

Mississippi History

MDAH

Published by the Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
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<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us>
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Jackson, MS 39205-0571

NEWSLETTER

Welty Celebrated



More than 1600 visited during the **Eudora Welty House** grand opening September 29-30. Right, Welty biographer **Suzanne Marrs** reminisces about Welty with waiting guests.



Right, **James Patterson**, **Gallery 119** owner, and artist **Lea Barton** celebrate new Welty art: Welty's "Window shopping" and print #3 in woodcut artist **Barry Moser's** Welty Print Series.



Welty's nieces **Mary Alice White** and **Elizabeth Thompson** greeted guests at **Gallery 119** May 20. For information on purchasing prints, call 601-576-6921.



JUNE EVENTS *Jackson*

Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on the **Old Capitol Green**: at **Crafts from the Past**, children ages five to twelve can make crafts from bygone eras (601-576-6920 for more information); the **Old Capitol Shop Tent Sale** will feature Mississippi books and crafts at 50–75 % off (601-576-6921 for more information).

Wednesday, June 14, noon–1 p.m. **History Is Lunch** series at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. **Clay Williams**, Museum of Mississippi History exhibits director, will discuss the historic **twenty-star Mississippi flag** that will be on display in the Winter Building lobby. Coffee and bottled water provided. For information call 601-576-6857.

Wednesday, June 21, noon–1 p.m. **History Is Lunch** at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. **JoAnne Prichard-Morris** will discuss and sign copies of the book **Barefootin'** that she co-wrote with **Unita Blackwell**. For information call 601-576-6857.

Greenville

Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at Winterville Mounds, Greenville, the popular **Music at the Mounds**, in its sixth year, features various music groups from around the Delta. Free of charge. For more information call 662-334-4684.

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Pioneer Week at Jefferson College

At the 20th annual **Pioneer Week: The Way It Was** June 12–16 at Historic Jefferson College, children ages 8 to 12 will learn what life was like in Mississippi's early days.

Jefferson College is located six miles from Natchez on eighty acres of wooded grounds in Washington, Mississippi's territorial capital, near the historic Natchez Trace. The "pioneers" will learn skills such as weaving and quilting and will see demonstrations of the use of an adze and a froe. They will launder clothes the old fashioned way using lye soap and a washboard, make bread, churn butter, and prepare stew over an open fire. They will also learn how settlers prepared native plants for food and medicinal purposes and about Indian-style trading with items such as animal pelts and beads.

Sessions are 9 a.m. to noon. Light refreshments will be provided. The cost is \$20 per child; financial assistance is available for a limited number of children based on financial need. Parents should register children by Monday, June 5. For more information, please call 601-442-2901 or email hjc@mdah.state.ms.us.

Vicksburg has been designated a Preserve America community, providing national recognition that it protects and celebrates its heritage. For details, visit preserveamerica.gov.

Bennett Oral History Offered

Nathan Bennett (c. 1905–2003), former resident craftsman at Historic Jefferson College, is the subject of a new oral history entitled “Wildcat Gravy: A Life History of Nathan Bennett,” edited by Jim Barnett, director of the MDAH Historic Properties Division. The oral history was completed with funding assistance from the Mississippi Humanities Council, which co-sponsored the project with MDAH and the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage, University of Southern Mississippi. Copies have been distributed to public libraries and schools in southwest Mississippi, and each volume includes three compact discs containing the recordings of Bennett, allowing readers to hear the subject’s voice as they follow along with the text.

Bennett, born near Garden City in Franklin County, tells of driving oxen and mule teams, hewing railroad ties, and sharecropping cotton. He also discusses methods of making cypress roofing shingles and split-oak baskets and tells of youthful adventures traveling as a laborer with the Sells-Floto and Hagenbeck-Wallace circuses. For more information, contact Jim Barnett (601-446-6502).

Tax Credits

A new tax credit will benefit property owners who rehabilitate historic buildings in Mississippi. Signed into law in March, the state historic preservation tax incentives program, overseen by the Department of Archives and History, provides for a state income tax credit equal to 25 percent of the qualified expenses in projects. The credit is available for both residential and business rehabilitations and applies to expenditures incurred after January 1, 2006.

To be eligible to receive the tax credit, properties must be listed individually in the National Register of Historic places or contribute to the significance of a National Register historic district, or have been designated a Mississippi Landmark.

Expenditures must exceed \$5,000 for owner-occupied residences or 50 percent of the total basis in the property for all other historic properties. All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for Rehabilitation*, and not-for-profit entities are ineligible to receive the credits. To find out how to apply for the state historic preservation tax credit, visit the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us, or call 601-576-6940.



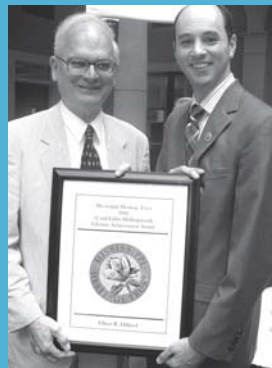
Answering the Newsletter’s request from the Historic New Orleans Collection for a complete set of the *Journal of Mississippi History* was Madel Morgan Stringer, Ridgeland, former MDAH Archives and Library Division director. She was cleaning house and thought researchers at the Historic New Orleans Collection could make good use of the set.

Florence L. Mars 1923-2006

Florence Latimer Mars, author of *Witness in Philadelphia* (1977) from which the film *Mississippi Burning* was made, died April 23 at age 83. She was a significant source of information for the agents investigating the killings of the three civil rights workers, and testified before a federal grand jury. The Klan responded by organizing a boycott against the Neshoba County Stockyards which she owned, forcing it to close. During those years she also had daily threats against her life.

Grady McWhiney 1929-2006

Historian Grady McWhiney died April 18 at age 77. His major contribution was in putting forth the idea (most fully in *Cracker Culture: Celtic Ways in the Old South*, 1988) that white southerners descend from the Celtic tribes of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He contrasted Celts and southerners with the English and Yankees. McWhiney addressed members of the Mississippi Historical Society at its annual meeting in 1980.



Elbert R. Hilliard, left, MDAH director emeritus, was presented the Al and Libby Hollingsworth Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mississippi Heritage Trust at its annual conference held in Cleveland April 21. Presenting the award was MHT executive director David Preziosi.