

# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

February 2010

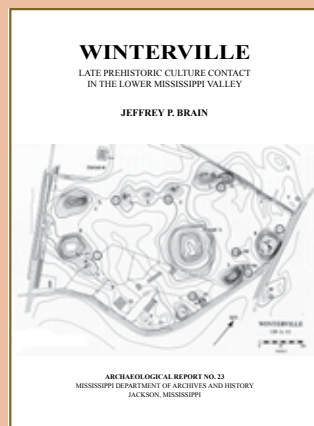
Volume 52, No. 2

### Archaeological Report on Winterville Mounds Reissued

MDAH has reissued the long out-of-print archaeological report on Winterville Mounds. The report was written by Jeffrey P. Brain as an expanded version of his doctoral dissertation presented at Yale University in 1969.

"This report contains a wealth of information on Winterville Mounds," said MDAH chief archaeologist Pam Lieb. "We're pleased to be able to make it available again to researchers and the general public."

Winterville Mounds is one of the largest pre-contact mound groups in eastern North America. The site once contained as many as twenty-three mounds. Winterville was the political and ritual capital of a chiefdom of the Mississippian culture (circa AD 1200-1500). The site



incorporates two large plazas joined by the largest mound.

To purchase a copy, contact the Mississippi History Store at 601-576-6921 or by email at [mississippihistorystore@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:mississippihistorystore@mdah.state.ms.us). The price is \$25 plus tax and shipping. Copies may also be purchased at the Charlotte Capers Building, 100 South State Street, Jackson.

### Historic Preservation Division Seeks Comments on Priorities

The MDAH Historic Preservation Division is developing its priorities and objectives for Fiscal Year 2010 Historic Preservation Fund-assisted programs. Suggestions and comments from the public in regard to proposed priorities, objectives, and projects are invited.

Annual grants-in-aid are made available through a competitive

application process to "Certified Local Governments." Historic preservation projects benefiting minorities and the disabled are encouraged.

Address comments or questions to Jim Woodrick, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571.

### MDAH Begins Yearlong Historic Records Project

The Department of Archives and History has begun a yearlong, \$100,000 project that will help ensure irreplaceable historical documents in the state's oldest counties will be properly preserved for future generations. The MDAH Local Government Records Office (LGRO) has received a grant of nearly \$50,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board to identify and inventory historical records in Mississippi's fourteen territorial counties.

The Mississippi Territory was organized in 1798. In 1817 the territory was split in two, with the western half forming the state of Mississippi. Most of these pre-statehood counties—Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Pike, Warren, Wayne, and Wilkinson—maintain records that date back to their formation.

"These records are some of the state's richest and most diverse historical materials," said Julia Marks Young, Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board deputy coordinator. "As

Mississippi approaches its bicentennial in 2017, the Historical Records Advisory Board believed it was especially important to provide funds from NHPRC to help care for these records and plan for their long-term preservation and access to citizens."

Over the last thirty years, both MDAH and the Genealogical Society of Utah have microfilmed selected older records at many counties throughout Mississippi. As a part of this current project, LGRO staff will identify and inventory the records held by each county, and evaluate the microfilm collection held at the state archives.

"We invite all the local historical societies in these counties to partner with MDAH for this project," said LGRO direc-



1818 map of Mississippi Territory from MDAH collection.

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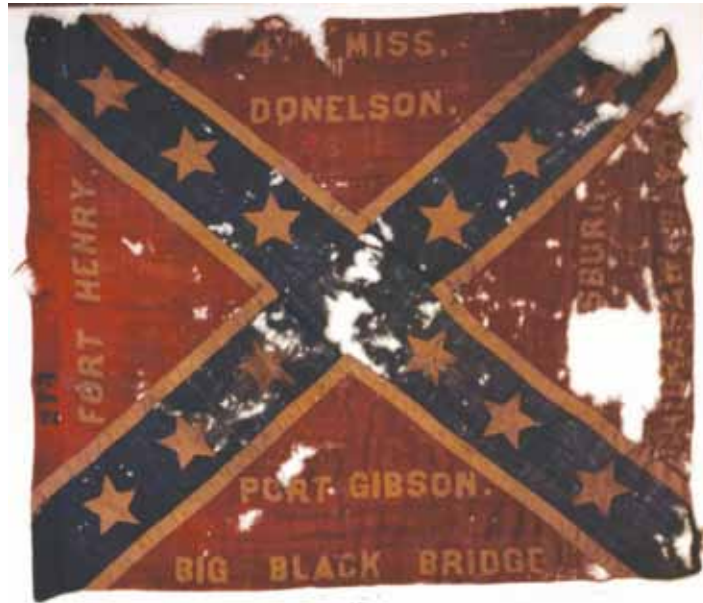
# Historic Civil War Flag Conserved

Thanks to the efforts of a local group, another historic Civil War flag from the MDAH Museum Division collection has been conserved. More than \$80,000 has been donated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans through the “Save the Battleflags” program. Ten historic flags have been conserved with the funding, and funds continue to be raised for work on additional flags.

The most recent flag to be conserved is the battle flag of the 4th Mississippi Infantry. The flag was captured by 1st Lt. Adj. Thomas P. Gere of the 5th Minnesota Volunteers at the Battle of Brentwood Hills (near Nashville) on December 16, 1864. The flag was returned to Mississippi by the War Department in 1905.

The almost-150-year-old flag was cleaned and attached to a stretcher frame for preservation. Wool and linen fabrics were dyed to blend with the colors of the flag to use as underlay patches to support and infill the areas of loss in the flag. Holes were stabilized and the missing letters in “VICKSBURG” were reproduced. In total, the flag underwent 160 hours of work by professional textile restorers in New Orleans.

“The work done by this group has truly been amazing,” said Mississippi Department of Archives and History director H.T. Holmes. “This generous contribution, the latest in a



The flag before conservation (above) and after.



series, shows a real dedication to history.”

To learn more about this project or to donate funds to

MDAH towards flag conservation, please contact Cindy Gardner, director of collections, at 601-576-6901.

RECORDS,  
continued  
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tor Tim Barnard. “We will need the active involvement of interested local people to make this a full success.”

The information gathered during the project will be used to plan future preservation and digitization projects that will improve access to the information and allow the original records a greater measure of protection. The

*“We invite all the local historical societies in these counties to partner with MDAH for this project.”*

**Tim Barnard**  
LGRO Director

project will conclude with a free workshop on records management for officials and staff from the fourteen counties, and on-site consultations in each of those counties.

The mission of the Local Government Records Office includes advising and assisting counties, municipalities, school districts, libraries, and all other local government entities in Mississippi in managing their records. For more information contact Tim Barnard at 601-576-6894 or [tbarnard@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:tbarnard@mdah.state.ms.us).

# Race in Mississippi Examined in Documentary

A new film that draws heavily from the collections of the Department of Archives and History will premiere Thursday, February 11, at 8 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. *Mississippi ReMixed* was produced by Myra Williams Ottewell, who grew up in Jackson and attended Mississippi University for Women before moving to British Columbia.

At the end of a thirty-year teaching ca-

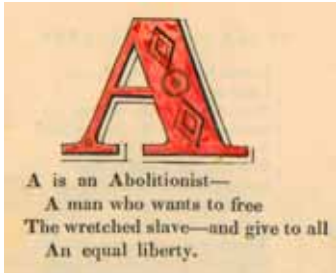
reer, Ottewell was invited by a colleague to speak to his class about a movie they had watched—*Mississippi Burning*, which centers on the search for the murderers of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia in 1964. Ottewell told the class that she hadn’t seen the kind of hatred against African Americans depicted in the film. To her surprise, the students didn’t buy her side of the story but

considered her to be a stereotypical southern woman who lived a privileged life, ignorant of the racial inequity around her.

Ottewell began to wonder: had she missed something? After years spent defending her native state, she began to confront her past. The five-year journey of self-discovery culminated in the creation of the hour-long documentary.

# Digital Archives Continues To Add Material

Over the last six months the Digital Archives section of the MDAH Web site has grown with several new collections. The Anti-Slavery Alphabet, images taken from a nineteenth-century book, is the most recent addition. Hannah and Mary Townsend submitted the *Anti-Slavery Alphabet* to the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society for its December 1846 fair to raise funds and inspire a



new generation of abolitionists. The MDAH alphabet is a first edition with hand-colored letters.

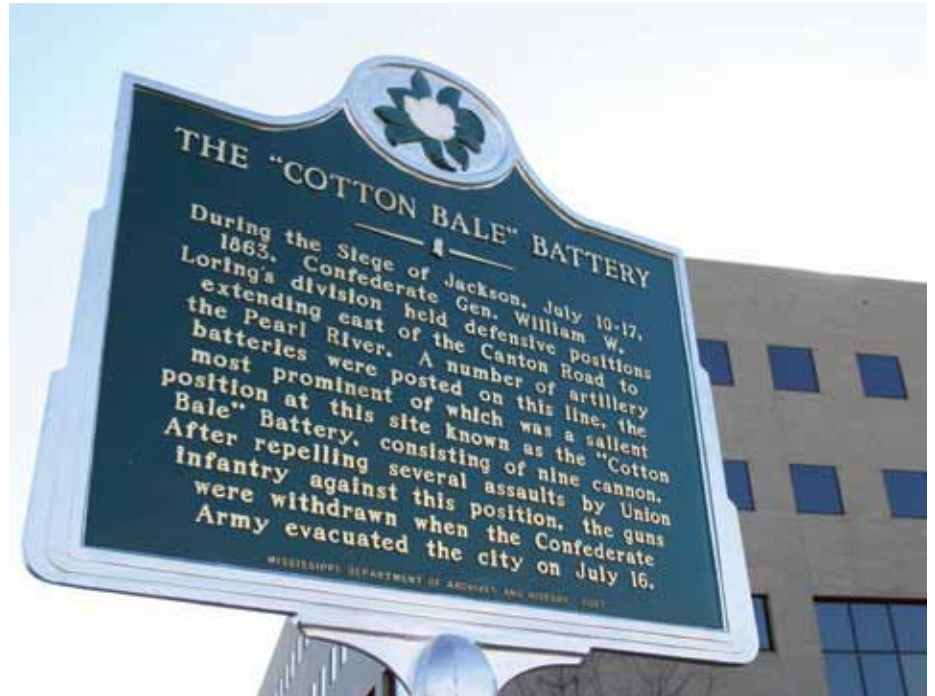
The Mississippi State Penitentiary, also known as Parchman Farm, was established in Sunflower County in 1901 and became the main hub for Mississippi's penal system. Two Mississippi State Penitentiary photograph collections showcase buildings, personnel, and convicts from around 1914 to the 1940s, and include prisoners farming, sewing, and playing baseball.

In July 2005, Mound Bayou historian Milburn Crowe donated to MDAH an album of ninety photographs of town fathers Isaiah Thornton Montgomery and Benjamin Titus Green, their family, and friends—who included abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The Montgomerys and Greens were prosperous, well-educated former slaves of Joseph Emory Davis (older brother of Jefferson Davis). The founding of Mound Bayou in 1887 was the culmination of their lifelong efforts to develop a self-sustaining African American community. Though faded with age, the photographs reveal the affluence and dignity of these nineteenth-century pioneers.

The final 576 images have been added to the Forrest Lamar Cooper Postcard Collection. This collection of 4,608 images offers a unique glimpse of Mississippi at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

To see these and many other collections, go to [http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital\\_archives/](http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/).

## Historical Marker Installed in Jackson



A state historical marker commemorating one of the few intact Civil War sites in Jackson has been installed. Located just to the north of the intersection of State and Fortification streets, the marker is at the site of the "Cotton Bale" battery, which bombarded the Union forces July 11-14, 1863. The privately funded marker was sponsored by the Jackson Civil War Round Table.

## Archaeology Program To Focus on Relationship between Chickasaws and Natchez Indians

As part of the Archaeology Program Series, on Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. Brad Lieb, special assistant in Cultural Affairs under the Chickasaw Nation's Division of History and Culture, will present "The Natchez Indian Refuge Among the Chickasaws" in the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians auditorium. Admission is free and seating is limited.

The Chickasaw tribe, whose villages were in present-day Lee and Pontotoc counties, allowed a large number of Natchez Indians to settle with them after the Natchez war with the French in 1729-31. For the Chickasaw chiefs, this was a very controversial decision because they knew that the presence of the Natchez refugees would almost certainly invite an attack by Governor Bienville and combined French and Indian forces. Lieb's study of the Chickasaw villages makes use of recent archaeological findings and historical



documentation and maps to reveal the location of the Natchez settlement and to shed light on this little-known period in Natchez Indian history.

A native of Ridgeland, Mississippi, Lieb began working for the Chickasaw Nation in 2009. He has held offices with the Mississippi Archaeological Association and the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. Lieb earned his doctorate in anthropology from the University of Alabama in 2008 with a dissertation on the Natchez Indian alliance with the Chickasaws. He received his M.A. in anthropology from the University of Alabama, and he graduated with honors from Mississippi State University. He has received numerous awards for his work on the Natchez Indians after they left the Natchez area and is currently serving as president of the Mississippi Association of Professional Archaeologists.

Light refreshments will be served. Call 601-446-6502 for more information. The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians is located at 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd., Natchez.

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

*Mississippi History Newsletter*  
Chris Goodwin, editor

For a free subscription to the newsletter or to submit news, call 601-576-6998 or email [newsletter@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:newsletter@mdah.state.ms.us)

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H.T. Holmes, director

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## FEBRUARY MDAH CALENDAR

### GREENVILLE

#### Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North  
662-334-4684  
[info@wintervillemounds.com](mailto:info@wintervillemounds.com)

**Saturday, February 13,** 1–3 p.m. *Genealogy Workshop.*

Learn how to trace family history using state and federal records with Houma genealogist Francis Johnson. Special emphasis will be on tribal research and establishing Native American heritage.

### JACKSON

#### Old Capitol Museum

State Street at Capitol  
601-576-6920  
[info@oldcapitolmuseum.com](mailto:info@oldcapitolmuseum.com)

**Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout February,** 9 and 11 a.m. *Black History: Road to the Vote*, a program for school groups. Reservations required.

**Thursday, February 11,** 6–7:30 p.m. *Preserving Mississippi's African American Heritage.* Alex Thomas will discuss the preservation of our state's historic African American sites.

#### History Is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building  
200 North Street  
601-576-6998

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**—Millsaps history professor Kristen Oertel discusses her book *Bleeding Borders: Race, Gender, and Violence in Pre-Civil War Kansas* and cites Mississippi parallels.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10**—Mississippi State University history professor emeritus William Parrish discusses his book *Frank Blair: Lincoln's Conservative.*

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**—

Anthony Mazingo discusses his book *The Longleaf Trace Companion.*

**Wednesday, Feb. 24**—author Ellen Wilds talks about “Far From Home: The Diary of Lt. William H. Peel, 1863-1865.”

### WASHINGTON

#### Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North  
601-442-2901  
[info@jeffersoncollege.com](mailto:info@jeffersoncollege.com)

**Saturday, February 13,** 10–11:30 a.m. (ages 6–8) and 2–3:30 p.m. (ages 9–12). *EXPLORE! Evergreen Trees.* Find out which ones do not lose their leaves, and make special crafts using their twigs, leaves, and seeds. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to stay and learn. \$10 pre-registration fee.

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites applications for a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music.” Developed for small museums, libraries, community centers, and other non-profit organizations with limited access to traveling exhibits, “New Harmonies” previously toured Mississippi in 2007–08. The exhibit will again travel the state from April 2011 through January 2012. It will be made available to a limited number of host sites for a period of 4 to 6 weeks each.

Contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752 for further information on how to apply. Applications are due by Wednesday, March 24.