

Mississippi History

MDAH

NEWSLETTER

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Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History presents *Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History*, a **thirty-minute video tribute** to a few of the many black Mississippians who have made significant contributions to the state's history, airing **Monday, February 13, 2006, on Mississippi Public Broadcasting** so that schools can record the video for later class-

room use. Additional airing dates and times will be announced at a later date.

Comcast (Hinds County) will air the video on channels 18 and 19 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., **Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, and 27**. Teachers may obtain enrichment activities and evaluations accompanying this program from the department's Web site, mdah.state.ms.us/activities.pdf.

"Telling Mississippi's Stories" MHS Annual Meeting March 1-3

At its **annual meeting** March 1-3 at the **Old Capitol Inn, Jackson**, the Mississippi Historical Society will explore the different ways Mississippi's stories are told, according to president **Jeanne Luckett** and program chair **Stephen Sloan**.

The keynote speaker will be **James W. Loewen**, author of the bestseller *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong*. Loewen is professor emeritus at the University of Vermont, where for twenty years he taught race relations. Earlier in his career Loewen taught at Tougaloo College, and he is the co-author, with Charles Sallis, of the textbook *Mississippi: Conflict and Change*.

Other presentations will examine such diverse subjects as the

history of Jews in Mississippi, Choctaw lawyer and diplomat James McDonald, the Jackson civil rights movement, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Rural Voices Radio series.

In addition to the scholarly presentations, there will be a luncheon, banquet, awards luncheon, and tours of the Eudora Welty House, Manship House Museum, and the Oaks House.

Registration for MHS members is \$20 for individuals and \$25 for couples. Registration forms and meeting details are available at mdah.state.ms.us. Information and registration is also available by phone (601-576-6849) or email (mhs@mdah.state.ms.us). Special rates are available at the Old Capitol Inn and the Edison Walthall for the meeting.

FEBRUARY: 50% Off Selected Black History Titles at the OLD CAPITOL SHOP in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building / 601-576-6921

Historic Natchez Conference Feb. 6-10

The Seventh Biennial Historic Natchez Conference, "**Never Past: History and Memory in the Old Natchez District**," will be held February 6-10 at the **Eola Hotel** in Natchez. The Conference aims to foster the study, preservation, and appreciation of the history of the Natchez region by providing a forum for established scholars, graduate students, representatives from major archival collections, and the general public to share research, resources, and ideas. The 2007 conference explores subjects as diverse as **Native American culture, planter aristocracy, slavery, Reconstruction, Jewish culture, and civil rights**. In addition to **lectures**, there will be **receptions and meals** in historic Natchez houses, and **garden, cemetery, and archaeological tours**. Some of the scheduled speakers include **Fitzhugh Brundage**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, speaking on "Contests Over the South's History," and **Don Carleton**, Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, on "The Continuing Saga of the Alamo and the 'Diary of José Enrique de la Peña.'"

A session on the Natchez Indians will be moderated by **Vincas P. Steponaitis**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with talks

cont'd page two

NLCC Feb. 22-25

Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the **Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration**, announces this year's conference will be held February 22-25 at the Natchez Convention Center with the theme "**Southern Accents: Language in the Deep South**."

The language of the South will be examined through many activities—lectures, films, exhibits, discussions, concerts, a play, book signings, writing workshops, and receptions.

Highlights include sessions on **southern orators** in the United States Senate by **Senator Thad Cochran and David G. Sansing**, University of Mississippi; famous **southern preachers** by **Charles Reagan Wilson**, University of Mississippi, and author **Will Campbell**; William **Faulkner's use of language** by **Donald Kartiganer**, University of Mississippi; **Eudora Welty's love of word play** by **Suzanne Marrs**, Millsaps College; and **dialect and messages of Negro spirituals** by **Clarence Jones**, East Baton Rouge High School—among many others.

Three acclaimed Mississippi writers—**Beverly Lowry, Al Young**, and (screenwriter) **Charles Burnett**—will be honored in award ceremonies February 24.

Most of the conference is free. Four agencies sponsor the NLCC—Copiah-Lincoln Com-

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Burnham Endowment

Van R. Burnham, Jr., M.D., former longtime member of the MDAH Board of Trustees and a dedicated amateur archaeologist, has established the **Barbara B. Burnham Memorial Fund** to honor his late wife. Proceeds from the \$100,000 endowment, deposited in the Foundation for Mississippi History, will be used to promote travel and continuing education opportunities for MDAH archaeological staff members.

NLCC, cont'd

munity College, Natchez National Historical Park (NNHP), MDAH, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB)—and funding also comes through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Co-chairs with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH, and Marie Antoon of MPB. Serving as director of proceedings for the eighteenth year is William F. Winter, president of the MDAH board of trustees. Registration is not required, though seats to ticketed events must be purchased in advance since space is limited. For more information, visit colin.edu/nlcc or call 601-446-1289 or 866-296-6522.

Roots Music Exhibit

The Mississippi Humanities Council is hosting a statewide tour of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit: New Harmonies, Celebrating American Roots Music. The national kick-off for this exhibit will take place in Meridian on Saturday, March 24 with all-day outside events culminating in an evening program in the MSU Riley Center's newly restored Grand Opera House. Performers will include the Vernon Brothers, Cadillac John and Bill Abel, the Rust College A Cappella Choir, Fiddlin' Bill Rogers, Britt Gulley (as Jimmie Rodgers), and Senator Thad Cochran. The exhibit will also be displayed in New Albany, Vicksburg, Gulfport, Columbia, and Clarksdale. For specific dates and additional information, contact MHC at 601-432-6752, david@mhc.state.ms.us, or www.mshumanities.org.

HNC, cont'd

by John O'Hear, Mississippi State University, Brad Lieb, University of Alabama, Brett H. Riggs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For registration information, contact HNF at 601-442-2500, hnf@natchez.org, or visit www.natchez.org.

MDAH EVENTS

Jackson

William F. Winter Building, 200 North Street

Wednesday, February 7, noon–1 p.m. *History Is Lunch* series. Jere Nash and Andy Taggart will discuss and sign copies of *Mississippi Politics: The Struggle for Power, 1976–2006*. For information call 601-576-6857 or email pubinfo@mdah.state.ms.us.

Saturday, February 17, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. **Symposium: "Black, Blue and Gray: The African American Experience in the Civil War."** For information call 601-576-6946.

Manship House Museum 420 East Fortification Street

Monday, February 12, 3:30–4:30 p.m. **Victorian Valentines.** Children ages five to twelve are invited to learn about and make Victorian-style valentines. Free of charge, reservations required. Call 601-961-4724 or email manship@mdah.state.ms.us.

Natchez

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. **Vincas P. Steponaitis**, professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina, will discuss recent excavations at the Feltus Site in Jefferson County. For more information, call 601-446-6502.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College

February 1–28. Black History Month Field Trips. Classes learn about craftsman **Nathan Bennett and the slave Prince Ibrahima**. For information call 601-442-2901.

Archaeological Grant Awards

MDAH has awarded nearly \$25,000 to seven projects in the first year of the Mississippi Archaeological Research Grant Program. The largest single grant, almost \$10,000, will fund excavations at a mound center in Warren County. The University of Alabama was awarded \$9,846 for their project "The Glass Site: An Investigation of Plaquemine Culture Architecture." Washington University in St. Louis received \$5,070 to conduct a search for remains of Native American settlements along Deer Creek in Washington County.

The University of Southern Mississippi was awarded three grants, and Mississippi State University received two grants.

"Each of these projects will make a significant contribution to our understanding of the history of Mississippi," said Pamela Edwards Lieb, MDAH chief archaeologist. For more information, call Lieb, 601-576-6945.