

Mississippi History

NEWSLETTER

MDAH

Published by the Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
H. T. Holmes, director
Chrissy Wilson, editor
<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us>
Mailing address: MHN, P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Eudora Welty House Opening April 29–30

The Eudora Welty House will open to the public beginning with a special **free preview weekend April 29 and 30**. Already a National Historic Landmark, the Welty House will be one of the nation's most intact literary house museums, reflecting the seventy-six years Welty lived and worked there. Following the open house, the Eudora Welty House, located at 1119 Pinehurst Street in Jackson, will be shown by reservation only Wednesdays through Fridays at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.

Welty left her house and collection of thousands of books to the state, and the Welty family donated furniture and art. Visitors will see Welty's house as she lived in it.

"We want to represent Eudora Welty as she was," said Mary Alice White, director of the Eudora Welty House and Welty's niece.

"These things were all well-loved and used by Eudora Welty, and we tried to make sure that the house would still feel like her home to visitors."

MDAH has overseen the transition from private residence to historic site and, with assistance from the Eudora Welty Foundation, is working to open a visitors center to provide special exhibits on Welty as well as on-site restrooms and parking.

Beginning May 3, admission to the house and garden will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for children under six. Group discounts are available on all tours. Welty's birthday was April 13, and when the 13th of each month falls on a day the Eudora Welty House is open, admission will be free. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 601-353-7762 or email weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us.

Stone Symposium April 8

A symposium, "Opening a Time Capsule: The Alfred Holt Stone Collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History," will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2–4 p.m., at the William F. Winter Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. The symposium honors the creation of an index to the collection by James G. Hollandsworth, Jr., of Jackson, and explores Stone's collection of materials—3004 titles—on "The Negro and Cognate Subjects." John David Smith, the

Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, will be the keynote speaker. Hollandsworth and Eugene R. Dattel, noted economic historian and a Delta native, will also offer remarks. Professor Smith's participation is made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. The symposium is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 601-576-6857.



A highlight of tours will be Welty's writing desk in her upstairs bedroom, where adjacent windows were often open to sights and sounds of the passing scene on Pinehurst Street.



The eighty-year-old water oak in front of the Eudora Welty House was removed in March as it presented a hazard to the house and to visitors. A new tree, an oak about the size the previous tree was when the house was built in 1925, has been planted in its place.

Welty Print #3 Unveiling April 20

The third image of Eudora Welty in artist Barry Moser's series of limited edition relief engravings will be unveiled Thursday, April 20, 5–7 p.m., at Gallery 119, 3017 North State Street, Jackson. Moser's first two prints will be exhibited, as well as photographs by Eudora

Welty, including the newly released *Window Shopping* (1935–36). The unveiling and Welty photograph exhibit are part of the annual Fondren "Art, Eats, and Beats." Print sales help support the Eudora Welty House. For information, call 601-576-6857.

Mississippi Historical Society: Awards, Officers

The Mississippi Historical Society's annual meeting, held in Natchez March 2–4, focused on “Mississippi’s Landscapes: An Environmental History.”

Neil McMillen, professor emeritus of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, was awarded the society’s highest honor, the **B.L.C. Wailes Award** for national distinction in the field of history. McMillen’s publications include *Dark Journey: Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow*, which won the McLemore Prize, Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award, and Bancroft Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He has served as the Charles W. Moorman Distinguished Alumni Professor in the Humanities at USM. McMillen also won the *Mississippi History NOW* award for the best article published on that Web site in 2005 for “WPA Slave Narratives,” featured article in February 2005.



1983, Ballard has also published nine books: *A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy* and *Pemberton: A Biography* were both History Book Club selections, and *Pemberton* was chosen by the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters as the best non-fiction book by a Mississippi author in 1991.

A Little Taste of Freedom: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County, Mississippi by **Emilye Crosby**, associate professor of history at the State University of New York–Geneseo, won the **McLemore Prize** for best Mississippi history book of 2005.

Marlo Hendrix, Tupelo High School, received the **John K. Bettersworth Award** for the outstanding history teacher. Hendrix holds a master’s degree in history from Ole Miss and has taught for nine years.

Francoise N. Hamlin won the **Franklin L. Riley Prize** for her doctoral dissertation at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst. “The Book Hasn’t Closed, the Story Isn’t Finished: Continuing Histories of the Civil Rights Movement.”

Gary Coleman Cheek, Jr., won the **Glover Moore Prize** for the best master’s thesis in Mississippi history in 2005, “Cultural Flexibility: Assimilation, Education, and the Evolution of Choctaw Identity in the Age of Transformation, 1800–1830,” presented for his master of arts degree at MSU.

Mark Newman, lecturer in history at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, won the **Willie D. Halsell Prize** for the best article in the *Journal of Mississippi History* during 2005 for “The Catholic Church in Mississippi and Desegregation, 1963–1973,” in the Winter 2005 issue.

The **Union County Historical Society** received the **Frank E. Everett Jr. Award** for outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. The society has demonstrated through its programming the vitality of the music, art, industry, and agriculture of Union County and lower Appalachia.

The **Southern Foodways Alliance**, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, was the inaugural winner of the **Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award** for its Doe’s Eat Place oral history project.

Awards of Merit were presented to the **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** for the staff’s dedicated work in assisting local governments and historical organiza-

tions in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort; **David Preziosi**, executive director of the **Mississippi Heritage Trust**, for his dedicated work in assisting local governments, historical organizations, and MDAH in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort; and **Samuel A. Tomlinson III** of Natchez for his donation to MDAH of the only known copy of the *Rules of Order, Decorum and [Debate] for the Government of the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory*.

Newly elected officers of the Mississippi Historical Society are **Jeanne Luckett**, Jackson, president; **John Marszalek**, MSU, vice-president; and **Elbert R. Hilliard**, Madison, secretary-treasurer.

New members of the society’s **board of directors** for



MSU professor **Michael Ballard** is the winner of the 2006 **Dunbar Rowland Award**, given in recognition of his major contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history. An archivist in MSU’s Mitchell Memorial Library since

Chester M. “Bo” Morgan III presents Wailes Award to Neil McMillen.



2006–2009 are **Ray L. Bellande**, Ocean Springs; **James R. Kelly, Jr.**, Jones County Junior College–Ellisville; **James H. Lacey, Jr.**, Canton; **Panny Mayfield**, Coahoma Community College; **Mary Carol Miller**, Greenwood; and **Thomas G. Velek**, Mississippi University for Women. **New Board of Publications** members are **John Langston**, University Press of Mississippi, and **Charles Sallis**, Jackson.

Jeanne Luckett accepts 2006 gavel from 2005 president Martha Swain

Awards! Starring Bo Morgan and...

Left, Chester M. "Bo" Morgan, DSU, Awards Committee chair, presents Everett Prize to Betsey Hamilton, left, and Jill Smith, Union County Historical Society; right, Charles Sullivan presents Hilliard Oral History Prize to Amy Evans, Southern Foodways Alliance.



Bonnie Feig, Starkville, presents Bettersworth Award to his-tory teacher Marlo Hendrix.



Morgan presents an Award of Merit to MDAH director H. T. Holmes for his staff's work with local governments and his-torical organizations in the wake of Katrina.



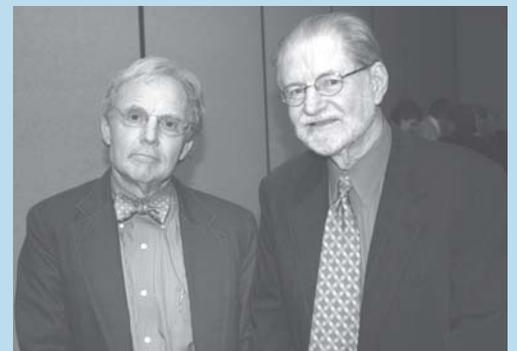
Morgan presents an Award of Merit to Samuel A. Tomlinson III of Natchez for his donation of a rare, territorial period docu-ment to MDAH.



David Preziosi, Mississippi Heri-tage Trust, accepts an Award of Merit for his work with local gov-ernments and historical organiza-tions in the wake of Katrina.



Neil McMillen accepts Mississippi History NOW award from MHNOW editor Peggy Jeanes.



Featured speakers (left) James C. Cobb, UNC at Chapel Hill, and Pete Daniel, Smithsonian Institution.

Join the Mississippi Historical Society and enjoy the *Journal of Mississippi History* and annual meetings as well as a discount at the Old Capitol Shop. Membership is \$25 annually. Send check to MHS, P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601-576-6849.

History Is Lunch

April 5: Historian Charles Weeks, “Paths to the Past in Mexico and Mississippi.” Weeks is the author of two recent books: *Paths to a Middle Ground: The Diplomacy of Natchez, Boukhouka, Nogales, and San Fernando de las Barrancas, 1791-1795* and *The Juarez Myth in Mexico*.

April 12: Stephen Cresswell, author of the third volume in the *Heritage of Mississippi Series*, *Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi After Reconstruction, 1877-1917*.

Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors. The brown bag sessions are held **Wednesdays, noon–1 p.m.**, at the **William F. Winter Archives and History Building**, 200 North Street, one block off State Street. Drinks are provided. For more information, call 601-576-6857.

Native American Gardening April 9

On Sunday, April 9, 2–3 p.m. Winterville historian Jan Taylor will present a program on Native American gardening at Winterville Mounds, Greenville. The first ten people to arrive will receive packets of seeds for their own gardens. The event is free of charge. For more information please call 662-334-4684.

HJC Spring Flea Market

Historic Jefferson College, Washington, will hold its annual **Spring Flea Market** on Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. A free concert will be offered by the Bluff City Blues Band from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will also be a plant sale and free gardening workshop sponsored by the Adams County Master Gardeners at 9 a.m.

Be sure to enjoy the nature trails, picnic area, and historic buildings at the site when you come. For more information, call Cheryl Branyan, 601-442-2901.

Manships Unearthed

On Wednesday through Friday, April 19–21, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., students can



observe MDAH archaeologists

conducting an excavation on the grounds of the Manship House Museum to learn more about this unique family’s history. It’s free, but reservations are required. Call 601-961-4724 to schedule a class.

Spring Journal: The Fall of Bilbo

The spring issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History* features essays on Theodore Bilbo, the Houma Indians, and the role of a Lutheran college in the Mississippi civil rights movement.

“Theodore G. Bilbo and the Decline of Public Racism, 1938-1947,” by Robert L. Fleegler, University of Rhode Island, shows how Bilbo’s inflammatory language ignited a firestorm that prevented him from taking his U.S. Senate seat in January 1947.

William P. Hustwit, doctoral candidate at the University of Mississippi, in his essay “Sermons That Became Charges,” tells how Gustavus Adolphus

College, a Lutheran church-related institution in Minnesota, recruited African American students from Quitman County, Mississippi, during the 1960s.

In “The Houma Nation in Mississippi’s Early French Colonial Period: Modern Interpretations and Influences,” J. Daniel d’Oney, Albany College of Pharmacy, Albany, New York, demonstrates that we have a clearer picture of this tribe than most other tribes from that era.

To subscribe to the *Journal*, send \$25 to MHS, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601-576-6849. Single issues are \$7.50 each.



Theodore Bilbo at U.S. Senate Hearings. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.