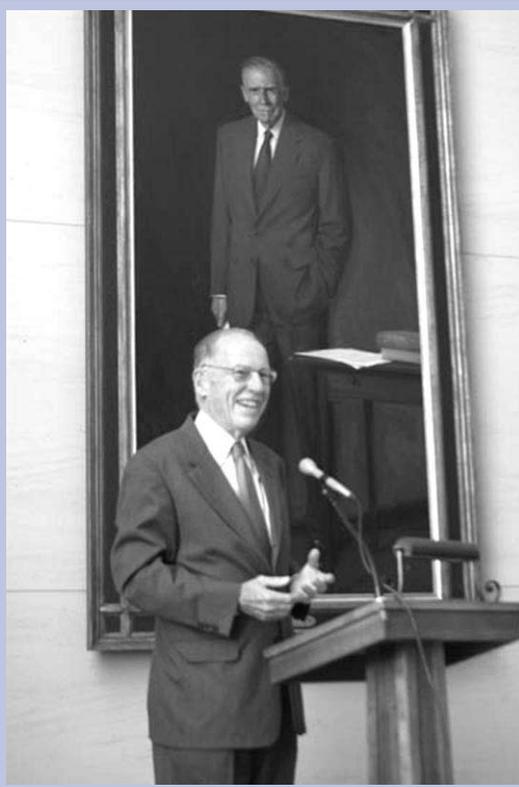


Mississippi History NEWSLETTER



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H. T. Holmes, director
Chrissy Wilson, editor
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Mailing address: MHN, P.O. Box 571
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William F. Winter Retires

After almost fifty-one years on the MDAH Board of Trustees and almost thirty-nine years as its president, **William F. Winter** retired January 18. Above, Governor Winter addresses staff and friends at an informal luncheon held in his honor after the last Board meeting. At that meeting, Board member and former Jackson mayor **Kane Ditto** (above, right) accepted the Board's election to serve as its new president. At the luncheon MDAH director H. T. Holmes announced that the winter issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History* will be dedicated to the life and career of William Winter. Charles Bolton, who is writing a biography of Winter, will be the editor of the special issue.



Kane Ditto To Succeed Winter

Board member **Kane Ditto**, Jackson, will succeed William Winter as president of the MDAH Board of Trustees. Ditto is the owner of StateStreet Group, L.L.C., a real estate development company he started in 1971. He served as mayor of the City of Jackson from July 1989 until July 1997 and in the Mississippi House of Representatives 1987- 1989.

Before entering the political arena, Ditto practiced law for eighteen years with Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis in Jackson. His legal practice developed a heavy emphasis in municipal finance.

A native of Greenville, Mississippi, Ditto has a B.A. from Duke University and a law degree from Vanderbilt University. He and his wife, the former Betsy Martin, have four children and eight grandchildren.

Board member **Rosemary Taylor Williams** of Corinth has been named vice president.

Filling the empty board slot will be Cleveland preservationist **Hilda Cope Povall**. Povall earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Mississippi. She is on the board of the Delta Arts Alliance, chairs the Cleveland Heritage Commission, and is president of the Mississippi Heritage Trust Board of Trustees. Povall's election is subject to confirmation by the Mississippi State

MDAH EVENTS

Jackson

William F. Winter Building, 200 North Street

Lobby exhibit "**Uniquely Mississippi**" uses forty key original artifacts from the MDAH collection to recall major themes or events in the history of the state. Showing through 2008.

History Is Lunch Series

Information: 601-576-6857

Wednesday, February 6: John F. Marszalek, historian and author of *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order*, will talk about **Union general William T. Sherman**.

February 27: MDAH archivist **Clarence Hunter** will talk about the legacy of **Carter G. Woodson** and **African American archival Web sites**.

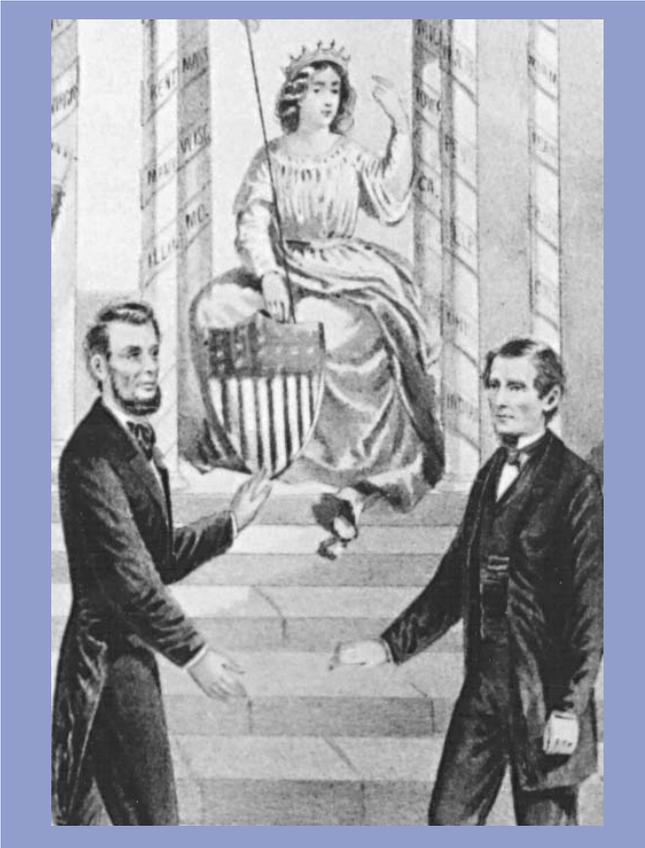
Manship House Museum 420 East Fortification Street

Tuesday, 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, reservations required. Call 601-961-4724.

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.



Detail, *Kimmel & Forster*, *The Last Offer of Reconciliation*[:] In Remembrance of Prest. A. Lincoln's "The Door is Open for All." Lithograph, published by Henry & Wm. Voight, New York, 1865. *The Lincoln Museum*.

MHS Annual Meeting: Lincoln, Davis, and War in Mississippi

"Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the Civil War in Mississippi" will be the theme of this year's Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting March 6–8 at Mississippi State University, according to **current president John F. Marszalek**. **Frank J. Williams**, a leading Lincoln historian and chief justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court, will be the banquet speaker, addressing the topic of "Abraham Lincoln's Importance to the 21st Century South." As the Friday luncheon speaker, Lincoln interpreter **George Buss** will ask, "So You Think You're Coming South, Mr. Lincoln?" Other scholars include **Wanda Cheek**, **David Slay**, **James F. Hollandsworth, Jr.**, **Robert Walker**, **Michael B. Ballard**, and many others.

Session titles include "Two Jefferson Davis Homes" (Beauvoir and Davis Bend); "U.S. Colored Troops: From Enduring Slavery to Fighting for Freedom"; "Turning Points:

Fighting the Civil War in Mississippi"; and "Southern Culture in Counterpoint: International History and the Lost Cause."

The Journal of Mississippi History echoes the annual meeting theme in its special issue for spring, with special editor John F. Marszalek.

The annual meeting features a **Welcoming Reception** Thursday; lecture sessions, **Luncheon, historical tour, President's Reception**, and **Banquet** on Friday; and more sessions and the **Awards Brunch** on Saturday. The featured tour this year is of **Starkville's Cotton District**. Registration is \$20 individual or \$25 couple for MHS members, \$45 individual or \$60 couple for non-members. Luncheon, banquet, and brunch tickets are extra. Rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Suites (662-324-9595) at the MHS rate of \$79 plus tax. For details, please call 601-576-6849.

Public Meetings about New History Museum Scheduled Across State

A series of public meetings detailing plans for a new Museum of Mississippi History will be held across the state; the first was held January 24 at the Carthage public library. Meetings are scheduled for February 7 in Starkville and February 13 in Ocean Springs, and dates for other towns are being set.

Architectural renderings of the proposed museum and preliminary exhibit designs will be on display. "We hope the public will offer ideas about how we can best present the local history of each region we visit," said Lucy Allen, director of the Museum Division of the Department of Archives and History. "We also welcome suggestions about artifacts that might be exhibited in the new museum."

Mississippi has been without a state history museum since 2005, when Katrian damage forced the closing of the Old Capitol, where the museum was housed. The museum's world-class collection of Mississippi artifacts will remain in storage until a new building can be constructed.

The 2006 Mississippi legislature funded the restoration of the Old Capitol, and that project is underway. But when the building reopens in 2009, it will no longer be home to the state history museum. Instead, it will highlight the distinguished history of the building that served as Mississippi's statehouse from 1839 to 1903, with a special focus on government in action.

When funded, the new Museum of Mississippi History will

be constructed one block north of the Old Capitol. It will have more than four times the exhibit space formerly available there. The larger public space will enable the museum to expand its education programming, enhancing the museum's effort to serve as a leader in history education statewide and as a model nationwide.

The new Museum of Mississippi History—alongside the restored Old Capitol and the state archives—will form the heart of a state history center that will attract national and international visitors and serve as a gateway to heritage tourism across Mississippi. For more information on the Museum of Mississippi History or the Old Capitol restoration, call 601-576-6920.

Museums: Risk Evaluations Available

Small and mid-sized museums in Mississippi can apply to participate in Heritage Preservation's new pilot project, the **Risk Evaluation and Planning Program**. Museums receive a professional two-day site evaluation of risks to its collections, priorities for mitigating those risks, and assistance in creating or updating emergency plans. **Five institutions will be selected in May 2008**. Applications can be downloaded at heritage-preservation.org/repp and they must be submitted electronically no later than **March 31, 2008**. For more information contact Mary Rogers at 202-233-0800.

Heritage Preservation's risk evaluation program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

NLCC Focus: Richard Wright

“Richard Wright, the South, and the World: A Centennial Celebration” is the theme of the 2008 **Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration** to be held **February 20–24**. In addition to sessions there will be receptions, meals, the performance of a play version of Wright’s *Native Son*, screenings of films, awards presentations, and more. Most events are free. The winners of this year’s **Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards** are **Lerone Bennett, Jr.**, longtime editor of *Ebony* magazine and author of several historical volumes; and **Brooks Haxton**, author of seven books of poetry plus two volumes of poems translated from the ancient Greek. For details regarding the meeting, visit www.colin.edu/nlcc/ or call 601-446-

New Natchez Books

The Natchez Indians: A History to 1735, by James F. Barnett, Jr., director of MDAH’s Historic Properties Division, is an “eminently readable” but detailed history of the tribe as revealed through accounts of Spanish, English, and French explorers and colonists (\$40, University Press of Mississippi). *An American Planter: Stephen Duncan of Antebellum Natchez and New York*, by Martha Jane Brazy, tells how Duncan, a Pennsylvania-born entrepreneur, shaped the political economy of antebellum Mississippi (\$45, LSU Press). In *William Dunbar: Scientific Pioneer of the Old Southwest*, by Arthur H. DeRosier, Jr., Dunbar—surveyor, botanist, zoologist, astronomer, planter, architect, inventor—finally gets the recognition he deserves (\$55, University Press of Kentucky).

Historic Windows Workshop

Windows are significant character-defining features of historic buildings. Yet too often historic windows are lost because of a lack of understanding about their repair and maintenance.

MDAH will offer a one-day workshop on restoring and maintaining historic windows on Wednesday, February 27, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the College of Architecture, Art & Design, Giles Hall, Mississippi State University.

Professionals and experts on the restoration of both wood and metal windows will lead interactive sessions to help building



owners, architects, contractors, preservation professionals, and volunteers make informed decisions about the proper treatment of their windows.

AIA Continuing Education Units (six hours for the entire day) will be offered to architects at a rate of \$10 per unit (\$60 for day). Registration for non-CEU attendees will be \$20. Registration will include a resource notebook and CD-ROM.

To register, call Michelle Jones at 662-325-2520 or visit mdah.state.ms.us/windows.pdf to download a registration application.

The MDAH video *Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History* is scheduled to air on Thursday, February 28, at 8:30 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. MPB also will “stream” the program on its Web site in February. The video was written and produced by the Department’s Museum Division as a substitute for the tours of the Old Capitol exhibits and Hall of Fame during Black History Month, when special attention was given to African American subjects.

Film To Document Rebuilding

MDAH is working with Human Interest Films on a National Park Service-sponsored film, *Building Blocks*, documenting the reclamation of historic properties and cultural institutions on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of Katrina. A sixty-minute film, *Building Blocks* will profile about five institutions as they face an uncertain future. The film will visually tell of the physical history lost in the storm, explore the choices involved in rebuilding, and relate the challenges of bringing these properties back to life.

In telling the stories of these historically significant Gulf Coast cultural institutions, the film will reflect diverse economic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. An important aim of *Building Blocks* is to show the character of individuals who are emblematic of their respective institutions and are leading the rebuilding efforts.

The film will be aired on Mississippi Public Broadcasting on the anniversary of Katrina in 2008. For information, call Ed Ellington, producer, at 310-770-4437.

Mississippi River Symposium Feb. 9

The Historic New Orleans Collection will present a day-long symposium, “The Mississippi River: Artery of Commerce and Culture” on Saturday, February 9, at the HNOC, 533 Royal Street. Registration is \$60 and includes special rate of \$56 for a jazz/dinner cruise after daytime sessions. For a schedule, call 504-569-1480 or visit www.hnoc.org.

Celebrate 200th Birthday of Jefferson Davis

The bicentennial observance of the birth of Jefferson Davis will be initiated at 1 p.m. on **Friday, February 15** at the Alabama Capitol Building in Montgomery, where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated. **Bertram Hayes-Davis**, the great-great-grandson of Jefferson Davis, will be representing the Davis Family Association. Highlights will include a **1914 silent film** of a re-enactment of President Davis’s inauguration, remarks by Bertram Hayes-Davis, a **preview of the new eight-hour documentary on Jefferson Davis**, and the unveiling of two new important acquisitions of the First White House of the Confederacy.

MDAH EVENTS

continued

Greenville

Winterville Mounds

2415 Highway 1 North

Saturday, February 9, 1–4 p.m.

Native American Genealogy Workshop.

Houma tribe member Frances Johnson will discuss resources for exploring Native American heritage and genealogy. Free. For information call 662-334-4684.

SAT Grant for Old Capitol

MDAH has been granted a Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant for \$525,000 to help fund the restoration of the Old Capitol. The grant award, announced jointly by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Park Service December 12, stated that "The Old Capitol is a masterpiece of nineteenth-century Greek Revival architecture. It was constructed in 1839 and survived the burning of the city by Union forces in 1863. Funds will be used to restore the roof and repair water damage, both results of hurricanes Katrina and Rita." This grant was the largest of sixteen SAT grants awarded this year in the highly competitive field.

C.C. Bryant, Sr.

1917–2007

Nationally known civil rights veteran C.C. Bryant, Sr., of McComb, whose community service in southwest Mississippi extended well beyond the turbulent 1960s, died December 9 at age ninety at his home. Bryant, with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, launched a voter registration drive in southwest Mississippi in 1961. During the 1960s Bryant endured jail and threats, including the bombing of his family home and barber shop. He once described McComb's violent summer of 1964 as "hell on earth." Bryant served as president of the McComb NAACP for more than thirty-three years. In later years, Bryant's work focused on community issues including crime, drug abuse, joblessness, poverty, and nutrition.

Manny Crystal

1927–2008

Emanuel "Manny" Crystal of Jackson, national Jewish leader, Mississippi arts patron and leader, and successful businessman, died December 24 at eighty-one. Serving as the president of the Beth Israel synagogue when it was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1967, Crystal helped guide Jackson's Jewish

community through stressful years. He went on to serve on boards of many national Jewish organizations and on numerous state boards: Tougaloo College, the Jackson Redevelopment Authority, New Stage Theatre, the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Mississippi Ballet, the Mississippi Opera, and others.

Evelyn Gandy

1921–2007

Former Mississippi lieutenant governor Evelyn Gandy, the only woman elected to three statewide offices in the state, died December 23. In a political career that spanned four decades, Gandy was the first woman in Mississippi ever elected to the offices of state representative, state treasurer, insurance commissioner, and lieutenant governor. She fell short in two bids for the governorship, in 1979 and 1983, both times losing in a primary runoff for the Democratic nomination. During her term as lieutenant governor, Gandy voted to break a tie that led to passage of a law requiring that leases on school lands be based on the land's true value. They previously earned as little as pennies per year in some counties, and the change resulted in millions of new dollars for the public schools. In 1943 Gandy had been the only

woman in her graduating class at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

William P. Murphy

1921–2007

Constitutional law professor William P. Murphy, who enraged Mississippi segregationists in the 1950s and 1960s by teaching that school integration was the law of the land, died December 16. He was eighty-seven. William Murphy taught 1953-62 at the University of Mississippi, the state's only law school at the time. He was fired for teaching law students that public school systems had to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling that segregated schools were unconstitutional. In the Summer 2004 issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History*, "Thought Control' in Mississippi: The Case of Professor William P. Murphy," by Charles W. Eagles, honored Murphy's efforts.

For Mississippi books and fine crafts, visit the

Mississippi History Store

in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson.