

Mississippi History

MDAH

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NEWSLETTER

Communities Rally for Museum Meetings

Right, Museums director Lucy Allen invites discussion at Biloxi meeting; below, MDAH director H.T. Holmes speaks at Jackson gathering.



Participation around the state at MDAH community meetings has demonstrated that citizens are excited about the



new Museum of Mississippi History and are interested in expressing their priorities for its exhibits. Meetings are scheduled for **McComb** (August 2, Society Hill Baptist Church), **Oxford** (August 4, Lafayette

County and Oxford Library), and **Vicksburg** (August 11, Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation). For more information, contact Cindy Gardner, Old Capitol Museum, 601-576-6901, cgardner@mdah.state.ms.us.



Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans present \$17,100 to conserve a rare Civil War battle flag. Above (l-r) MDAH director H.T. Holmes; Ward Calhoun, Miss. Div. SCV; Old Capitol Museum collections curator Michael Wright; Ron Stowers, Miss. Div. SCV; and Old Capitol Museum director Lucy Allen.

Marrs Encore

Suzanne Marrs, Millsaps professor and Welty scholar, led four popular discussion sessions at the Winter Archives and History Building during June on stories by Eudora Welty. On August 24 Marrs will return to the Winter Building at noon to read from her new biography, *Eudora Welty: A Life*, and autograph copies. Bring your lunch. Copies will be available for purchase; members of the Mississippi Historical Society receive a ten percent discount.

Welty Papers Update

MDAH's Eudora Welty Collection—papers, photographs, and other materials donated by Welty beginning in 1957—will more than double in size with the addition of Welty papers transferred from her estate to MDAH in June. As the accretion is integrated into the collection over the next several years, some portions of the collection normally available to the public will be temporarily closed. Welty researchers may wish to call the Archives and Library Division, 601-576-6876, to check availability.

Forks Site Studied

Jay Johnson, archaeology professor at the University of Mississippi, conducted a remote sensing study of the Forks of the Road slave market site in Natchez July 18-19. Remote sensing—using ground-penetrating radar and measuring magnetic properties—is a non-

Foundation Established

MDAH announces the establishment of the Foundation for Mississippi History, a non-profit organization that will raise funds to help support the work of the department and historical work throughout the state. The slate for the Foundation's board of directors is not yet complete.

"For some time we have needed an organized effort to elicit public and private support for our programs" said MDAH director H. T. Holmes, "and now we have a foundation and soon will have a distinguished board of directors to direct that worthy effort. We will be contacting friends who care deeply about history—and would like to have a new history museum for Mississippi during their lifetimes or for their children to enjoy." Gifts are tax deductible and will be critical in funding the new Museum of Mississippi History, the Foundation's first project.

Please contribute to the Foundation of Mississippi History. Make checks payable to the Foundation for Mississippi History and mail to P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571.

invasive way of locating archaeological features. This information will be useful in guiding archaeological excavations at the site. Members of the Natchez historical community provided lodging for Johnson and his crew, who made the study at no charge.

Wells Gallery Rededicated

A gallery dedicated to pioneer rights activist Ida B. Wells was rededicated July 15 in ceremonies celebrating the restoration of the historic Spires Boling House in Holly Springs. The house is the birth site of anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells (she was born on the plantation, where her mother was a slave). Restoration of the house was made possible through an African American Heritage Preservation grant funded by the Mississippi Legislature in 2000. H.T. Holmes, MDAH director, spoke at the rededication ceremonies.

Underground Railroad

Regional coordinators of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) Program will meet in Natchez August 30-September 1, 2005. NTF staff will discuss the NTF membership application process and conduct a tour of sites associated with slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War in the Natchez area. For more information please visit the NTF Web site, www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr. For local information, contact the Natchez National Historical Park 601-442-7049 or Ser Seshs Ab Heter-CM Boxley, Friends of the Forks of the Roads, 601-442-4719.

“Lost” Marriage Certificates Discovered

Patricia Young, librarian at the Lafayette County and Oxford Library, announces the availability of approximately 19,000 marriage certificates that were discovered in the Old Courthouse at Oxford. The certificates date from 1861 through 1944. An index — *Marriage Records: “Lost” Paper Records Of Lafayette County, Mississippi (1861 –1944)*—is available for purchase. Volume 1 (A-L) is \$25 and Volume 2 (M-Z) is \$23; the set of two is \$45. Please add \$5 shipping and mail order to the Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society, Box 1382, Oxford, MS 38655. The public can also order copies of particular certificates. For information, contact Patricia Young, 662-234-5781.

Shopping in the Nineteenth-Century

Come to the **Manship House Museum** on Saturday, August 13, at 2 p.m. and discover what shopping was like for Jacksonians in the mid-to-late 1800s. Ted Ownby, University of Mississippi, explores which people shopped, where they shopped, and what they bought. For more information call 601-961-4724. Visit the Manship House online at mdah.state.ms.us.

Shelby Foote, 1917-2005

Shelby Foote, author of five novels and the distinguished three-volume *The Civil War: A Narrative*, died June 28. A Greenville native, Foote had as his early mentor William Alexander Percy. After publishing the novel *Shiloh*, Foote was contacted by Bennett Cerf, editor at Random House, who asked him to write a history of the entire war. The task took him twenty years. Shelby Foote was a friend to MDAH over the years, contributing materials and speaking at Department and Mississippi Historical Society events, always to capacity crowds. In 1992 the Society presented him the B. L. C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history.

New School Guidelines

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Historic Neighborhood Schools on its endangered places list in 2000, it attempted to counter negative myths about renovating older school buildings. Now the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) has released four new publications that support the maintenance and rehabilitation of our older schools, available at CEFPI's web site (www.cefpi.org).

Thomas D. Clark, 1903-2005

Historian Thomas Clark, a native of Louisville, Mississippi, died June 28. He would have been 102 on July 14. Clark was the author, co-author, or editor of approximately three dozen books, including *A History of Kentucky*, a text that served the state for more than half a century.

Although he taught at the University of Kentucky for 37 years, his influence extended far beyond Kentucky. “Dr. Clark was a long-distance mentor to many of us who looked to him for his very progressive writing,” said former Mississippi governor William F. Winter. “He showed us that the South was diminishing itself by clinging to an old way of life.” Clark received many honors during his life, including being president of both the Southern Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians. In 1990 the Mississippi Historical Society presented Clark the B. L. C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history.

Grow camellias indoors?

Visit the Manship House Museum and find out about “window gathering” and more.