

Evers-Williams at Old Capitol June 13

Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, will visit Jackson June 13 and au-

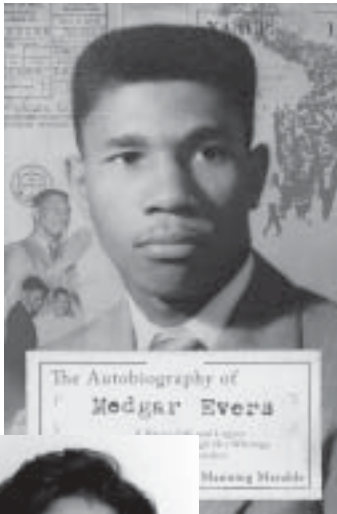
tograph copies of the new volume from Basic Civitas Books, *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers: A Hero's Life and Legacy Revealed Through his Writings, Letters, and Speeches*. For this collection Evers-Williams gathered previously unpublished writings and photographs with co-editor Manning Marable, professor at Columbia University.



She will be at the Old Capitol Museum, Jackson, on Monday, June 13, 4-6 p.m., to read from the book and sign copies, which will be available for purchase from the Old Capitol Shop.

Evers's writings in this volume range from personal documents and speeches to NAACP monthly reports, correspondence with luminaries of the time, and his famous essay, "Why I Live in Mississippi." The recollections of

Myrlie Evers-Williams, however, combined with letters from her personal collection, are central to this



new consideration of Evers's life.

Professor Marable is the founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of

eighteen books, including *Black Leadership*, *Speaking Truth to Power*, and *Beyond Black and White*.

Mrs. Evers-Williams presented the Medgar Wiley and Myrlie

Beasley Evers Papers to MDAH in 2002. The papers date from the early 1900s to the present. The collection includes papers of Medgar Evers as Mississippi field secretary of the NAACP, family papers, and records relating to the case of the *State of Mississippi v. Byron De La Beckwith*. The papers are scheduled to be opened to researchers in the fall of 2005.

For more information, call MDAH at 601-576-6857.

Community Heritage Grant Applications Available

Applications are now available through the MDAH for grants of up to \$500,000 for the preservation and restoration of many historic buildings statewide. The 2004 Legislature authorized the issuance of \$2,910,000 for the fourth round of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on September 9.

The program provides funds to help preserve, restore, develop, and interpret historic courthouses and schools. In Certified Local Government communities grant funds may also be used for projects involving historic buildings other than courthouses or schools. All buildings must have been designated Mississippi Landmarks prior to application to be eligible for the grants.

The grant awards will be paid to the grantee on a reimbursable basis upon the successful

completion of the entire project or at the time of the completion of pre-established phases of the project. Applicants receiving grant awards should be prepared to cover all project costs before receiving reimbursements. A cash match of at least twenty percent must be provided.

Only county or municipal governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations granted Section 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service may submit applications. Those applications shall be in accordance with the provisions of grant procedures, criteria, and standards developed and publicized by MDAH.

For application packets or for information on the grant program, contact MDAH staff at 601-576-6940 or at P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571. Printable versions are also available on the MDAH Web site

Thank You From MDAH

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History thanks the North American Vexillological Association for a generous grant to assist with the conservation of the Old Capitol Museum's rare twenty-star flag; Nell McNeil, Gloster, Mississippi, for a memorial gift honoring Lou Paris and Doyle Byrd for the conservation of the Liberty Guards flag; and the National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor for a generous donation to the Raymond Hall renovation at Historic Jefferson College.

STATEWIDE JUNE EVENTS

Old Capitol Museum, Jackson

The public is invited to bring historical objects for examination by assembled experts to the Old Capitol Museum, Jackson during *Personal Treasures: Their Identification and Care*, Friday and Saturday, June 3-4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Categories include textiles, military items, archaeological objects, photographs and maps, and small household furnishings. Experts will also advise regarding care of the objects. The service is free, but there is a limit of five objects per person per category. For more information call 601-576-6920.

Manship House Museum, Jackson

At the Manship House Museum exhibit *Manships Abroad*, visitors will learn about the Manship family's tour of Europe in 1874 and what travel was like for middle-class, white southern families of that era. The exhibit hangs June 7–August 13. Admission is free, but reservations are required for groups of ten or more. For reservations or information, call 601-961-4724.

Historic Jefferson College, Washington

Pioneer Week, June 27-July 1, at Historic Jefferson College, Washington, introduces children between the ages of eight and twelve to pioneer skills and activities, including bread-making, spinning and weaving, demonstrations of pioneer tools and weapons, and old-time fiddling. There is a registration fee. For more information call 601-442-2901.

Grand Village, Natchez

The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Natchez, continues its annual **Summer Videos program**, and this year's selections—titled “Wet and Wild”—should cool off the hottest visitors. “Amazon: Land of the Flooded Forest” shows June 14, “Rain

Forest: Heroes of the High Frontier” June 28, “Panama Wild: Rain Forest of Life” July 12; and “Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond” July 26. Programs start at 3 p.m. and last about one hour. These programs are recommended for ages twelve through adult. Admission is free.

During Discovery Week, June 13–17 at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, children between the ages eight and eleven will learn about Native American culture, archaeology, and nature. Sessions, 9 a.m. to noon, are limited to twenty participants. Registration is \$25. For more information call 601-446-6502.

Winterville Mounds, Greenville

The fifth annual *Music at the Mounds* will be held **Saturday, June 18**, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Winterville Mounds Museum, Greenville. Music groups from around the Delta will perform free of charge. For more information call 662-334-4684.

Holocaust Documented

The Jackson-Hinds Library System and *Survivors of the Shoah* Visual History Foundation have launched a joint project—the first in the country—called the Testimony to Tolerance Initiative. The project provides videotapes and DVDs of interviews with Holocaust survivors from all over the country. Gilbert Metz, the only survivor in Mississippi, spoke at the project dedication May 4. The Shoah Foundation interviewed Metz in 1998, and those interviews, along with many others, are available at the Welty branch of the Jackson-Hinds Library System. The Initiative is made possible by funding from the Levy-Marcus Foundation. For more information, contact coordinator Jamie Holcomb, 601-968-5814, jholcomb@jhlibrary.com.

Federation Pages Online

New pages for the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies have been posted on the MDAH Web site. General information about the Federation is provided, including a membership list, advisory committee members, and bylaws. The Federation newsletter, *Local History* is posted, also, with past issues archived. The **Local History Bookstore** publicizes books published by local societies and provides ordering information. Visit the site at mdah.state.ms.us/admin/fmhs.html

Welty House Garden in the News

The Eudora Welty House garden was recently featured in *Smithsonian* magazine and *Southern Living* as a summer vacation destination and will be featured in the upcoming issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*. Visit the Welty House garden Wednesdays, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (call 601-576-6965 to make a reservation) and visit the **MDAH virtual tour of the Welty House garden** (mdah.state.ms.us/welty/garden.html) that contains a monthly blooming chart and photos of heirloom plants and other flowers currently in bloom.



June Brown-Bag Series

Writer's Choice, a series of talks by Suzanne Marrs, Welty biographer and Millsaps College professor, will be held at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson during June.

The public is invited to join Marrs on **Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m.** for discussions of four Welty stories that some of Welty's friends and fellow writers cite as their favorites:

June 7, a favorite of Reynolds Price: “Death of a Traveling Salesman”

June 14, a favorite of both Robert Penn Warren and Ross Macdonald, “A Still Moment”

June 21, a favorite of Elizabeth Spencer, “Moon Lake”

June 28, a favorite of Richard Ford, “No Place for You, My Love”

Suzanne Marrs's upcoming book, *Eudora Welty: A Biography*, Harcourt, Inc., will be available in August.

This series is sponsored by the Eudora Welty Foundation, MDAH, and Millsaps College. The Winter Building is on the corner of North and Amite Streets, Jackson. Adjacent parking is available, and tea and soft drinks will be provided. The Eudora Welty House and Collection are owned and administered by the Department of Archives and History. For more information, call 601-576-6965.

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Murray Papers Published

A volume of the letters of essayist and playwright Judith Sargent Murray (1751–1820) has been published by the Judith Sargent Murray Society, Bonnie Hurd Smith, editor. *The Letters I Left Behind, Letter Book 10* is one of twenty letter books created by Murray and now in the MDAH collection. The letters in volume ten were written between 1796 and 1799 to such notable figures as George Washington, John Adams, Henry Knox, and Mercy Otis Warren as well as to friends and family members on subjects ranging from federalism, women's political rights, female education, travels, and Universal-

ist theology. In 1796 Gloucester, Massachusetts, native Judith Sargent Murray began to copy her correspondence into blank volumes called letter books. By 1818, when she moved to Natchez, Mississippi, she had created twenty in all, documenting her life, her thoughts, events, and contemporaries. Though scholars thought they were destroyed, the letter books were discovered in Natchez in 1984 by Gordon Gibson, Jackson.

The Letters I Left Behind, Judith Sargent Murray Papers, Letter Book 10 is available from www.hurdsmith.com/judith at \$40 (cloth) each, plus shipping.



On May 14 Delta State University awarded its first-ever honorary doctorate to Elbert R. Hilliard, director emeritus, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Delta State alumnus. Above, Delta State president Dr. John M. Hilpert (right) presents honorary doctoral degree. Photograph by James Hollandsworth.

The Jackson Symphony League recently presented a collection of papers to MDAH relating to the League's history on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. L-r, front row, Lois Clover (Mrs. Chandler Clover), anniversary committee co-chair and Jackson Symphony League past president; Nell Wall (Mrs. O. E. Wall) anniversary committee co-chair and League past president. L-r, back row: Michael Hennen, MDAH; Faira Bishop (Mrs. Billy Bishop) anniversary committee archives chair; Tay Wise (Mrs. Sherwood Wise), League past president and founding member; and Jean Butler, League past president and founding member.



Burnham Donates Library

Retired MDAH board member Van R. Burnham, Jr., M.D., has donated his research library to Winterville Mounds, an MDAH property. The Van R. Burnham, Jr., Collection contains nearly 400 books, journals, articles, and other periodicals relating to archaeology and Native American culture. Burnham, a retired Clarksdale physician and avocational archaeologist, spent decades collecting the material, much of which is now out-of-print and unavailable.

"We are thrilled by Dr. Burnham's generous gift," said Winterville Mounds director Eleanor Humphreys Schnabel. "This greatly expands the staff's ability to conduct archaeological research and will become a valuable resource for the public as well."

Winterville Mounds will catalog the collection and make it available to the public on a non-circulating basis. "During Dr. Burnham's many years on the board of trustees we relied on his knowledge of archaeology and the Indians of Mississippi," said board president William F. Winter. "This magnificent collection he has given continues the spirit of service he has demonstrated all his life."

New Books for Summer Reading

Dancing with My Father, by Leif Anderson, daughter of Walter Anderson, is both a loving tribute and an honest look at the effects of her famous and unusual father. Many previously unrevealed glimpses of Walter Anderson as artist, naturalist, husband, and father are presented. From University Press of Mississippi, cloth \$25.

Indian and European Contact in Context: The Mid-Atlantic Region, edited by Dennis B. Blanton and Julia A. King, offers new perspectives—including archaeological and ethnohistorical ones—on the early contact period (A.D. 1500–1750) in the Mid-Atlantic. From University Press of Florida, \$65 cloth.

Singing in a Strange Land: C. L. Franklin, the Black Church, and the Transformation of America, by Nick Salvatore, tells how Franklin became a revered preacher of national stature through his use of music and African American oral tradition in his charismatic, improvisational performances. Born in 1915 in Mississippi, he migrated first to Memphis, where he began to explore the use of the radio to spread his message. In Detroit he was the preacher at one of the largest Baptist churches in America, New Bethel. Salvatore closely examines Franklin's learned sermons and his appropriation of symbolic scripture for his work. From Little, Brown & Company, \$27.95.

Affect and Power: Essays on Sex, Slavery, Race, and Religion, edited by David J. Libby, Paul Spickard, and Susan Ditto, is a tribute to historian Winthrop Jordan by his former students. Jordan introduced new ways of thinking about is-

sues of race, gender, faith, and power with his important work *White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550–1812*, and over his forty-year teaching career at the University of California and the University of Mississippi, he influenced many younger historians. From University Press of Mississippi, cloth \$45.

This Delta, This Land: An Environmental History of the Yazoo-Mississippi Floodplain, by Mikko Saikku, is the first study to place the Delta's economic and cultural history in an environmental context. The Delta—the floodplain between two rivers in the northwestern corner of Mississippi—has been transformed by agriculture, lumbering, and flood-management schemes. Saikku's range of sources for his study is wide: travel literature, naturalists' writings, government records, company archives, archaeological data, private correspondence, and more. He includes human aspects of the region's natural history, including land reclamation, slave and sharecropper economies, racial perceptions of landowner stewardship, and blues music. From the University of Georgia Press, paper, \$22.95.

William Faulkner, a new biography by M. Thomas Inge, offers a concise text with more than a hundred rarely seen photographs and illustrations, among them Faulkner's family members, his literary circles of New Orleans and Paris, and his years in Hollywood, as well as hand-corrected manuscripts, first-edition dust-jackets, and more. From the Overlook Illustrated Lives Series, \$19.95 cloth.

Mississippi's 10 Most Endangered

The 2005 list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places was unveiled April 21 at the newly restored Union Train Station in downtown Jackson. The 10 Most list is produced by the **Mississippi Heritage Trust** as a way to help raise awareness about the most historically significant threatened places in the state. This year's 10 Most Endangered Sites in Mississippi are the following: ***Old Bridgeport Road***, one of the state's earliest major roads (1822), Bolton (Hinds County); ***Bryant Grocery and Meat Market*** (1910), site of Emmett Till's encounter that led to his murder, Money (Leflore County); ***Flannegan-Lowry House*** (c. 1855-1860), a rare "galleried planter's cottage," home of Gov-

ernor Robert Lowry, North Congress Street, Jackson; (***Old Jackson Municipal Library*** (1954), site of 1961 Tougaloo College student sit-in, State Street; ***Natchez College*** (1885), early African American college, Adams County; (***Old Pascagoula High School*** (1939), featuring fine design and amenities, Jackson County; ***Sun-Sand Motor Hotel*** (1960), second home to legislators and featuring free-form, "space-age" sign, Jackson; ***Tippah County Jail*** (1938), poured-concrete building in rare Art Moderne style, Ripley; ***Wilkes Home*** (c. 1820, 1842), intact early vernacular house, enlarged in 1842, Wilkesburg (Jefferson Davis County); and the (***old Woodmen of the World Building*** (Harrison-Whitfield Building, 1857–59), one of only two three-story antebellum commercial buildings extant in state, Columbus.

Pest Management Workshop
Historic Jefferson College, June 20
\$45 by June 15
Sponsored by
Mississippi Museums Association
Call 601 442-2901

Rural Heritage Initiative

National Trust president Richard Moe announces the new Rural Heritage Development Initiative. The Initiative will award comprehensive preservation-based economic development assistance to selected rural regions over a three-year period. "Mississippi has, of course, many rural, historic regions, and I would urge Mississippians to submit proposals," said Ken P'Pool, Historic Preservation director at MDAH. Individuals or groups who would like to submit a proposal for such assistance are encouraged to call Valecia Cruisafulli (202-588-6136) or visit www.nationaltrust.org for assistance.

Books about Mississippi and by Mississippians are available at the Old Capitol Shop. To check on availability of books listed here, call the Shop at 601-576-6921. Members of the Mississippi Historical Society receive a 10% discount at the Old Capitol Shop.