

Newsletter devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

SPRING 2011

## Calendar of Events

**EWB** – 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

### March:

**3/26-27 Natchez Pow-wow** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Native American dancing, music, food, crafts, and jewelry. Tribal members from all over will be present. \$5 Adults; \$3 Children 12 and under. (GV)

**3/27 Mississippi Hall of Fame Portrait Unveiling—Richard Wright** 2 p.m. (OCM)

**3/30 History is Lunch** noon –1 p.m. *Buryin' Daddy: Putting My Lebanese, Catholic, Southern Baptist Childhood to Rest.* Teresa Nicholas, author. (WWB)

## Congratulations to MDAH volunteers!

The Mississippi Historical Society's *Award of Merit* has been presented to the MDAH volunteer program.

For the first time in MDAH history, we have a "snapshot" of your work department-wide, and the results are most impressive! Currently, the MDAH volunteer team is composed of 247 individual volunteers (some working in multiple placements) and another 240 people serving in groups. In 2010, volunteers served a total of **13,254.75 hours**. The labor value of this service is **\$278,428.54**.

I was gratified that the Mississippi Historical Society recognized the importance of your work and thanked you for your contribution to preserving our rich and diverse heritage for future generations.

With much gratitude and respect,

Elizabeth Coleman, CVA  
Volunteer Services Administrator



*I accepted the Mississippi Historical Society's Award of Merit from Dr. William Parrish on your behalf at the Society's awards luncheon on March 5, 2011.*



## MDAH Volunteer Enrichment Series

Greenwood Cemetery Tour with Peter Miazza

Monday, May 2, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Historic Jackson Walking Tour with Todd Sanders

Monday, May 16, 2011, at 10 a.m.

*Tours will last approximately one hour. Reservations required.*

Contact Elizabeth Coleman at [ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us) or 601.576.6985.

continued

**April:**

**Through 4/20 *Pieces of the Past: Casualties of War*** Civil War artifact exhibit. (OCM)

**Through 4/29 *Beauty in the Details of Decay*** photograph exhibit, Parker Aiken, Gold Key winner and Jackson Academy student. (EWH)

**4/6 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. The life and work of Margaret Walker Alexander. Lecture by Robert Lockett, director of Margaret Walker Alexander Center at Jackson State University. (WWB)

**4/9 2nd Annual Gathering on the Green.** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Enjoy fun, food, and other festivities on the historic Old Capitol Green. (OCM)

**4/13 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *An Illustrated Guide to the Vicksburg Campaign & National Military Park.* Jeff Giambone, author, and Hap Owen, publisher. (WWB)

**4/15 MDAH Board of Trustees** regular quarterly meeting. 10 a.m. (WWB)

**4/17 *Prehistoric Delta: 10,000 BC–AD 1620.*** Lecture by Sam Brookes, National Forest Service heritage program manager. 2 p.m. (WM)

**4/20 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *Mixed Messages: Rabbit Foot Minstrels' Long History and Ambiguous Legacy.* Lecture by David Crosby, retired history professor. (WWB)

# Collections Volunteers Recatalog Larger Collections

Joyce Ellis (pictured below at right) and Tish Machado (at left) have been volunteering in the Museum Division collections office for almost two years. They successfully recataloged a very large collection of clothing from the Museum

of Mississippi History collection and are currently working on a large collection of glassware. In order to recatalog an artifact, the volunteers write a complete description, give an assessment of its condition, take accurate measurements, and

make sure that it is properly numbered. Since they began this project, Ellis and Machado have recataloged over five hundred artifacts. The collections staff is grateful for their hard work and dedication.



## Coming in June and July— Mississippi Time Travelers Kids Camp!

If you have loved ones between the ages of eight and twelve, register them for this very popular kids camp. The dates of the camp are June 20-24 and July 18-22 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Old Capitol Museum.

Activities will include crafts, tours, and more at the Old Capitol Museum, Governor's Mansion, and the Eudora Welty House. Pre-registration is required.

The registration fee is \$40. For more information call 601-576-6800.



MDAH Volunteer Computer  
Class Series

## Using Microsoft Word

Computer Workshop Series for  
MDAH Volunteers Only

**Monday, April 11, 2011**

**10–11:30 a.m.**

Stacey Everett, instructor

You will learn how to:

- Create and save a document
- Locate "bells and whistles"
- Manage files
- Attach a document to email

Reserve your spot by Wednesday,  
April 6, 2011.

**Space is limited.**

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

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**4/23 Giant Easter Egg Hunt** 1–3 p.m. Children up to 12 invited. Free. Rain or shine. (WM)  
**4/27 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. Restored buildings of the lumber camp at Bonhomie (near Hattiesburg) and adaptive reuse of historic buildings in Jackson. Lecture by Dick Molpus, former secretary of state. (WWB)

**May:**

**5/4 History is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Musical presentation by Lester Senter Wilson. (WWB)  
**5/7 Music of the Delta** 1–3 p.m. Music heard in the Delta from prehistoric times to the present. Lecture by Mark Howell, Winterville Mounds director. (WM)

**5/11 History is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *And One Was a Priest: The Life and Times of Duncan M. Gray Jr.* Lecture by Araminta Stine Johnston. (WWB)

**5/14 Chunkey Stone Contest** 1–3 p.m. Learn to play this ancient Native American game played with a rolling stone and spears. (WM)

**5/18 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *The FBI Oral History Program in Mississippi*. Avery Rollins, retired FBI agent. (WWB)

## Old Capitol Museum Docents to Lead Tours! Help Wanted: Characters Needed!!!

This year continues to be a busy one for the *new* Old Capitol Museum. The first docent school was held to provide training for guided tours of the museum. Normally the site is self-guided, but starting in April reservations will be taken for guided tours. Volunteers were encouraged to attend the docent school held in January. This school was great not only for teaching guided tours, but also for simply providing more information about the museum to volunteers who work at the reception desk or at special events. A docent school will be held

each January for those who are interested.

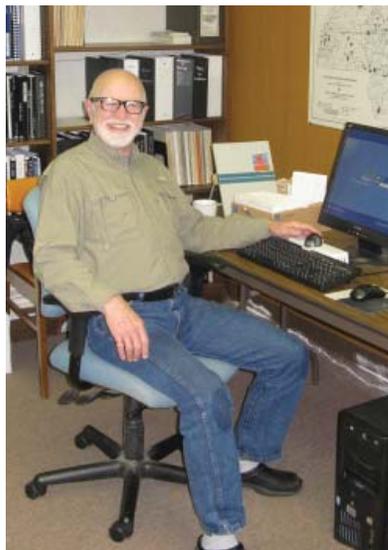
The Old Capitol Museum also seeks to expand its living history program. Every fall, several characters are featured in *Present Meets Past: Voices from Mississippi History*. The plan is to enlarge this event and feature living history activities at other times dur-

ing the year. If you are interested in portraying some of the building's most memorable characters or would like more information about the exciting activities at the Old Capitol Museum, please call Maura Johnson at 601-576-6923. You may also check the calendar of events at [www.oldcapitolmuseum.com](http://www.oldcapitolmuseum.com).



## Cresswell Lands at MDAH

MDAH internet postings for volunteers lured Chuck Cresswell from Maryland to Jackson. Cresswell considers himself a “nomad volunteer” dedicating his retirement years to serv-



ing others throughout the United States. Cresswell's volunteer service includes working for the Red Cross in Carmel, California, a homeless program sponsored by the University of California (Monterey Bay campus), and Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.

Cresswell was visiting his daughter in Maryland when he discovered that MDAH needed help in the Archaeology and Historic Sites section (Historic

*“Everyone at MDAH has been wonderful. I really enjoy it here!” said Chuck Cresswell, MDAH Archaeology and Historic Sites volunteer.*

Preservation division). Cresswell launched out in his camper and found that there was indeed a match for his skill set and knowledge at MDAH.

Before retiring, Cresswell served the medical community by providing electronic medical products, or to quote Cresswell, “things that go beep in the night.” His work travels took him to Hawaii, Hong Kong, Tokyo, many parts of Asia, Europe, and the United States, mainly conducting seminars.

Cresswell's technological skills are being put to good use, as he is currently working with the Geospatial Information System in the Archaeology and Historic Sites section.

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

## Overman Returns to the Archives

Linda Overman has lived in many places—Indiana, Washington, New Mexico, Alabama, and Mississippi—but ultimately chose to live in Mississippi to be near her family and friends. Beginning in 1978, Overman worked at MDAH for twelve years, followed by a twenty-year period of work at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Overman, who has a master's degree in library science (University of Southern Mississippi), specializes in conservation work, specifically document repair. MDAH is lucky to have her specialized skills in the Paper Archives and Published Information

sections of MDAH. She generously gives of her time primarily assisting patrons in the Media Room.

It is her work in the Media Room that allows her to meet people from different places. Overman said that NBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* television series has been a great advertise-

ment for the Archives.

"Linda's specialized skills and gift of meeting the public have been a tremendous asset to MDAH. We are so glad that she chose to return to her MDAH family," said Anne Webster, Director of Reference Services.



## AmeriCorps Volunteers Work to Improve the Eudora Welty House Grounds

January brought a somewhat surprising but very welcome bright spot to a typically cold and dreary month—a team of AmeriCorps volunteers to work in the gardens at the Eudora Welty House and the Education and Visitors Center. This dedicated

group gave hundreds of hours of their time to make several much-needed improvements.

The most dramatic change was the creation of a new driveway connecting the Visitors Center property to Peachtree Street. This

will provide much better access for doing ongoing garden maintenance. The team also constructed a double compost bin, which will allow garden waste to be converted to mulch.

The ten AmeriCorps team members, who hailed from every part of the country, also washed the clubhouse and trellises, and repaired broken panes in the cold frame. They even helped to cut back bamboo that had been growing aggressively and was beginning to take over the woodland garden. They did all of this with enthusiasm and warm smiles despite rain, cold temperatures, and lots of mud.



Left to right: Amelia Tegerdine, Kaitlin Pellegrin, Kelli Chapleski, Colin Spindler, Sean Fitzgerald, & Amanda Frank. Not pictured: Lindsey Tarr, Aaron Henry, & Trevor Merris-Coots

*continued*

**5/25 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *Architectural Genealogy: Two Centuries of Mississippi Architects*. Lecture by Jennifer Baughn, MDAH historic preservationist. (WWB)

**6/1 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. *What There Is to Say We Have Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William Maxwell*. Lecture by Suzanne Marrs, Welty biographer. (WWB)

**June:**

**6/5 Gospel at the Mounds** 3 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of gospel music by local musicians. (WM)  
**6/13–17 Discovery Week** 9 a.m.–noon. Children's program (ages 8–11). Children play stickball, learn about flint-knapping and pottery, walk nature trails, play games, and make crafts. \$40 fee. (GV)

**6/15 History Is Lunch** noon–1 p.m. Charles Evers recalls the life of his brother, Medgar Evers. (OCM)

**6/20–24 Mississippi Time Travelers Kids Camp** 8 a.m.–noon. Children's program (ages 8–12). Hands-on artifacts, crafts, tours, and more at the Old Capitol Museum, Governor's Mansion, and the Eudora Welty House. \$40 fee. Pre-registration required. 601-576-6800. (OCM)

**For more information visit**

**[mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us)**

# Governor's Mansion Docents in Action!



Sister Simmons and Ward Stewart Elementary School (Starkville) students, Gold Parlor



Joan Dattel and Sherard Elementary School (Clarksdale) students, Pumpkin Bedroom.



Sylvia Walker and Meridian home school group, Gold Bedroom



Morella Henegan and Ackerman Elementary School students, Upstairs Sitting Hall



Shirley Abney and visitors from Pascagoula and Maryland, Gold Bedroom



Ruby McLemore and visitors from Ontario, Gold Parlor



# Valentine Volunteer Luncheon



## Award of Merit Recipients for 2010 Volunteer Service

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) recently hosted the annual Valentine Volunteer Luncheon at the Old Capitol Museum. Sponsored by the Foundation for Mississippi History, the event honored volunteers active in 2010 serving in all areas within the department, in Jackson, Natchez, Washington, the Delta, and the Gulf Coast.

MDAH Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto and MDAH director H.T. Holmes thanked volunteers for their work in preserving Mississippi's history and their role as ambassadors for the organization and the state. Awards of Merit signed by Governor Haley Barbour were distributed to volunteers who served a high number of hours for 2010.

### 300 hours or more

Charles "Chuck" Borum  
Elbert Hilliard

### 200 hours or more

Paul Bragg  
Jean Hudspeth  
Clydell Morgan  
Daniel Schwartz

### 100 hours or more

Jhasmine Andrews  
Carol Busbee  
Jean Clarkson  
Shake DeLozier  
Clytice Gardner  
Nancy Harvey  
Natalie Heberg  
Elizabeth "Betty" Henry  
Caroline Hoff

Judy Hocking  
Buena Lee Huff  
Carolyn Jones  
Bernie Lieb  
Linda Overman  
Kailey A. Rocker  
Dorothy Seaton  
Freda Spell  
LeAnna Welch



*Above: Volunteers enjoy one another's company at the February 14, 2011, Luncheon honoring MDAH volunteers.*



*Right: MDAH Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto thanks volunteers for their service to the department.*



*Dorothy Seaton, volunteer at the Winterville Mounds, is presented with an Award of Merit by site director Dr. Mark Howell. Seaton served more than 100 hours during 2010.*

## THE Foundation FOR Mississippi History

Help support the work of the Department of Archives and History by donating to the Foundation for Mississippi History.

Visit [www.mshistory.net](http://www.mshistory.net) and click Donate!

Or mail a contribution to  
Foundation for Mississippi History  
P. O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

*All contributions are tax-deductible.*

# Manship House Prepares for Upcoming Repair Work

The contents of the Manship House Museum have been packed up and put into storage, preparing for the upcoming repairs to the foundation. Collections manager Tyler Nowell was instrumental in the orchestration of the move. Nowell organized the collection by

preparing and packing up the important artifacts. The contents have been moved to their new location in the Charlotte Capers Building.

“The move went along quite smoothly,” Nowell said. “It has prepared the house for the next phase as we await the beginning of

the restoration.”

The closure of the house has allowed the staff to work on new research for future programs and interpretations of the Manship and their gothic revival home.

“This is truly an exciting time for the Manship

House,” said Marilynn Jones, Manship House Museum director. “It gives us a chance to come back with new exhibits, interpretations, and quality programming that we have been known for when we re-open.”



**Top Left:**  
*Conservator Richard Brannan helping staff take apart one of the beds.*



**Top Right:**  
*Movers from Mississippi Van Lines taking one of the pier tables.*



**Bottom Left:**  
*Movers from Mississippi Van Lines carefully removing one of the sofas.*



**Bottom Right:**  
*Crates being constructed for marble table tops.*



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.