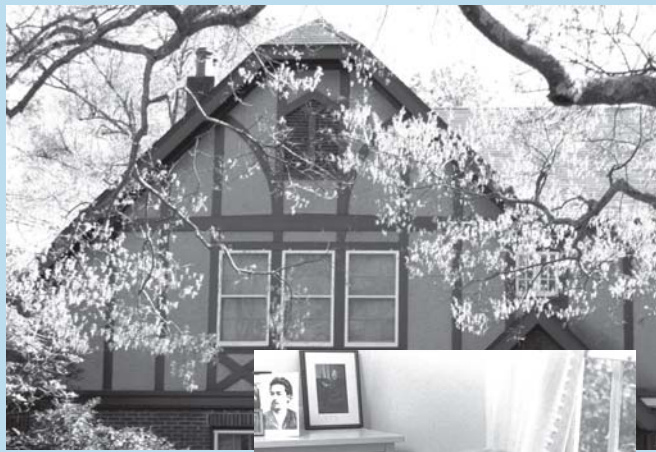


Mississippi History NEWSLETTER

MDAH

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Eudora Welty House Opens April 29–30



After April 29-30 events, the Eudora Welty House will be open for regular tours Wednesday through Friday.



The Eudora Welty House will open to the public beginning with a special free preview weekend April 29 and 30, 2006. 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 the furniture and art.

Visitors will see Welty's house as she lived in it.

Mary Alice White, director of the Eudora Welty House and Welty's niece, said the MDAH staff had "worked hard to make sure that the house would still feel like her home."

MDAH has overseen the transition from private residence to historic site and is now working to open a visitors center to provide space for special exhibits on Welty as well as on-site restrooms and parking.

Beginning May 3, admission to the Eudora Welty House will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for children under six. Group discounts are

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Disaster Preparedness Training Offered

To assist libraries and archives in developing and implementing disaster prevention/recovery plans, SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network, Inc.) is offering a series of classes throughout the ten SOLINET-region states. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, SOLINET offers these classes at only \$25 each. The classes will be held March–May. In Mississippi (Jackson), a workshop will be offered April 5. For other workshop dates and a registration form, visit www.solinet.net/preservation/disasterseries.

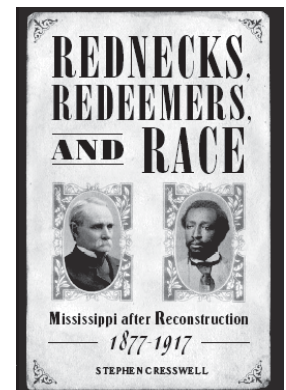
Winterthur, MDAH Partner

Through an award from the Mellon Foundation, staff from the Winterthur Museum and related art conservation program at the University of Delaware have assisted in collection recovery efforts at the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art and at Beauvoir: the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library.

Winterthur and MDAH will continue this work through a series of collection recovery workshops to be held May–November 2006 focusing on preservation of metal, ceramics and glass artifacts; textiles; painted surfaces; furniture; library materials; and photographs. For more information, please contact Julia Marks Young, 601-576-6991 (jyoung@mdah.state.ms.us).

Third Volume, Heritage Series

Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi After Reconstruction, 1877-1917, by Stephen Cresswell, will be published in April by the University Press of Mississippi for the Mississippi Historical Society and MDAH. The volume explores the paradoxical time when the state's technology advanced while race relations deteriorated.



Mississippi saw impressive change in the four decades after Reconstruction. The state transformed. Its cities increased rapidly in size and saw the advent of electric lights, streetcars, and "moving pictures." Farmers diversified their operations, increasing their production of corn, sweet potatoes, and dairy products. Mississippians built large textile mills in a number of cities and increased the number of manufacturing workers tenfold.

But much did not change. In 1917 as in 1877 the state had troubled race relations and was

Cont'd page two

Third Volume, cont'd

the site of lynchings and race riots. Compared with other states in 1917, Mississippi was near the bottom of the list for length of the school year, percentage of farms that boasted tractors, and the number of miles of paved or gravel roads.

Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race explores the reasons Mississippi was not more successful in urbanizing, in industrializing, and in reducing its reliance on cotton. The volume closes by looking at future events that would move Mississippi closer to the national mainstream.

Stephen Cresswell is professor of history at West Virginia Wesleyan College and is the author of *Multiparty Politics in Mississippi, 1877-1902*.

Copies will be available at the Old Capitol Shop (relocated to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building) at \$45 each (cloth). MHS members receive a ten percent discount. For more information, call 601-576-6857.

Welty House, cont'd

available for 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.

MDAH Events

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 2–April 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at the **Manship House Museum. *Growing up in Mississippi, 1857–1888.*** Through hands-on activities students grades K-4 learn about life as it was for children in nineteenth-century Mississippi. The program meets many Mississippi Department of Education social studies curriculum benchmarks. Free, reservations required. Call 601-961-4724.

Friday–Sunday, March 10–12 at Historic Jefferson College. *Ladies Academy.* Women's classes on dress and preparations for Civil War reenactments. Registration is \$30, but viewing historically accurate encampments is free. For more information call 601-442-2901.

Sunday, March 19, 3–5 p.m., at Winterville Mounds, Greenville. *Native American Women,* a lecture by Winterville historian Jan Taylor. Visitors can make a pinch pot in the museum afterwards. Free of charge, for more information call 662-334-4684.

Saturday–Sunday, March 25–26 at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. *Natchez Pow-wow.* Activities include Native American dancing, food, and crafts. Admission fee. For full schedule call 601-446-6502.

Endesha Ida Mae Holland, 1944-2006

Endesha Ida Mae Holland, a noted scholar and dramatist whose best-known play, *From the Mississippi Delta*, chronicled her journey from poverty and prostitution in the Jim Crow South to civil rights activism and an academic career, died January 25 at age sixty-one.

Ida Mae Holland—she added Endesha as an adult—was born in 1944 in Greenwood and grew up there. She became actively involved in the civil rights movement, working with SNCC volunteers. In 1965 a suspicious fire broke out in her family's home, killing her mother. Holland said afterward that she believed the Ku Klux Klan had firebombed the

house in retaliation for her civil rights work.

Holland earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in American Studies at the University of Minnesota and taught at SUNY-Buffalo 1985–1993.

The author of a half-dozen plays, she remained famous for *From the Mississippi Delta*, which has been performed by the Negro Ensemble Company, at the Goodman Theater in Chicago, and at the Young Vic in London. Her memoir of the same name was published in 1997. (*Excerpted from February 1, 2006, New York Times obituary by Margalit Fox.*)

Preservation Conference April 20-21

The Mississippi Heritage Trust, in conjunction with MDAH, will hold the annual statewide Experience Mississippi Historic Preservation Conference in Cleveland April 20-21. The focus will be on heritage tourism, showcasing Delta efforts to increase heritage tourism in the region. At the

Awards Luncheon, the 2006 Heritage Awards recognizing outstanding preservation around the state will be announced. Educational sessions and mobile workshops will help the public understand the benefits of heritage tourism. For information, visit mississippiheritage.com.

American Camellia Society president emeritus Art Landry will speak on “Appreciating and Nurturing Our Heirloom Camellias” at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 10, in the Student Union, Belhaven College, after which he will identify heirloom plants in the Eudora Welty House garden. Free. More information: 601-353-7762.

Beauvoir has been designated a Category 1 Endangered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service, giving it priority for NPS grant funding. For details, visit cr.nps.gov/landmarks.htm.