

# Mississippi History

# MDAH

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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

# NEWSLETTER

## Grants Awarded to Old Spanish Fort, Coast School

MDAH has awarded a \$250,000 grant to Pascagoula's eighteenth-century La Pointe-Krebs House—also known as Old Spanish Fort and perhaps the oldest building in the state—and a \$100,000 grant to the only remaining Rosenwald school on the Gulf Coast, the 1928 Randolph School, originally the Pass Christian Colored School.

Interior and exterior renovations and corrections to previous rehabilitation work will be made to the La Pointe-Krebs House. The Randolph School, built with help from the Julius Rosenwald Fund—a private organization founded in the 1910s

that helped build more than 5,000 schools for African Americans in the South—will undergo a complete interior rehabilitation and exterior restoration and will be used as a community center. Only fourteen former Rosenwald schools survive in the state.

The award was made as part of a new federal grant program administered by MDAH that will distribute \$26 million for properties along the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Katrina. The grants are available for publicly or privately owned structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## National Register News

Two nineteenth-century houses and a nineteenth-century school for African Americans have been recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, at its meeting on September 21 the Historic Preservation Professional Review Board approved an amendment to Meridian's Downtown Historic District. The board will forward its decisions to the U.S. Department of the Interior for final review.

The Stephen H. Wilkes House, located in rural Jefferson Davis County, is a hall-and-parlor-plan log house built around 1820; very few alterations have been made. The structure is owned by the City of Bassfield.

The circa 1877 Captain Jack C. Hardy House in Brookhaven is a rare surviving example of an Italianate town villa without a tower. The Italianate style, begun in England, dominated American house construction style 1850-80.

The Southern Christian Institute (SCI) in Edwards was founded in 1875 by the Home Missionary Society of the Disciples of Christ. Northern missionary societies created some of the first schools for southern African Americans after the Civil War. The SCI operated as a school from 1882 until 1954, when it merged with Tougaloo College. In 1962-63 the SCI campus served as the site of the first statewide civil rights movement training, conducted under the leadership of SNCC field secretary Bob Moses and Bernice Robinson.

## Highlights from History Is Lunch

Nathan Bennett's Recipe for "Whole Baked Hog"  
Gut hog and cut off feet.  
Gash the hide all over with a criss-cross pattern, cutting down through the hide to the meat.  
Sprinkle black pepper, garlic salt, and onion salt into gashes.  
Bake it in an oven until the hide is tender.

*From Jim Barnett's September 20 "Wildcat Gravy: A Life History of Nathan Bennett."*

## Throw Out Textbooks

Sam Brookes, USDA National Forests archaeologist, reported October 4 that scholars are rewriting school textbooks, as new information about the Middle Archaic period of 5000–3000 BC is causing a revolution in American archaeology. Radiocarbon dates and new diagnostic artifacts now indicate that the earliest mounds and mound groups in the world were built here in our backyard—in Louisiana and Mississippi. Mounds such as Monte Sano in Louisiana (4270 BC) predate the Great Wall of China (250 BC), Stonehenge (2500 BC) and the first Egyptian pyramid (2650 BC).

The Middle Archaic was not, it seems, a period of only pre-agricultural hunter-gatherers but also of complex social organization. Network trade over a wide area dealt not only in necessary materials but also in exotic artifacts with symbolic meaning. Archaeologists are scrambling to establish models to explain this development.



MDAH Board president William Winter (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and director H. T. Holmes (right) present a resolution of commendation to the people of Turkey Creek, a historic African American community in Gulfport, on the board's recent trip to the Gulf Coast. Accepting the resolution are Martha Snelling (left), the Rev. Calvin H. Jackson, Sr. (center), and Gulfport alderman Ella Holmes-Hines (2<sup>nd</sup> from right). The board also visited the Old Spanish Fort, the Walter Anderson Museum, Scenic Drive in Pass Christian, and Beauvoir, and held a public reception at the Biloxi Pier. The Board held its quarterly meeting at the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad Building in Gulfport, restored by the Mississippi Power Company as its headquarters.

## MDAH Events

### Jackson

#### War Memorial Building

**Friday, November 3**, the Museum of Mississippi History's Twenty-third **Annual Social Studies Teachers Workshop** for 4th- through 12th-grade teachers. Information: 601-576-6920.

#### Manship House Museum 420 E. Fortification St.

**Monday, November 6**, 2 p.m. at the Manship House Museum, Jackson. **Victorian Holiday Table-scapes**. Learn nineteenth-century fashions to spruce up your household holiday decorations. Information: 601-961-4724.

#### William F. Winter Building, 200 North Street

**Wednesday, November 1**, noon-1 p.m. **History Is Lunch: William Jeanes**, former editor of *Car and Driver* magazine tells about surviving Katrina: "**Katrina: The Ride of a Lifetime.**"

**Wednesday November 8**, noon-1 p.m. **History Is Lunch:** Author **Alan Cockrell**, discussing and signing copies of his new book, *Drilling Ahead: The Quest for Oil in the Deep South, 1945-2005*. For information call 601-576-6857.

**Saturday, November 18**, 10-12:30 p.m. *Old Capitol Shop Holiday Open House* featuring Governor William F. Winter and Andy Mullins signing *The Mea-*

*sure of Our Days*, and **Wyatt Waters** and Junior League members signing *The Year of the Stars*. Information: 601-576-6921.

### Greenville

#### Winterville Mounds

#### 2415 Highway 1 North

**Friday-Saturday, November 3-4, Native American School Days**. School groups participate in Native American activities such as javelin throwing, flintknapping, and more. The public is invited to view demonstrations **November 4** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 662-334-4684.

### Natchez

#### Grand Village

#### 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.

**Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.** Grand Village historian Tom Scarborough will talk about the Native American game of **stickball**, a precursor of the modern game of lacrosse, and **Saturday, November 11, lacrosse** games featuring regional teams. Information: 601-446-6502.

#### Historic Jefferson College, Washington

**Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, Civil War Reenactment of the Wirt Adams Raid into Natchez**. Information: 601-442-2901.

#### Historic Natchez Foundation Building, 108 South Commerce

**Saturday, November 18**, 1:30-4 p.m. University of Delaware and

Winterthur Museum Conservators will lead an **Artifact Recovery Workshop** on recovering damaged furniture and wooden objects. Participants may bring a single artifact to be evaluated. For information call 601-576-6879.

## Conserving Damaged Art

Conservators Barbara Roberts and Jane Hutchins have published *First Aid for Art*, which provides guidance on conserving objects after a disaster. Antique Collectors' Club is the distributor of the \$19.95 volume, available from [antiquecc.com](http://antiquecc.com) or other booksellers.

## Why History?

"Why Are We Interested in History?" is the title of a Millsaps College Friday Forum November 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Ford Academic Complex, Room 215. Steven G. Smith, professor of Philosophy and Religion Studies, probes the motivations for our concept of history and examines modern expansions of history in sports, feminism, and the so-called "natural history" of things like dinosaurs. For more information contact Allison Mays at 601-974-1083

**Good Old Days**  
Burton's was a popular  
Jackson eatery in the  
1930s and 40s. 

## Mississippi History NOW

*Mississippi History Now* continues into its sixth year with its usual high quality articles: "Voices of Katrina," by Stephen Sloan; Dennis J. Mitchell's history of the Grand Opera House in Meridian; "Cotton and a Global Economy: Mississippi 1800-1860," by Eugene R. Dattel; and for November, "Jews in Mississippi," by Stuart Rockoff.

*Mississippi History Now* has established the Clio List, composed of people who pledge annual contributions of \$200 or more. To become a member, send your check made out to the Mississippi Historical Society, earmarked for *Mississippi History Now*, to P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571.

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Broiled Steak	Roast Beef or Pork
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Salad	Dessert
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