

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Deputy Director Tapped to Lead MDAH

Katherine Drayne Blount has been named the seventh director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The Board of Trustees made the decision at a special meeting on September 4. Current director H.T. Holmes will continue to serve in the position until January 31, 2015.

“Katie Blount’s twenty years of experience working with all divisions and programs of MDAH gives her a thorough understanding of the department,” said MDAH board president Kane Ditto. “I am confident

that under her leadership the department will continue to build on the progress made by Hank Holmes over the last decade and embrace new opportunities to strengthen the services it offers the people of Mississippi.”

Blount has been with MDAH since 1994, working for the last ten years in the director’s office. Since 2011 she has served



as deputy director for communication, overseeing the department’s strategic planning process and working with the department director and deputy director for administration to make decisions on budget, personnel, and policy issues.

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the two outstanding directors under whom I have served, Elbert Hilliard and H.T. Holmes,” Blount said. “This is an exciting time at MDAH. Across the state and here in Jackson, the staff is working hard to collect

and preserve Mississippi’s extraordinary historic resources. And in just three years we will celebrate the state’s bicentennial by opening the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, two new museums that will join with many others across the state in telling stories of our shared past and our shared culture.”

Blount earned her B.A. from the University of Michigan in English and history and her M.A. in southern studies from the University of Mississippi.

State Capitol Undergoing Restoration

A repair and restoration project is underway at the State Capitol that will leave the 111-year-old structure in its best shape in decades. Priorities are to address longtime water leaks, replace materials damaged by water and weather, and clean the exterior. “Leaks have occurred regularly in some parts of the capitol since its construction,” said Lawson Newman, project architect. “Unfortunately, persistent leaks are common in structures with complex roofs like this one.”

The 402-foot-wide capitol building has three domes—the main dome in the center that soars to a height of one hundred eighty feet, and the smaller domes at each end over the House of Representatives and Senate chambers. Scaffolding and an elevator have been installed to roof level on most of the circa-1903 building, and work will progress around the exterior as crews clean the limestone and granite panels and replace the sealant between them. “Much of the work is not complicated, but it will require going over every square inch of the stone clad-



Scaffolding has been erected across the entire southern face of the state capitol.

ding,” Newman said. “On a building the size of the capitol it will require significant time just to complete the job.” The entire project is expected to take 24 months.

Some of the most visible work will be done at the building’s highest point—regilding the copper eagle atop the main

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STATE CAPITOL, continued from p. 1

dome. A sheet metal railing that was installed in the early 1970s around the lantern on top of the main dome will be removed and replaced with a replica of the original terra cotta railing, under the supervision of Boston Valley Terra Cotta, an industry leader that has been in business since 1889 in Orchard Park, New York.

“The capitol has not undergone a complete renovation since the early 1980s,” said Department of Finance and Administration executive director Kevin Upchurch. The 2012 Mississippi Legislature passed the \$7.4 million bond project. WFT Architects in Jackson is the architecture firm for the project, and Johnson Construction in Jackson is the contractor, who will coordinate with specialized subcontractors on various jobs. “Everyone involved has gone to great lengths to ensure all subcontractors are well qualified and specialize in historic preservation projects,” said Brenda Davis, who serves as the MDAH curator of the state capitol. Davis is the liaison between the Bureau of Building, Capitol Police, the general contractor, the subcontractors, capitol staff, and members of the legislature and is in charge of coordinating the scheduling of the many phases of the restoration.

Jackson-based Pearl River Glass Studio will oversee the repairs to the seventy-five exterior stained glass windows, which will be removed and transported to the studio, disassembled, cleaned, repaired or restored as needed, reassembled with new leading, and put back in place at the capitol. “The three monumental windows on the north side are unique in that they use multiple plates that create a layered, three-dimensional effect,” said Pearl River founder Andy Young. “It will take about two months on each of those to carefully take them apart, clean,

restore, and reassemble them.”

The Gilders’ Studio in Olney, Maryland, has completed projects on the Washington Monument and Georgia State Capitol Dome. Later this year they are scheduled to begin work on the iconic golden eagle on the main dome. The statue is made of stamped copper and covered in gold leaf. Scaffolding will be constructed to allow access to the piece, the remaining gold leaf and primer will be stripped away, and a fluoroscope will be used to inspect the statue’s interior for structural damage. The team will make surface repairs as needed, reapply primer to protect the statue, and then gild it with 23.75-karat gold leaf that is being made especially for this project in Florence, Italy.

The size of the eagle—eight feet tall and fifteen feet wide—combined with its materials make it unique, said the studio’s founder Michael Kramer, who has more than forty years’ experience as a gilder. “This thing is huge! Most of the large sculptures we deal with are bronze, but this one is copper,” he said. “It’s a wonderful piece.”

Other work will include the replacement of damaged terra cotta on the main dome, reglazing of the skylights over the House and Senate chambers, repair and replacement of roofing and flashing, and replacing broken concrete walkways. Mayrant and Associates, working with



Pearl River Glass Studio founder Andy Young, left, discusses the restoration of a window from the governor’s office in the Mississippi State Capitol with lead restorer Marsh Nabors.

Scanlon-Taylor Millwork, both companies specializing in historic renovation and located in Jackson, will restore the building’s exterior wood windows. The four copper globe lights positioned around the base of the main dome and the exterior bronze light fixtures have been removed and will be restored by Robinson Iron in Alexander City, Alabama. Perhaps the most complicated undertaking will be the restoration of the main dome’s lantern, a cupola-like structure that sits atop the dome and is the base for the copper eagle. “The deterioration of the lantern will require us to dismantle the railing and columns to expose the steel structure so we can make the necessary repairs,” said Newman. More than 15,000 people

took guided tours of the capitol during the first six months of 2014, and the restoration project will not affect ongoing tours.

Designed in 1900 by noted St. Louis architect Theodore Link, the capitol was completed in 1903. The building has been noted for its elegant design and for the unusually high quality of its materials and craftsmanship. Its renovation in the early 1980s brought recognition to the capitol’s architectural significance and established a framework that ensured its preservation. Building on the successes of the previous renovation, the current project will further ensure the capitol’s preservation as the practical and symbolic center of Mississippi’s government.

HJC Joins Natchez Fall Pilgrimage

Historic Jefferson College will join the annual Fall Pilgrimage in Natchez as part of a special morning tour offered September 26 and 29 and October 2, 5, 8, and 11 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Red Tour will feature HJC and Sweet Auburn, the first home of Dr. John Wesley Monette, and will be led by reenactors in period costume.

Historic Jefferson College was established in 1802 as the first institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Territory. In 1817 the Mississippi statehood convention took place in a church building adjacent to the college. In 1863 the college

closed and was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War, serving for a time as the offices of the Freedmen’s Bureau. It reopened in 1866 as a preparatory school and became known as Jefferson Military College until its closure in 1964.

The school was the location for films and television productions including *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, *The Horse Soldiers* starring John Wayne, and the miniseries *North and South*.

For more information and to purchase pilgrimage tickets, go to natchezpilgrimage.com or call 601-446-6631.

Newspaper Digitization Project Underway

From the state's longest running newspaper, the *Woodville Republican*, to short-lived Civil War newspapers such as the *Corinth War Eagle*, seventy-four Mississippi newspaper titles from twenty-two counties published between 1836 and 1922 are being processed for inclusion on the Library of Congress's Chronicling America website. On Wednesday, November 12, at noon Deborah Thomas, National Digital Newspaper Program coordinator, will be at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson to discuss the project and Mississippi's role in it.

"As a primary source for the historic record, newspapers give a rich view into the events, people, and society of the past," said Thomas. "The addition of

unique content from Mississippi communities will provide his-



torians, genealogists, students, and teachers the opportunity to explore further how the people of those communities lived their

lives and add Mississippi historical viewpoints to the national corpus."

In 2013 MDAH received a two-year National Digital Newspaper Program grant to digitize 100,000 pages of the state's historical newspapers. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, the program has helped more than thirty states scan eight million newspaper pages to enhance the study of American history.

Mississippi newspapers should begin to be available by early October through the Chronicling America website, hosted by the Library of Congress. Research friendly tools include keyword searchable

pages and a brief overview of each newspaper title providing information about the publisher, geography, significant events covered, audience/community, and politics.

"Chronicling America attracts a wide range of users, from family historians to educators and students to researchers interested in practically every discipline," Thomas said. "Use of the site has increased steadily over time as we add more newspapers from more states and towns. With more state programs already in development (total participation is now 37 states and 1 territory), we'll continue to expand the geographic coverage and depth of content available on the site, hopefully leading to more and more usage over time."

2014 Tony-winning Play Coming to Jackson

The Department of Archives and History is partnering with New Stage Theatre in Jackson and the Mississippi Humanities Council to bring the Tony Award-winning *All the Way* to the state. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Schenkkan's play dramatizes President Lyndon Baines Johnson's first year in office and his shepherding of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law.

"Since so many of the play's events are the result of Freedom Summer activities in Mississippi, it was important for us to offer it during the fiftieth anniversary," said New Stage artistic director Francine Thomas Reynolds. "In an almost unprecedented move, we were granted permission to stage the play while it is still on Broadway, thanks to Robert Schenkkan's support for a Mississippi production."

All the Way won the 2014 Tony Award for Best Play, 2014 New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and Drama Desk Award for Best Play. It features twenty stage actors portraying Mississippi civil rights activists Fannie Lou Hamer and Ed King as well as some of history's most compelling figures, such as J. Edgar Hoover, Martin Luther King Jr., Governor George Wallace, Senator Hubert Humphrey, and LBJ himself.

"*All the Way* is a wonderful complement to the Freedom Summer 50th commemora-

tions," said MDAH director H.T. Holmes. "We are pleased that the playwright saw the importance of bringing this story to Mississippi, and we are proud to collaborate with New Stage on this production."

workers, historians, artists, politicians, and activists. Planned topics to be covered are the legacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Freedom Summer 1964—its historical importance and impact on the One Person,

It's Not Personal, It's Just Politics

"Non-Stop Action. The Suspense of a First-Class Thriller."

LBJ signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law

October 21-November 2, 2014

NEW STAGE
Theatre

Tickets On Sale September 1

601-948-3531 • newstagetheatre.com

The show will play October 21 through November 2. During its run New Stage will schedule related programming under the title "America at the Turning Point: Conversations on *All the Way*." Led by scholars, the panels will feature civil rights

One Vote Movement; and arts and culture in times of struggle and dramatizing politics and history.

For more information or tickets call New Stage Theatre at 601-948-3533.

New Exhibit on Welty and Learning

The exhibit Moments of Learning in the Life of a Writer opens Tuesday, September 9, at the Eudora Welty House and Garden Education and Visitors Center. Taking its inspiration from Welty's comment in her memoir *One Writer's Beginnings* that "learning stamps you with its moments," the exhibit will explore pivotal times and places of learning in Eudora Welty's life and their impact on her writing.

The connection between Welty's formal education and her acute observations of human nature and passion for language began with her arrival at age five at Davis Grammar School in Jackson. Through photographs, a high school notebook, college yearbooks (like the page pictured at right from Mississippi State College for Women) and transcripts, poetry, and letters from MDAH's Eudora Welty Collection and the Welty family, the exhibit follows Welty through high school and into college and young adulthood, in Mississippi and the wider world.

Welty attributed her love of wordplay to her Latin teacher at Jackson Central High School. After graduation, Welty enrolled in Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women) in Co-

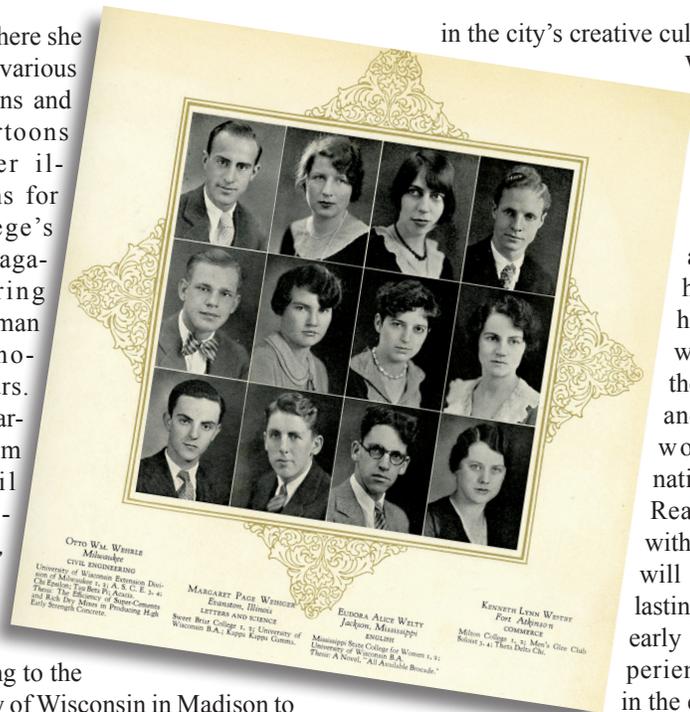
lumbus where she wrote for various publications and drew cartoons and other illustrations for the college's humor magazine during her freshman and sophomore years. Welty's cartoon from the April 1927 issue of *Oh, Lady!* is featured.

After transferring to the University of Wisconsin in Madison to finish her degree, Welty first encountered the influential Irish poet A.E., father of her future agent Diarmuid Russell. During the year she spent in graduate school at Columbia University School of Business in New York City, Welty and her friends immersed themselves

in the city's creative culture.

Welty returned to Jackson in 1931 upon the death of her father and remained at the family home on Pinehurst Street, where she wrote the short stories and novels that would garner national acclaim. Readers familiar with Welty's work will recognize the lasting impact those early years and experiences featured in the exhibit had on her writing.

The exhibit is on display through December 4, 2015. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule school groups or for more information call 601-353-7762.



Civil Rights Veteran Owen Brooks, 1928-2014

Owen H. Brooks, an army veteran and leader in Mississippi's Civil Rights Movement, died July 27, 2014, in Jackson. He was 85.

Brooks was born in New York City on November 18, 1928. It was during his high school years in Boston that he became active in the fight to gain equal justice for all people. He was drawn to the work being done in the Mississippi Delta. In 1965, he joined the Delta Ministry, a program established under the auspices of the Division of Church and Society of the National Council of Churches, and moved to Mississippi as a staff member in 1965. He became director of Delta Ministry in Mississippi in

1967, in which position he was active in addressing the needs of African Americans in the Delta in all areas of social justice.

Brooks worked nearly fifty years in the Delta and other areas of the state. He was involved in the desegregation of the public schools in Greenville, helped to establish the Child Development Group of Mississippi, worked with Fannie Lou Hamer in developing a cooperative farming venture in Sunflower County, and was active politically within the state and on the national scene. He marched with Martin Luther King Jr., Kwame Toure, and others in the historic March against Fear begun by James

Meredith in 1966. He joined the struggles of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the National Democratic Conventions of 1964 and 1968.

Brooks served as field representative to U.S. Representative Mike Espy from 1987 to 1992 and as field director for U.S. Representative Bennie C. Thompson from 1993 to 1995. Between 1995 and 1997 he worked as a field director for the Delta Oral History Project, a collaborative effort between Tougaloo and Dickinson colleges that produced some of the most important oral histories of the Civil Rights Movement.

Brooks was a founder of

the group Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc., in 2004. He was the organization's first chairman and served on the board of directors until 2012.

"Owen Brooks's work with the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement will be his greatest legacy," said Clarence Hunter, former curator of the Tougaloo Collection at MDAH. "It was in many ways one of his most important contributions to the state and nation. Those men and women who sacrificed so much for social justice in this state now have a place where they may share their memories and dedicate themselves to racial peace and social justice."

“Stand Up!” Exhibit To Close Soon

People from thirty states and as far away as Australia have seen the exhibit “Stand Up!”: Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964 since it opened in June at the Winter Building in Jackson. The exhibit will run through October before traveling the state.

Drawing on photographs, artifacts, documents, and film footage from the MDAH collection, the exhibit examines the courage, violence, and promise of the “long, hot summer” of 1964 when hundreds of northern college students, most of them white, joined with local African Americans in communities across Mississippi to register voters, conduct Freedom Schools, and promote civil rights.

A replica school room modeled from photographs of Freedom Schools will give visitors an idea of the conditions volunteers and students worked under. An original short documentary film commissioned by MDAH for the exhibit explores the aims of the Freedom Summer project and tells the story of the murdered civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner and the creation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

“Stand Up!” is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. The free exhibit closes November 1. In January it will join the department’s traveling exhibit program. Traveling exhibits are available for free for in-state institutions and may be booked for eight-week increments. To learn more call 601-576-6997.



MDAH director H. T. Holmes, left, with Jackson Public Schools superintendent Cedrick Gray in front of Lanier High School in Jackson. JPS received a \$500,000 Community Heritage Preservation Grant from MDAH to restore the windows at the school, which opened in 1925. Applications are being accepted for the tenth round of the program through October 3. For more information see the department’s website, mdah.state.ms.us.

Living History at the Old Capitol Oct. 30

History comes to life after hours with the sixth annual Present Meets Past at the Old Capitol Museum on Thursday, October 30, 5–8 p.m. Walk the halls of the historic building and learn about life and politics in nineteenth century as living history performers portray Mississippians from the past.

“Connecting people today to the state’s past is important,” said Old Capitol director Clay Williams. “That was brought home to us recently when we learned of the death of actor and comedian Robin Williams and his family roots in Mississippi through his great-great-grandfather, former governor Anselm J. McLaurin. We have several of McLaurin’s personal belongings on display in the Old Capitol, and his daughter Daisy McLaurin Stevens is one of our living history characters this year.”

Upon entering the Old Capitol visitors will meet former presi-

dent Andrew Jackson celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the U.S. victory over the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Nine other historical figures will be stationed throughout the building, ready to discuss the events of their times, beginning with William Nichols, the architect who designed the Old Capitol.

General William T. Sherman led Union troops in numerous campaigns during the Civil War, and in May 1863 his men occupied Jackson.

William Lewis Sharkey was elected to Mississippi’s highest court before becoming provisional governor in 1865.

Ephraim G. Peyton was a state legislator who opposed secession. After the Civil War he was appointed to the High Court of Errors and Appeals.

John Roy Lynch served in the state House of Representatives from 1870 to 1873. In 1872 he

became the first African American Speaker of the House, and in 1873 the first African American Mississippian to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

William Porter, the only fictional character, is based on a composite of Board of Health employees during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878.

L.Q.C. Lamar served as U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, and on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Daisy McLaurin Stevens, the daughter of Governor Anselm McLaurin, regularly assisted with first lady duties at the governor’s mansion.

Charlotte Capers, MDAH director 1955-69, will also make an appearance. Capers oversaw the restoration of the Old Capitol and established the state history museum.

The performers will remain in character throughout the evening, and visitors are invited to ask questions and interact with them.

MHS Accepting Nominations for Awards

The 2015 meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society will be held March 5-7, 2015, in Corinth. Every year the society awards prizes for outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi history. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards:

The McLemore Prize, which carries with it a \$700 stipend, is given for the best book on a subject related to Mississippi history or biography published the previous year. The John K. Bettersworth Award is given annually to an outstanding teacher of middle or high school history in Mississippi. The winning teacher receives a \$300 cash award and is invited as the society's guest to its annual

meeting.

The Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award is given annually as merited to a local historical organization that, as a member of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies, has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of local history. The winning society receives a \$300 cash award.

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, which carries with it a \$300 cash award, recognizes oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collection, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral history.

The James T. Dawson Award is presented as merited to a local government in Mississippi with

an exemplary records management program. A local government eligible for the award may be a municipality, a county, or a school district.

Two other prizes, the Dunbar Rowland Award, given in recognition of lifelong contributions to the study, interpretation, and preservation of Mississippi history and the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history, are presented as merited.

The Franklin L. Riley Prize and the Glover Moore Prize are awarded biennially for a doctoral dissertation and master's thesis, respectively, on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed within the previous two years.

The newly established Wil-

liam E. "Bill" Atkinson Award for Mississippi Civil War History, is awarded biennially in recognition of an outstanding paper, publication, or major research or preservation project contributing to the knowledge of Mississippi in the Civil War era.

Awards of Merit are presented annually to individuals or organizations for their outstanding archival, museum, records management, or media interpretation work.

All prizewinners will be invited to the society's 2015 annual meeting to receive their awards. Submission guidelines are available online. For more information or to submit a nomination, email info@mshistoricalsociety.com or call 601-576-6545.

Native American Days at Winterville Mounds

Native American Days, the annual program celebrating American Indian culture at Winterville Mounds, will be held October 29 through November 1. The event features traditional dances, stories, and games, and crafts and foods will be for sale. Last year more than 2,300 students and adults attended the festival.

Performances this year include dancing, storytelling, and mask demonstrations by the Cherokee Historical Association of Cherokee, North Carolina; dancing and chanting by the Native American Cultural Exchange-Apache; and dancing, drumming, and chanting by the Southern Pine Singers of Choctaw, Mississippi.

Other activities will include face-painting and bead-stringing for children, archery demonstrations, and Native American games of stickball and chunky, which will be open to all comers. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the Southern Traditional Archery Association will have demonstration and educational booths.

The celebration will conclude with a day of games and arts and crafts. From 1 to 4 p.m. on November 1 families can play stickball and chunky, compete in relay races, make beaded headbands, and more. Fry bread, Indian tacos, buffalo burgers, and smoked turkey legs will be on sale throughout the day.

Native American Days is free of charge.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday. Performances will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run through 1 p.m. The Saturday program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. School groups should call ahead for a complete schedule of events when booking a field trip.

Winterville Mounds, a National Historic Landmark, is a prehistoric ceremonial center built by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450. Located at 2415 Highway 1 North, Greenville, the 42-acre park is open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. every day; the museum is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Sat. and Sun. 1:30–5 p.m. For more information call 662-334-4684.

Events Planned across State for Archaeology Month

Mock digs, artifact identification, public talks on archaeology and archaeological methods, and more are scheduled throughout October to celebrate Archaeology Month.

The Mississippi Archaeology Expo will be held Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Old Capitol Green in Jackson. The family-friendly

fair will feature educational activities for all including flint-knapping, a "live" Civil War camp, and artifact displays. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will demonstrate Native American traditional dancing, basket weaving, storytelling, stickball, and crafts. Other highlights include face painting, bracelet making, pendant color-

ing, ceramic making, and atlatl throwing.

Winterville Mounds is hosting a series of Saturday events in honor of Archaeology Month beginning with a mock dig on October 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors can watch the Native American documentary *Cahokia* on October 18 at 1 p.m. and learn about archaeology in the

Delta on October 11 at 1 p.m. The month-long program will conclude with artifact identification day on October 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information call Winterville Mounds at 662-334-4684. To see a complete listing of Archaeology Month events across the state go to www.msarchaeology.org.

Workshop to Examine Turn-of-Century Mississippi

The thirtieth annual Social Studies Teachers Workshop is set for Friday, November 7, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson. Presentations will explore the theme “Turn-of-the-Century Mississippi.” The coming of the twentieth century saw great changes throughout the state—social, economic, and industrial. Mississippi’s constitution was rewritten and adopted in 1890 to codify the privileges of white men and institutionalize the impediments to women and African American citizens. The United States and Mississippi were drawn into a world war. Natural disaster ravaged the fertile Delta counties. And a new, native art form was born in the blues.

Scheduled are political analyst Jere Nash, “The 1890 Constitution and the Rise of Jim Crow Mississippi”; Mississippi Armed Forces Museum director Chad Daniels, “Mississippi in WWI”; University of Southern Mississippi associate professor Pamela Tyler, “Woman Suffrage in Mississippi”; MDAH outreach programs coordinator Claire Gwaltney, “1927 Mississippi Flood Lesson”; and Mississippi Arts Commission

arts education director Charlotte Smelser, “Blues

“Mississippi’s State Capitol”; MDAH reference librarian De’Niecechsi Layton, “Genealogy in the Classroom”; and University of Southern Mississippi associate professor Deanne Nuwer, “Watering Places along the Mississippi Gulf Coast: The Roaring 1920s.”

“This promises to be a great workshop with lots of information useful in the classroom,” said Stacey Everett, Museum Division director of education. “We also encourage all attendees to take advantage of the continuing education credit available through Mississippi College.”

Find the registration form online at mdah.state.ms.us.



in Mississippi Curriculum.” Attendees may also choose one of the following: State Capitol curator Brenda Davis,

Museums Construction on Schedule



Summer heat pushed some of the ongoing construction of the 2 Mississippi Museums project into the early morning hours. Daytime temperatures were too high to allow the concrete to set correctly, so crews poured basement floors beginning at 2 a.m. The building shape began to emerge in late May with the appearance of basement floors and walls, and the first floor of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will

be visible from North Street in October.

The first and second floors of the museums are scheduled to be completed by spring of 2015, when roof work is expected to begin.

Foundation work for the public parking garage has also begun. Jefferson Street between Amite and Mississippi Streets is closed for work to connect the 2MM building to sewer and water lines. The road is set to reopen in time for the state fair.

USCT Cavalry Reenactors to Appear at HJC

Historic Jefferson College will again play host for the Black and Blue Civil War Living History program. On Saturday, October 25, beginning at 11 a.m., reenactors portraying enslaved Africans, Union and Confederate soldiers, and other local personalities will present vignettes about the African American experience in Mississippi during the Civil War.

New to the program in its seventh year will be the appearance of a living history group with members from Florida, Georgia, and Michigan who portray the Third United States Colored Cavalry, a unit active from March 1864 through January 1866 and originally organized from the 3rd Mississippi Cavalry of African Descent. The group will tell the history of the actions in Mississippi, northeast Louisiana, and southeast Arkansas in which the Third U.S. Colored Cavalry participated. The day will finish with a demonstration of one of those cavalry actions beginning at 3 p.m.

Black and Blue is organized by Ser Sesh Ab Heter-CM Boxley, coordinator of the Friends of the Forks of the Road, Inc. For more information call 601-442-2901.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
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Mississippi History Newsletter
Chris Goodwin, editor

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Department of Archives and History
H.T. Holmes, director

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SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

Programs in the *History Is Lunch* series are held noon Wednesdays in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building (**WFW**) or Old Capitol Museum (**OCM**). There is no admission charge.

For information call 601-576-6998 or email cwilson@mdah.state.ms.us.

September 17—Old Capitol Museum historian Michael Stoll will present “Monuments to Democracy: The Fifty State Capitols.” **OCM**

September 24—Robert Blade will talk about his book *Tupelo Man*, a biography of newspaper publisher George McLean. Book sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

October 1—Curtis Wilkie will

talk about his book *Assassins, Eccentrics, Politicians, and Other Persons of Interest: Fifty Pieces from the Road*. Book sales and signing to follow. **OCM**

October 8—Civil Rights Movement leader Rev. Edwin King will talk about his book *Mississippi: Behind the Scenes of Freedom Summer*. Book sales and signing to follow. **OCM**

October 15—For Archaeology Month archaeologist John O’Hear will talk about the Mississippi Mound Trail. **WFW**

October 22—Jacksonian Tim Whitsett—musician, music publisher, songwriter, producer, and author—will talk about his international career in music.

WFW

October 29—Old Capitol Museum staff will present a preview of the program “Present Meets Past.” **OCM**

November 5—Historian Walter Howell will talk about his new history of Clinton, Mississippi, *Town and Gown*. Book sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

November 12—Deborah Thomas, Library of Congress, will talk about the newspaper digitization project “Chronicling America.” **WFW**

November 19—Carolyn J. Brown will talk about her new book *Song of my Life; A Biography of Margaret Walker*. Book sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

MDAH will offer a **Historical Archaeology workshop** on October 2-4 at the Hilton Garden Inn Jackson Downtown, 235 W Capitol St, Jackson, MS 39201. The workshop will discuss the importance of field work and artifact identification when determining eligibility of historic sites for the National Register of Historic Places.

Registration cost for the three-day workshop is \$140, or you may attend individual days for \$60/day. Student rate is \$75 for the full conference or \$30/day.

Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot early. Call 601-576-6940 or email archaeology@mdah.state.ms.us to register.