

## MHS Awards Prizes, Elects Officers

The Mississippi Historical Society presented its most prestigious awards at its annual meeting, held in Jackson March 3-5. "Transforming Medicine in Twentieth-Century Mississippi" was the meeting's theme, and presentations ranged from the state's war on pellagra in the early twentieth century to the first successful heart transplant, performed at the University Medical Center in 1963.

**William K. Scarborough**, professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, was awarded the society's highest honor, the **B. L. C. Wailes Award** for national distinction in the field of history.



Scarborough (right) and Chester (Bo) Morgan, Awards Committee

Scarborough's publications include the award-winning *The Overseer: Plantation Management in the Old South* and *Masters of the Big House: Elite Slaveholders of the Mid-Nineteenth Century South*. A former Mississippi Historical Society

president, Scarborough received the 1993 MHS Willie D. Halsell Prize and was awarded the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award from the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in 2004. Scarborough was the Charles W. Moorman Distinguished Alumni Professor in the Humanities at USM 1996-98.

Millsaps College history professor emeritus **W. Charles Sallis** is the winner of the 2005 **Dunbar Rowland Award**, given



Sallis (left) and Dr. William Sistrunk, Awards chair

in recognition of his major contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history. Sallis began teaching history at Millsaps in 1968 and was named Millsaps Distinguished Professor in 1973. He has served as director of the Heritage Program, an interdisciplinary humanities course for freshmen, and History Department chair. Sallis has published a number of distinguished works, including *Mississippi: Conflict and Change*, coauthored with James W. Loewen, which was named the outstanding work in southern history for 1975 by the Southern Regional Council.



McLemore winner Alan Huffman

*Mississippi In Africa: The Saga of the Slaves of Prospect Hill Plantation and Their Legacy in Liberia Today* by **Alan Huffman** won the **McLemore Prize** for best Mississippi history book of 2004. *Mississippi in Africa* tells the story of a group of two hundred freed Jefferson County, Mississippi, slaves who sailed to Liberia to help build a new colony along with other freedmen sponsored by the American Colonization Society. Huffman, who lives in Bolton, is the author of the photo-essay book *Ten Point: Deer Camp in the Mississippi Delta* and has written for numerous other publications.



Todd Boucher (right) and Sam Olden, Bettersworth Prize chair

**Todd Boucher**, Biloxi High School, received the **John K. Bettersworth Award**, presented annually to an outstanding history teacher. Boucher is in only his fourth year of teaching but he chairs the Mississippi Junior Historical Society and leads his school's Veterans History Project and National History Day efforts. He earned degrees from Alcorn State University and William Carey College.



Morris (right) and her MSU thesis director Connie Lester

**Sara Elizabeth Morris**, doctoral student at Purdue University, won the **Glover Moore Prize** for the best master's thesis in Mississippi history for 2004: "'Good Equipment Makes A Good Homemaker Better': Promoters of Domestic Technology in Mississippi, 1930-1940."



Elliott (right) and Sistrunk

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## MHS, cont'd

**Jack D. Elliott, Jr.**, MDAH historical archaeologist, won the **Willie D. Halsell Prize** for the best article published during 2004 in the *Journal of Mississippi History*. Elliott's article, "The Buried City: A Meditation on History and Place," was published in the summer issue.



Maralyn Bullion, Oxford (OLCHF president), and Sistrunk

The **Oxford-Lafayette County Heritage Foundation** received the **Frank E. Everett Jr. Award** for outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. It has been instrumental in such projects as the L.Q.C. Lamar House restoration and in securing the designation of Oxford's first historic district.



Cresswell (right) with MHN editor Peggy Jeanes

**Stephen Cresswell**, history professor, West Virginia Wesleyan College, was the inaugural winner of the **Mississippi History NOW Award** for the best article on the MHN Web site in 2004: "Was Mississippi a Part of the Progressive Movement?"

**Awards of Merit** were presented to the **Mississippi Museum of Art** for its exhibit *Pasionate Observer: Eudora Welty among Artists of the Thirties*; the **Walter Anderson Museum of Art** for its centennial exhibit *Walter Anderson: Everything I See Is New and Strange*; the **Old**

**Capitol Museum of Mississippi History** for its exhibit *Two Rivers Unleashed*; **Louis Taunton**, mayor, City of Louisville, for indexing Winston County records, co-authoring *Winston County and Its People*, and donating historical materials to MDAH; and **Nanciann Parkes Suber**, Natchez, for promoting the study of history and genealogy through her widely read *Clarion-Ledger* column "Family Trees."

The Society also honored the recently retired fifth MDAH director by establishing the **Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award**, which will be given periodically as merited.

**Newly elected MHS officers** are Martha Swain, Mississippi State University, president; Jeanne Luckett, Jackson, vice-president; and Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH director emeritus, secretary-treasurer.

**New MHS board of directors members** for 2005–2008 are Nancy Bercau, University of Mississippi; Westley F. Busbee, Jr., Belhaven College; James Hollandsworth, Jackson; Mimi Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation; Andrea Odom, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi; and Kenneth Williams, Alcorn State University. Board of Publications members Libby Aydelott, Clinton, and Dennis Mitchell, Mississippi State University-Meridian, were reelected to second terms.



Martha Swain (right) accepts gavel for 2005-06 from Donna Dye, outgoing president.

**Join MHS. Receive the *Journal of Mississippi History* plus Old Capitol Shop discounts. To join call 601/576-6849.**

## William Johnson House Opens

On February 26, opening ceremonies were held during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration for the William Johnson House, a National Park Service property. William Johnson, 1809-1851, a freed slave, lived in the house with his family and described their life there in his illustrated diary, later published as *William Johnson's*

*Natchez: The Ante-Bellum Diary of a Free Negro*. The diary and other sources supplied information for the museum (first floor) and restored family quarters (second floor). At the conference, well known scholars explored topics related to Johnson, free persons of color, and the colonial period of Natchez.

Right: Participating in NLCC events were (left) Tamara Laville, whose great-grandfather was a free person of color in Natchez and a contemporary of William Johnson, and Mississippi writer Ellen Douglas.



Left: One of many exhibits is a scale model showing the configuration of the William Johnson House and adjacent buildings.



**MDAH Invites Legislature to Breakfast** William F. Winter, president, MDAH Board of Trustees (left), greets Representative Mary Ann Stevens as Jeanne Luckett (rear), Communication Arts Company, welcomes Senator Hillman Frazier to the Winter Building March 9 for a presentation on plans for the new Museum of Mississippi History.

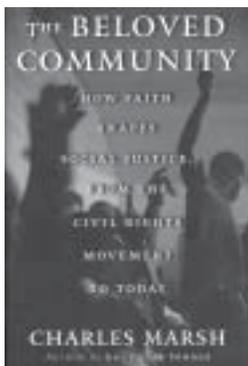
The Old Capitol Museum's exhibit *The Struggle for Equal Rights*, the first permanent civil rights exhibit in the country, has been named a Southern Travel Treasure in the AAA magazine *Southern Traveler*.

# New Spring Books

***The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to Today*** is

Charles Marsh's third book dealing with the civil rights movement. *God's Long Summer* examined key figures of the Mississippi movement; in *The Last Days* Marsh dealt with his childhood in Laurel, Missis-

sippi, when his father, a Baptist minister, grappled with civil rights issues. In *The Beloved Community* Marsh's focus is broader—more theological and national—but he devotes a long chapter to the valiant efforts of activist John Perkins. Author Lauren F. Winner writes, "Marsh brings the eloquence of a memoirist, the skill of a historian, and the insight of a theologian to this remarkable study of Christian faith and the pursuit of so-



cial justice in America." From Basic Books, \$26 cloth.

***The History of the American Indians***, by James

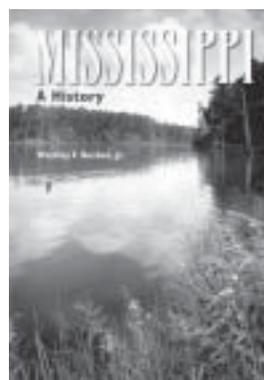
Adair, originally published in 1775 and one of the most valuable primary accounts of the southeastern Indians, is offered by the University of Alabama Press in a new edition by historian and editor Kathryn E. Holland Braund. James Adair was an Englishman who lived among Native Americans from 1735 to 1768. His acceptance by the Creeks, Choctaws, Cherokees, and Chickasaws provided him the opportunity to record, compare, and analyze their cultures and traditions. This edition contains an essay on the life and history of James Adair, annotated text, illustrations and maps, and bibliography. Cloth, 608 pages, \$65.

***Mississippi: A History***, by Westley F. Busbee, Jr., Belhaven College, is the first textbook de-

signed specifically for use in college-level courses in Mississippi history. Busbee, who has taught Mississippi history to college classes for more than thirty years, seeks to explain why the state—with its rich natural and human resources—has continued to compare unfavorably with other states in critical areas such as per capita income, adult literacy, and public health. This innovative survey is a new resource for all students of Mississippi history. From Harlan Davidson, Inc., \$42.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

***Mojo Triangle: Birthplace of Country, Blues, Jazz, and Rock 'n' Roll***, by James L. Dickerson, claims that the triangle formed by drawing a straight line from New Orleans to Nashville, then over to Memphis, and back down to New Orleans via Highway 61 is the geographical birthplace of America's original music—

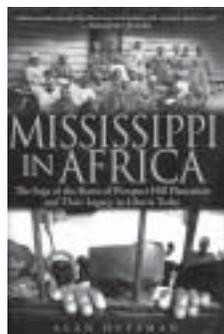
blues, country, jazz, and rock 'n' roll. In exploring this idea, Mississippi native Dickerson delves into the physical and spiritual surroundings of the people who created the music, as well as other influences: Indians, floods, earthquakes, slavery, the Great Depression, and more. Fifty photos are included. From Omnibus Press, \$29.95 cloth.



Vicksburg historian Gordon Cotton offers a new volume created from previously unpublished letters of Emma Balfour—famous for her Civil War diary: ***From the Letters of Emma Balfour, 1847-1857***. Cotton decided that Balfour's contribution to history is far more significant than evinced by her diary alone. "Her candid opinions, coupled with intellectual curiosity, offer insightful observations of life in antebellum Vicksburg." Available from the Old Court House Museum (601/636-0741), \$29.95 cloth.

## Recent Books by MHS Annual Meeting Participants

The winner of this year's McLemore Prize for best book on Mississippi history during the previous year is Alan Huffman's ***Mississippi in Africa: The Saga of the Slaves of Prospect Hill Plantation and Their Legacy in Liberia Today***. Huffman traces the lives of freed slaves who went to Africa, where they created a world in some ways similar to the one they escaped. William F. Winter calls it "a saga of immense present-day significance." From Gotham Books, \$27.



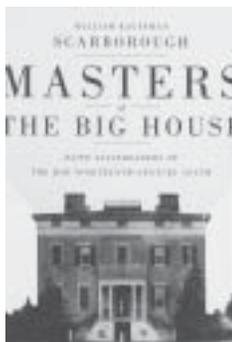
***Masters of the Big House: Elite Slaveholders of the Mid-Nineteenth Century South*** is the

new book by William K. Scarborough, winner of the B. L. C. Wailes Prize for 2005. A winner of the Landry Prize, the volume amasses a wealth of information and pro-



duces compelling portraits of these slaveholding entrepreneurs. From Louisiana State University Press, \$39.95 cloth.

***Goldberger's War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader***, by Alan M. Kraut, is the story of the pioneer who helped tracked



down the cause of pellagra (with most of the research done in Mississippi, as participants at the recent a n n u a l

meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society learned). The book also describes the development of the public health movement in the South. Published in 2003 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$15 paper.



***Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South***, by Thomas J. Ward, Jr., explores not only medical history during this period but also class and community. Ward describes the experiences of black

physicians and the impact they had—or did not have—on their communities and looks at the relationship between physicians as an educated elite and the uneducated masses among whom they lived. From the University of Arkansas Press, \$34.95 cloth.

**Most books are available at the Old Capitol Shop. Call 601/576-6921 to order.**

## April MDAH Events

The annual **Spring Flea Market** will be held at **Historic Jefferson College**, Washington, on Saturday, **April 2**. Admission is free. For twenty or more years the Adams County Extension Office held spring and fall flea markets. When they were discontinued several years ago, Historic Jefferson College decided to hold these popular events, attracting citizens from the area to the historic site. For more information, call 601/442-2901.

The **Manship House Museum**, 420 E. Fortification, Jackson, invites the public to **"A Saturday with Shakespeare"** on **April 16** at 1 p.m. The Mississippi College Tribal Players will perform scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* and other Shakespearean works. Admission is free. For more information, call 601/961-4724.

On Saturday, **April 30**, children ages five to twelve can participate in making crafts from bygone years at the **Old Capitol Museum's Crafts From the Past**. Admission is free. For more information call the Old Capitol Museum, Jackson, at 601/ 576-6920.

## Holt Collier Refuge Dedicated

On February 22, the Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge—the first national wildlife refuge named after an African American—was dedicated in ceremonies at the Mississippi Natural Science Museum, Jackson. The refuge honors the legacy of Holt Collier—a freed slave, Confederate War veteran, and legendary hunting sportsman—who guided President Theodore Roosevelt on his 1902 Mississippi hunting trip. The Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge was authorized by Congress in

*(Right top) Senator Thad Cochran addresses crowd; (center) Representative Bennie Thompson congratulates descendants of Holt Collier; (bottom) Holt Collier scholar Minor Buchanan speaks.*

### Plan Now: May is Historic Preservation Month

Historic Preservation Week has been expanded to Historic Preservation Month (May) by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with the theme "Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads." For information about planning activities, visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org/preservationmonth/index.asp>.

January 2004 through legislation sponsored by Senator Thad Cochran and Congressman Bennie Thompson, both of whom spoke at the dedication. The refuge covers 1,433 acres and is located southeast of Greenville, near Hollandale. Currently, rabbit hunting and archery hunting for deer are allowed on the refuge. Future plans include expanded recreational opportunities. President Theodore Roosevelt established the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903.

### Journal Indexes Available

Two cumulative indexes to the *Journal of Mississippi History* are available from the Old Capitol Shop. The first covers volumes 1-20 and the second volumes 21-40. An index for volumes 40-60 will be produced as funding becomes available. The indexes are \$45 each, plus shipping and state tax when applicable. To order, call the Shop at 601/ 576-6921.

