

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

MDAH Receives Major Grant

MDAH has been awarded a Department of the Interior *Save America's Treasures* grant in the amount of \$227,000 to purchase equipment that will enable the Department to make digital copies of the Department's WLBT Newsfilm Collection. The Newsfilm Collection comprises footage shot by WLBT between 1954 and 1971 that was later donated to MDAH; it is one of the few extant collections nationwide that visually documents the civil rights movement in the Deep South. According to a national survey only about ten percent of film and videotape produced 1950–1975 by local broadcast stations survives in public institutions; the vast majority of footage was lost when stations made the transition from film to videotape. The grant will sup-

port cleaning and repair of the acetate film and creation of digital copies of footage at greatest risk of loss.

Save America's Treasures grants are awarded through a partnership of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, National Park Service, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The grants help conserve significant U.S. cultural treasures that illustrate, interpret, and are associated with the great events, ideas, and individuals of our nation.

"Preservation goes beyond bricks and mortar," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. "It is about protecting

and maintaining . . . other important components of our culture and heritage that help to explain America's past to future generations."

National Trust president Richard Moe said, "For seven years, *Save America's Treasures* has helped ensure a brighter future for our past by recognizing and supporting the preservation of the places and collections that tell America's story."

By law, each award requires a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match. To contribute to the matching grant, send checks made out to the Foundation for Mississippi History to Foundation, MDAH, P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571. As the foundation is a non-profit organization, gifts are tax-deductible.

INSIDE:

Board Commends
Oxonians
Old Capitol
Shop Reopens
Conservation grants
Preservation News
New Books

Library Catalog Goes Live

On October 4 the catalog of the MDAH archives and library collection was made available on the Internet. The availability of the catalog online will help orient potential visitors to the scope of the collections and assist researchers in planning strategies for using their time most efficiently. In addition, it will bring worldwide attention to the wealth of resources in the MDAH archives. Descriptions of books, manuscripts, government documents, photographs, maps, microfilm, and other holdings of MDAH can be searched across collections or within collections, by author, title, subject, keyword, or by using a variety of specialized indexes. Since it was posted online, the catalog has already received more than 20,000 hits. To access the catalog, go to the MDAH Web site (www.mdah.state.ms.us/) and under "Archives and Library," click on "Catalog." Information on more than 130,000 items is available.

History is Lunch Series

A brown-bag lunch series, *History is Lunch* (acknowledgments to Alan Gurganus, *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*), continues on selected Wednesdays in the first-floor meeting room of the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. When programs feature the author of a new book, copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by authors. Sessions are from noon until 1 p.m., and drinks are provided. Parking is available in the adjacent Winter Building lot. For information, call 601-576-6857.

November 16: Historian Grady Howell, "Thanksgiving Day in Mississippi: From Proclamations to National Holiday, 1863." Howell's various books will be available for purchase.

November 30: Photographer Sherry Pace, *Victorian Houses of Mississippi*.

December 7: Mary Elizabeth Johnson and Carol Vickers, *Threading the Generations: A Mississippi Family's Quilt Legacy*.

December 14: Ernest Herndon and Scott B. Williams, *Paddling the Pascagoula*.

Musgrove Portrait To Be Dedicated

The portrait of David Ronald Musgrove, governor of Mississippi 2000-2004, will be dedicated to the Mississippi Hall of Governors in ceremonies in the Old Supreme Court Chamber, State Capitol, Jackson, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6. A reception will follow in the first-floor rotunda, sponsored by the law firm of Copeland, Cook, Taylor and Bush. The public is cordially invited to attend. The portrait was painted by Frank Norfleet

cont'd page 2

Old Capitol Awarded Conservation Grants

MDAH has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities totaling \$35,000 for use in conservation of the Old Capitol Museum's water-damaged artifact collection. The first, a \$30,000 NEH Chairman's Emergency Act grant, will provide assessment and conservation for paintings and other objects (\$10,000), wooden artifacts (\$10,000), and textiles (\$10,000). A grant of \$5,000 has been made by NEH through the Mississippi Humanities Council's Hurricane Emergency Relief Initiative. This grant will enable the museum to purchase a vacuum for the cleaning of fine textiles, a digital camera and software to document the collection, and new artifact storage boxes.

Portrait, cont'd

of St. Louis, Missouri. The governors' portraits are part of the Old Capitol collection, but in 1950 by legislative act a Hall of Governors was established in the State Capitol, and the distinguished portraits now hang there on the first floor. The portraits are partially funded by the Mississippi Legislature.

Native American Day

Saturday, November 5
10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Winterville
Mounds
featuring
Native American food
and storytelling,
demonstrations of
primitive weapons and
flintknapping

Highway 1, six miles north of
Greenville Call 662-334-4684
for more information

Old Capitol Staff Commended

"Due to the prompt, careful, and thorough response of Museum staff, all collection objects were safely moved to dry quarters. . . . This required a tremendous amount of coordinated work and was carefully orchestrated. The success of this recovery is due in large part to the painstaking care with which the institution's disaster response plan was created, and that five of the Museum's twenty employees were intimately familiar with it. The Museum is a model of efficient disaster response that is capable of providing a wonderful education to other institutions in the region following this event."

**Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian,
University of Utah, Association for State and Local
History disaster assessment team leader**

"Managing the Chaos on the Coast"

"The APT team would like to thank Ken P'Pool, Mingo Tingle, and Brenda Crook from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Without their support our effort would have not been possible. They have a small staff and they are doing a great job managing the chaos on the coast."

**Brian Robinson, Vice
President, Association for
Preservation Technology,
and professor, Savannah
College of Art and Design**

Rare Territorial Pamphlet Donated

MDAH recently acquired a copy of the "Rules of Order, Decorum and [Debate] for the Government of the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory," a twelve-page pamphlet printed in Natchez in 1812. According to the territorial records, fifty copies were printed and hand-stitched. The only known extant copy, inscribed on the inside cover by "William Montgomery," has been donated to MDAH by Samuel A. Tomlinson III of Natchez.

National Trust Team Tours

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast October 24-25 with MDAH director H. T. Holmes and Ken P'Pool, deputy state historic preservation officer. The Trust is making \$100,000 available in grants to help owners stabilize historic buildings before full restoration can be undertaken. Of the 1500 historic buildings on the coast, approximately 300 were obliterated, according to P'Pool; about 1,200 are standing.

Saving Local History

"I am writing to express appreciation for the help of MDAH in preserving the archives from the vault at the Society's building here at 'the Pass.' Three volunteers from MDAH helped collect the items which had been laid out on the building's slab to dry. They told me that they were from a different division [Archives and Library]. Alanna Patrick, David Pilcher, and Ashley Koostra were a pleasure to meet, and they were most helpful in getting the items saved from our vault packaged and moved to freezer storage in Gulfport."

**John G. Peterson, treasurer,
Pass Christian Historical Society**



The Order of the First Families of Mississippi met at Historic Jefferson College on October 1 and presented HJC with a check for \$1,000 for its Raymond Hall Renovation Project. Pictured are (left) Jim Barnett, MDAH Historic Properties director, and Clinton Bagley, MDAH historian and president of the Order of First Families.

Old Capitol Shop Reopens

The Old Capitol Museum is closed due to damage from Hurricane Katrina. But the Old Capitol Shop, which came through the storm intact, will reopen November 1 on the **first floor of the William F. Winter Building**, at the corner of North and Amite Streets, Jackson. Hours will remain the same: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. The Shop will be closed on Sundays. Parking is available for shop visitors in the adjacent Winter Building lot on North Street.

A **Holiday Open House** on November 19, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., will kick off the season and acquaint old and new friends with the Shop's new location. Featured will be the Shop's comprehensive **book collection** and **art and crafts** created by Mississippi artists. **Patti Carr Black**, former Old Capitol Museum director and author of *Art in Mississippi, 1720–1980*, will sign her new books, *Early Escapades: Eudora Welty* (University Press of Mississippi) and *Eudora Welty's World: Words on Nature* (Edge Press), and newscaster and local personality **Walt Grayson** will sign copies of his new book, *Looking Around Mississippi* (Donning Publishing Co.). For more information, call shop manager Melissa Taylor, 601-576-6921.

Arts and Preservation Forum

The theme of the 2005 Columbus Decorative Arts & Preservation Forum and Antiques Show and Sale is "George Washington Slept Here: The Colonial Revival in America, 1876–1930s." The event, presented by the Columbus Historic Foundation, will be held November 3–6. For more information, visit www.historic-columbus.org.

Board Tours Rowan Oak, Honors Preservationists

The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History held its quarterly meeting October 21 on the University of Mississippi campus. At a public reception at Rowan Oak, the newly restored home of William Faulkner, the board presented resolutions of commendation honoring organizations and citizens who have made notable contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history in Oxford and Lafayette County. Resolutions presented were as follows: Dr. Jay Johnson, University of Mississippi; the Skipwith Historical and Genea-



Above, Board president William F. Winter awards Board of Trustees resolutions of commendation to, left, Oxford mayor Richard Howorth and, right, to University of Mississippi president Robert C. Khayat. Below, panel of experts at Personal Treasures program examine historical objects brought by Oxford participants.



logical Society, Inc.; the Oxford-Lafayette County Heritage Foundation; Howorth & Associates Architects; the City of Oxford; Oxford Development Association; the Yoknapatawpha Heritage Foundation; Mrs. John F. Tatum; Mr. and Mrs. William Lewis; the University of Mississippi; and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi.

MDAH took its *Personal Treasures* program on the road for the first time to Oxford for two days, October 20–21, during the board visit. The *Personal Treasures* program provides a panel of experts to identify historical or collectible objects brought in by the public.



New Books for Holidays

Eudora Welty's World: Words on Nature, compiled by Patti Carr Black, with watercolor illustrations by Robin Whitfield. From Edge Press, \$20.

Early Escapades: Eudora Welty, edited by Patti Carr Black, presents poems, sketches, profiles, and satires that clearly predict one of the South's comic geniuses. From University of Mississippi Press, cloth, \$30.

Looking Around Mississippi, by Walt Grayson, Donning Publishing Co., price to be determined.

Mississippi Archaeology Q & A, by Evan Peacock, professor of anthropology, Cobb Institute of Archaeology, MSU, from University Press of Mississippi, \$48 cloth, \$18 paper.

In *The Writing Life*, novelist Ellen Gilchrist offers fifty essays on the transforming magic of literature. From University Press of Mississippi, cloth \$28.

Mojo Triangle: Birthplace of Country, Blues, Jazz & Rock 'n' Roll, by James L. Dickerson, is a Mississippian's angle on how and why it happened here. From Omnibus Press, \$24.95 cloth.

Mildred Nungester Wolfe, edited by Elizabeth Wolfe, is a retrospective of Wolfe's work featuring over forty color reproductions of her art, an introduction by author Ellen Douglas, and a chronology of Wolfe's life. From University Press of Mississippi, cloth \$35.

Home Sweet Homochitto, by Mississippi author and former Ole Miss and professional football player Paige Cothren, and his McComb cousin, Jimmy Carol Robertson, describes six generations of life in fifteen families living in "the most unusual com-

New Books, cont'd
community in Mississippi,” Homochitto, in Amite County. The 250-page book contains more than fifty illustrations. Orders benefit the Mt. Vernon Church in Homochitto. Send \$22 check made out to Mt. Vernon Church to Becky Robertson, 6938 Robertson Rd., Meadville, MS 39653.

Paths to a Middle Ground: The Diplomacy of Natchez, Boukfouka, Nogales, and San Fernando de las Barrancas, 1791–1795, by Charles A. Weeks, takes a closer look at diplomatic efforts with the Chickasaw. From the University of Alabama Press, cloth \$45.

In Splendid Land, Splendid People: The Chickasaw Indians to Removal, James R. Atkinson, retired historian with the National Park Service, traces the Chickasaw Indians as far back as the record allows. From University of Alabama Press, \$65 cloth, \$34.95 paper.

Away Down South: A History of Southern Identity, by James C. Cobb, explains how the South first came to be seen—and then came to see itself—as a region apart from the rest of America. From Oxford University Press, cloth \$30.

Sweetly Southern: Delicious Desserts from the Sons of

MDAH Hurricane Recovery Efforts

A recent count regarding MDAH time spent for Katrina recovery (compiled for FEMA’s information) revealed the following:

Number of trips to coast: 50

Number of miles traveled: 19,916

Number of organizations assisted: 81

Number of historic properties surveyed: 1,354

Total recovery effort (including recovery work for MDAH properties):

Overtime hours: 2,853

Confederate Veterans, edited by Lynda Moreau, offers more than 200 recipes, from “Rebel Rum Cake” to “Huckleberry Pie” and includes photographs and anecdotes about Confederate ancestors. From Pelican Publishing Company, \$22.40.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation offers a catalog of books and smaller publications on disaster response, saving historic buildings, tax-advantaged rehabilitation, and much more. The catalog is available by mail (from Preservation Books, National Trust, Dept. 15, Washington, D.C. 20055-0015) or online at www.preservationbooks.org.

Unless special ordering information is provided, these books are available at the Old Capitol Shop. Call 601-576-6921 to order.

Photos at Delta Blues Museum

Photographer Bill Steber’s collection of photographs from the Mississippi Delta opened October 1 at the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale. The series of large black and white photos captures evocative scenes from African American Mississippi Delta life and portrays elements of the culture that produced the blues: cotton fields, country churches, baptisms, folk religion, and more. The photos on display are largely scenes from Coahoma County.

Steber, winner of many awards for his work as staff photographer at the *Tennessean* in Nashville, began photographing Delta life in 1993. His photographs have appeared in numerous books, magazines, and exhibits. For more information call the Delta Blues Museum at 662-627-6820.

Cleveland Honored

Cleveland, Mississippi, has recently been designated a **Preserve America Community**, a national recognition of the town’s protection and celebration of its heritage, its use of historic assets for economic development and revitalization, and its encouragement of the appreciation of these assets through education and heritage tourism. Information on Cleveland will be posted at preserveamerica.gov. The site also provides an application form to assist other communities, counties, or Native American tribes in applying for Preserve America designation. Preserve America is a White House initiative in cooperation with other agencies.

Mark Your Calendar

Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight

Visit

Christmas Past

**Friday, December 2
5-7 p.m.**

**For information call
601- 576- 6920.**