

Mississippi History

MDAH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 51, No. 12

December 2009

Contents © 2009 Mississippi Department of Archives and History
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Governor To Speak at Statehood Day

Governor Haley Barbour will be the speaker for the inaugural Statehood Day celebration at the Old Capitol Museum. The program, to be held at noon on Thursday, December 10, will commemorate the 192nd anniversary of Mississippi's entrance into the Union. A reception will follow.



Governor Haley Barbour

"We are honored to have Governor Barbour kick off this

new annual series," said Clay Williams, Old Capitol Museum director. "Mississippi's path to statehood is part of what we teach in our mission of educating the public about the Old Capitol's place in our history."

The Mississippi Territory was organized in 1798 and encompassed both modern-day Mississippi and Alabama. On December 10,

1817, President James Monroe signed the resolution admitting Mississippi into the Union as the twentieth state.

The Old Capitol, Jackson's oldest building, is a National Historic Landmark. The museum interprets the distinguished history of the building that served as Mississippi's statehouse from 1839 to 1903. Located on State Street at Capitol, the museum's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, free of charge. For more information call 601-576-6920.

Free Archival Workshop Dec. 15

A free workshop for libraries, museums, and other organizations will be held in Jackson on Tuesday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Old Capitol Museum. The workshop will focus on the arrangement, description, and preservation of historical materials such as letters, diaries, photographs, and audio tapes.

Space is limited. Registration deadline is December 8. To register, contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6872.

Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour Dec. 4

Grand public buildings of the capital city will sport traditional holiday decorations for the fourteenth annual Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour on Friday, December 4. This year the restored Old Capitol rejoins the tour, which also showcases the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Manship House, and William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

Free transportation will take visitors from site to site from 5 to 8 p.m. Parking is available at the Old Capitol, State Capitol, Manship House, and Winter Building.

The Old Capitol Museum will be decked with seasonal greenery in the style used in 1840 when local women prepared the building for a visit by Andrew Jackson. The Old Capitol will have the Mississippi Boys Choir at 5 p.m., the Hinds Brass Ensemble at 5:45 p.m., the Jackson

Prep Choir at 6:30 p.m. and the Jim Hill High School Choir at 7:15 p.m. There will be holiday craft activities for children.

The trains will run through the model town of Possum Ridge at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. There will be readings from *A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge*, the children's book inspired by the exhibit. Copies of *A Special Visitor* will be on sale, and illustrator Chuck Galey will be available to sign copies.

The Mississippi State Capitol will be decorated with Mississippi-grown Leyland Cypress Christmas trees, garlands, and poinsettias. Visitors will be entertained by local school and church choirs.

The circa-1841 Governor's Mansion (pictured above right) will feature traditional holiday decorations of seasonal greenery and poinsettias and live holiday



piano music.

The Manship House Museum, the home of Jackson's Civil War mayor, Charles Henry Manship, will be dressed for the holidays with decorations like those the Manship family used—fresh pine garlands, holly, and other native greenery. Musical entertainment will be Kindred Spirits at 5 p.m.,

First Presbyterian Day School Choir at 5:30 p.m., St. Philip's Figgy Pudding Singers at 6 p.m., Wells United Methodist Church Choir at 6:30 p.m., Pearl High School Singers at 7 p.m., and Anderson United Methodist Church Choir at 7:30 p.m.

For more information call 601-576-6925.

DECEMBER MDAH CALENDAR

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North
662-334-4684
info@wintervillemounds.com

Sunday, December 6, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. *Christmas Open House.* Celebrate the holidays with music and refreshments.

JACKSON

Old Capitol Museum

State Street at Capitol
601-576-6920
info@oldcapitolmuseum.com

December 2, 9, and 16, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. *Sounds of the Season.* Enjoy refreshments and hear choirs sing favorites from the holidays.

History Is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m.
601-576-6998

Wednesday, Dec. 2—Jack La-

mar Mayfield will discuss his book *Oxford and Ole Miss.*

Wednesday, Dec. 9—University of Mississippi history professor Charles Eagles will discuss his book *The Price of Defiance: James Meredith and the Integration of Ole Miss.*

Wednesday, Dec. 16—Archaeologist Lee Arco will talk about excavations at the Jaketown archaeological site in Humphreys County.

Winter Archives Building

200 North Street
601-576-6932

Through December 23, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. *Winter Holidays.* See the model trains of Possum Ridge and historical toys and Christmas trees. School tours by reservation Thursdays and Fridays, December 3–18, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Governor's Mansion

300 East Capitol Street
601-359-6421

December 4–23. *Christmas at the Governor's Mansion.* The historic section of the Governor's Mansion features traditional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. Reservations required for groups of ten or more.

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724
info@manshiphouse.com

December 4–23. Daily tours feature Victorian-style decorations Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Reservations required for groups of ten or more.

Monday, December 7, 3:30–4:30 p.m. *St. Nicholas Day Craft Workshop.* Children ages five to twelve will make Victorian Christmas crafts. Reservations required.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@historicjeffersoncollege.com

December 14–31. *Celebration of Christmas Trees.* School groups and home educators adopt Christmas trees and decorate them for class projects.

Saturday, December 19, 10–11:30 a.m. (ages 6–8) and 2–3:30 p.m. (ages 9–12). *EXPLORE! Christmas Ornaments.* Make and decorate several ornaments for the family tree. Parents and grandparents are welcome to stay and learn. \$10 pre-registration fee.