Mississippi History***

Enjoy an evening of living history as you tour the historic sections of the Old Capitol and speak with interesting personalities from the state's past.



Old Capitol Museum
October 21, 2010
5-8 p.m.
601-576-6920
www.oldcapitolmuseum.com

Welty Volunteer Recognized for Exemplary Service

Eudora Welty House volunteer Rev. Dr. Martha Blount was recently named one of Goodwill Industries' eleven Volunteer Honorees for 2010. Goodwill recognizes individuals who give generously of their time to worthy causes. She and the other honorees, including her husband, Dr. Richard Blount, were feted at the annual Volunteer Salute Dinner in mid-August.

Blount began volunteering with the American Red Cross while she was in high school, in part because her mother volunteered there. Over the years, she

has been deeply involved in volunteering throughout the Jackson community, most recently at McWillie Elementary, and is anticipating volunteering this fall at Casey Elementary through her church, Covenant Presbyterian. Blount volunteers because she enjoys "the diversity of the people you meet. Volunteering helps me to see the bigger world, which is so interesting, satisfying, and broadening."

Blount has been volunteering at the Welty House since it opened for tours in 2006. She says it is a great fit because "books have

always been a part of my life.... I knew I wanted to be involved in furthering

Welty's legacy and influence on literature."



Welty volunteer Rev. Dr. Martha Blount was recently honored as one of the Goodwill Industries volunteer honorees.

continued

12/10 Statehood Day
noon. Mississippi's 193rd birthday celebration and reception. Address by former governor William F. Winter (OCM).

12/18 EXPLORE! Animal Art

10-11:30 a.m. (ages 6-8)
2-3:30 p.m. (ages 9-12)
Parents and grandparents welcome. \$10 fee. Reservations required. (HJC).

**For more
information
visit**

www.mdah.state.ms.us

Winterville Volunteer Uses Tech Skills to Help

New Winterville volunteer Troy Sewell, doing community service towards his accounting degree at Mississippi Valley State University—and out of the goodness of his heart—has been donating his time and skills during a particularly hectic period at the mounds. Fall is the season for most of the site's public events, and his presence has been an asset to the staff. In addition to helping out with clerical duties, Troy has used his Web-design expertise to design and create the poster for this year's *Native American Days*. Check out Troy's work! (pictured right)

Winterville Mounds
Park and Museum
Presents

Native American Days 2010
A Fall Tradition in the Delta
November 3 - 6, 9 AM - 4 PM

Experience traditional Native American cooking, dancing, storytelling, crafts, games and much more. Special activities for children, call to book times.
Events are FREE Donations greatly appreciated Photo courtesy of MDAH

Call for schedules: **662-334-4684**
Located 6 miles North of Greenville on Highway 1
www.mdah.state.ms.us

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
MDAH
ARCHIVES & HISTORY



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902. It is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. A comprehensive historical agency, the department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, government records management, and publications.