

# Mississippi History

# MDAH

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# NEWSLETTER

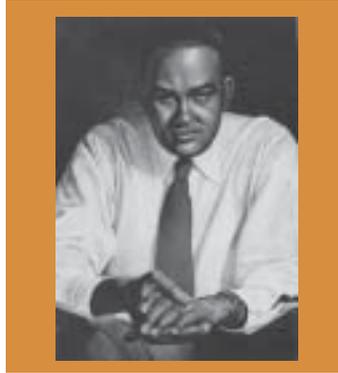
## Hall of Fame Election

Two literary giants, an internationally acclaimed potter, and a leader in the development of Mississippi's oil industry have been chosen as new members of the Mississippi Hall of Fame. **Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, George Ohr, and Emmett Vaughney** were elected by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History at a special meeting on December 15.

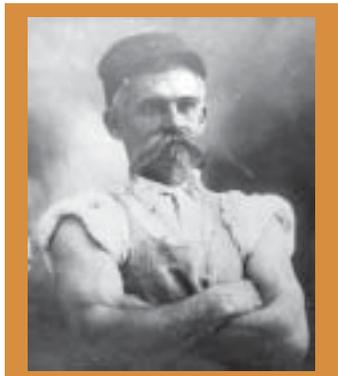


**Eudora Alice Welty** was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on April 13, 1909, and lived in Jackson all her life. During her life she produced a number of story collections and novels, including *Losing Battles* and *The Optimist's Daughter*, the latter earning her the Pulitzer Prize. Her collected essays, photographs, and memoirs were also published to high acclaim. Welty died on July 23, 2001.

**Richard Nathaniel Wright** was born September 4, 1908, on a farm near Roxie. He lived in Natchez and then Jackson and wrote his first story at Smith Robertson Junior High School. Wright later lived in Memphis, Chicago, and New York. His first



novel, *Native Son*, was published in 1940. That work and his fictionalized autobiography, *Black Boy*, are regarded as classics of American literature. Wright wrote many more novels and short stories as well as non-fiction and poetry. He died in 1960.



**George Edgar Ohr** was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1857. In 1890 he opened the Biloxi Art and Novelty Pottery. With his long mustache and offbeat humor, the self-proclaimed "Mad Potter of Biloxi" developed an eccentric persona. He began to produce extraordinary art pottery—pinched, folded, and twisted pots exhibiting rare technical facility. Ohr died in 1918, not hav-

*Continued page three*

## Grants Awarded

### Community Heritage Grant Awards

Thirty-two preservation and restoration projects from Corinth to the Gulf Coast have been awarded nearly \$4 million in the fifth year of a grant program administered by MDAH. The Community Heritage Preservation grant program, authorized and funded through the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic properties.

Twenty-nine of the thirty-two properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Department of Archives and

### Hurricane Relief Grants

MDAH has awarded grants of more than \$6.4 million to fifty-seven applicants in the first round of the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation. The grants will be used to repair and restore historically significant structures, both publicly and privately owned, that suffered hurricane damage.

The MDAH Board of Trustees determined the grant recipients at a special meeting on December 15. The deadline for submission of applications for the second round of grants is January 19, 2007, and grants will be awarded at a meeting on February 16, 2007. Most applicants

**GRANTS NEWS continued page two**

## MDAH Board Elects Members

The MDAH Board of Trustees elected two new members on December 15. They are **Reuben V. Anderson**, Jackson, and **Roland Weeks**, Biloxi. Reuben Anderson is a partner in the Jackson law firm of Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Roland Weeks is the retired publisher of the *Biloxi Sun Herald*.

The new members, awaiting confirmation by the state senate, will fill vacancies created by the resignation of longtime board member Arch Dalrymple III, Amory, and by the July 2006 death of board member Gilbert R. Mason, Sr., Biloxi.

Reuben Anderson, a graduate of Tougaloo College and the University of Mississippi Law School, has held the position,

among others, of Mississippi Supreme Court justice (1985–90) and Jamie L. Whitten Chair of Law and Government at the University of Mississippi (fall 1995). He currently serves as a director for BellSouth, Atlanta; the Kroger Co., Cincinnati, Ohio; and Trustmark National Bank, Jackson.

Since Roland Weeks arrived in Mississippi in 1968, he has directed the Biloxi/Gulfport *Daily Herald's* development into the *Sun Herald*. He retired five years ago and has been active on many area boards, including the Ohr-O'Keefe museum board and the newly formed Gulf Coast Business Council.

## Community Grants, continued

History received sixty-seven applications. Over the life of the program the department has awarded more than \$22 million in Community Heritage Preservation grants to 121 projects.

"This program has been crucial in preserving historic structures across the state, and we are grateful to the Legislature for continuing to fund it," said H.T. Holmes, MDAH director. "The response from the public has been overwhelming, and we only regret that we could not have funded more of these worthy projects." Please visit [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us) or call 601-576-6850 for a list of the projects.

## Relief Grants, continued

who did not receive funding in the first round will automatically be eligible for consideration in future rounds. The Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation is federally funded through the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior; the program will distribute \$26 million to properties damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Grant awards went to seventeen applicants in Bay Saint Louis, five in Biloxi, one in Gautier, seven in Gulfport; one in Hattiesburg, one in Long Beach, seven in Ocean Springs, six in Pascagoula, eight in Pass Christian, one in Pearlinton, one in Perkinston, and two in Waveland. For more information, visit [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us).

## Historic Natchez Conference

"NEVER PAST:  
HISTORY AND MEMORY  
IN THE  
OLD NATCHEZ DISTRICT"

February 6-10, 2007

For information, contact the  
Historic Natchez Foundation,  
601-442-2500  
or 800-445-2510.

## Mississippi Blues Trail Kickoff



Above left, members of the Blues Commission, chaired by Bill McPherson of Indianola, look on as Governor Haley Barbour unveils the Charley Patton marker in Holly Ridge; right, Governor Barbour and unidentified UK journalist with marker.

The first three markers of the Mississippi Blues Trail were dedicated in ceremonies on December 11, inaugurating one of the Mississippi Blues Commission's primary projects. The Trail, which will include historical markers and interpretive sites, will be developed in phases as funding becomes available. "Phase 1" of the trail will consist of eleven markers that will focus on higher profile locations.

The three sites are 1) the gravesite of Charley Patton, one of the earliest and most influential bluesmen, at Holly Ridge, near Indianola, 2) Nelson Street, Greenville, one of the stops along what was known as the "Chitlin Circuit," and 3) the former site of WGRM radio in Greenwood, where B.B. King made his live radio broadcasts in 1940. A distinguished panel of historians and blues scholars has developed an inventory of notable blues sites. Each will be identified with a distinctive cast aluminum marker featuring high-resolution maps, photographs, and text complementing primary text on reverse side. Eventually, sites will employ the latest technology to allow visitors to hear the sounds associated with each location. A detailed Blues Trail map will also be available that will provide driving directions, GPS coordinates, and information for each site.



Left, H. T. Holmes, MDAH director; congratulates Sam B. Olden, Yazoo Historical Society president, on having the Triangle Cultural Center museum named in his honor. The honor recognizes Olden's thirty years of leadership and dedication to the restoration of the historic Triangle buildings. Depicted is a reproduction of the bronze plaque that will be mounted at the entrance of the museum.

## Disaster Workshop

MDAH and the Mississippi Library Commission will present a free, **one-day workshop on dPlan™**, a free online disaster planning tool, at the Library Commission in Jackson on **Friday, February 16**. Aimee Primeaux, Northeast Document Conservation Center, which developed dPlan, will conduct the sessions.

The workshop is open to libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and other cultural institutions with collections open to the public. It will be held 9 a.m.–4 p.m., with lunch provided. Pre-registration is required. For information, call 601-576-6991.

## Willie Morris Library Dedicated



The Willie Morris Library, a new branch of the Jackson Hinds Library System, was dedicated in ceremonies November 29, Willie Morris's birthday. Remarks were offered by Morris's son, David Rae Morris, Morris's widow, JoAnne Prichard Morris, and city and county officials. The library, designed by Cooke Douglass Farr Lem-

ons/Ltd., is located in a wooded setting at 4912 Old Canton Road, Jackson. (Above, JoAnne Prichard Morris speaks before unveiling a portrait of Willie Morris (by Mildred Wolfe), which will hang in the library.)

## Hall of Fame, continued

ing received much acknowledgment for his art. Today Ohr's pots are highly valued and are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Modern Art, and other museums.



**Emmett Alexander Vaughey** was born in 1908 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1927 he began his career in the oil business and in 1936 be-

gan operating in Mississippi. In 1940 Vaughey moved to Jackson, and his company became a major player in the state's young oil and gas industry. Vaughey worked with the Mississippi Legislature to establish conservation laws that became models for other oil-producing states, and he served on several regional and national boards. During the Korean War he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to serve as the Director of Production, Petroleum Administration for Defense. Vaughey died in 1987.

Membership in the Mississippi Hall of Fame is the most significant recognition granted by the state. For more information call 601-576-6850 or visit [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us).

## SAVE DATES: MHS March 1-3

The Mississippi Historical Society meets at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson March 1-3, 2007, for its annual meeting. The theme will be "Telling Mississippi's Stories," the keynote speaker Jim Loewen, author of the best-selling *Lies My*

*Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong* and *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*. To register, visit [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us) or call 601-576-6849. Members will receive registration materials by mail.

# MDAH EVENTS

## Jackson

**William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street 601-576-6850**

**Wednesday, January 10, noon-1 p.m.: History Is Lunch.** State Representative **Sidney Bondurant** will discuss and sign copies of his new book on the Civil War, *The History of the 33rd Mississippi Infantry*.

**Old Capitol, State Street at Capitol**

**Thursday, January 11, 2 p.m.: Old Capitol Restoration Groundbreaking Ceremonies.** The public is invited to attend. Ceremony will be held in front of building, weather permitting.

**Wednesday, January 24, noon-1 p.m.: History Is Lunch. Blues scholars Scott Baretta**, former editor of *Living Blues* magazine, and Tougaloo professor **Edgar Smith** will discuss details of the recently launched **Mississippi Blues Trail**.

**Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1152 Lakeland Drive**

**Saturday, January 20: Mississippi Genealogical Society Seminar**, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. **Robert Scott Davis**, director of the Alabama Family and Regional History Program, will be the keynote speaker. Topics include "The Thirteenth Colony: Exploring the Colonial Georgia Records," "Secrets to Research in Georgia," "Georgia and the Old Southwest, 1783-1861," and "Secrets to Research in Alabama." The cost of the seminar is \$30, \$44 with lunch (\$2 discount to Society members). For more information, call 601-924-9346.

**Manship House Museum 420 East Fortification St.**

**Monday, January 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Fun for the Fireside.** Enjoy an afternoon making nineteenth-century crafts. Free of charge, for ages five to twelve. Reservations required. For reservations or information call 601-961-4724.

**Sunday, January 21, 3 p.m., and Monday, January 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Victorian Homes: Culture and Comfort decorative arts symposium.** Noted scholars will provide insight into the homes and lives of our Victorian ancestors through lectures, demonstrations, and performances. Free, but reservations required. Call 601-961-4724 for information and reservations. Sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

## Natchez

**Grand Village of the Natchez Indians 400 Jefferson Davis**

**Saturday, January 27, 2-4 p.m.: Eleventh Moon Storytelling**, stories about Indians and nature for ages nine-adult. Auditorium seating is limited. For more information, call 601-446-6502.

## Washington

**Historic Jefferson College January 27-March 11: If It Ain't Seasoned, It Ain't Much of Anything**, ninety-six photographs documenting ethnic communities around the state Museum of Mississippi History traveling exhibit. For more information, call 601-442-2901.

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## Governor's Mansion Docent Luncheon



Retiring docents Betty Douglass (twenty years of service) and Dot Ward (thirteen years of service) were honored at the December 4 Mansion docents luncheon, First Lady Marsha Barbour, hostess. **Front row:** Annette Redden, Sarah Flanagan, Mansion curator Mary Lohrenz, Ruby McLemore, Andi McDaniel, Lynn Stuart, Melanie McKinley, Janis Roberts, Kathryn Reid, Shirlee Lawson. **2<sup>nd</sup> row:** Doris Brickell, Ruth Tant, Carol Robertson, Dot Ward, Frances Kees, Pauline Akers, Barbara Magoun, Mackie Jernigan, Cathy Smith, Mary Louise Nosser. **3<sup>rd</sup> row:** Billie Henry, Earline Raines, Jane Jones, Alice Carol Perry, Charlotte Turner, Pat Pierce, Jean Hallman. **4<sup>th</sup> row:** Babs Sevier, Judy Lacy, Joan Dattel, Lucy Bishop, Sally Carmichael, Katie Breese, Peggy Dawson, Sylvia Walker. **5<sup>th</sup> row:** Ruth Byars, Sue McRoberts, Martha Ball, Betty Lake, Frances VanZant, Barbara Bell, Buena Lee Huff, Clytice Gardner. **6<sup>th</sup> row:** Lois Russell, Janet McLaurin, Charlotte Wallace, Sister Simmons, MDAH Board member and Mansion Committee chair Lynn Gammill. **Back row:** MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, MDAH Board and Mansion Committee member Jack Garner, MDAH director Hank Holmes. **Not pictured:** First Lady Marsha Barbour, Mansion Committee member Henri Burnham, Mansion docents Jane Baird, Tom Bowen, Betty Douglass, Eula Stanley, and Jeanette Sullivan.

### Robert Lockwood, Jr., 1915–2006

Bluesman Robert Lockwood, Jr., one of the last direct links to the primal blues of the Mississippi Delta, died November 21 in Cleveland at ninety-one. Lockwood was known for his pioneering live broadcasts in the late 1940s with Sonny Boy Williamson on the King Biscuit Time radio program over Helena's KFFA. Blues scholar Scott Baretta calls Lockwood "an architect of modern Chicago blues, largely through his jazz-inflected guitar work." According to Baretta, Lockwood directly influenced the young B.B. King, demonstrating to him that the potential of the blues guitar was broader than what he had experienced in the Delta.

### Henry Townsend, 1910–2006

Henry "Mule" Townsend, born in Shelby, Mississippi, grew up in Cairo, Illinois, learned to play the guitar, and developed into an internationally acclaimed blues musician. Music scholar Jon Pareles wrote, "Townsend sang epic-length blues, many stretching far beyond ten verses, that presented a landscape of unending desolation and betrayal." Townsend won a National Heritage Award in 1985 as a master artist. He died September 24.

Receive email reminders of MDAH events. Send your address to [pubinfo@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:pubinfo@mdah.state.ms.us).

## Preserve America Grants

The National Park Service has posted application information for the FY 2007 Preserve America Grants. Congress has not yet appropriated funds for the program; grants will be awarded subject to the final availability of funds. The grants are designed to support a variety of activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets. They go beyond the bricks and mortar grants available under the Save America's Treasures program.

Eligible recipients for these matching (50/50) grants include

State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, designated *Preserve America* Communities, and Certified Local Governments that are applying for *Preserve America* Community designation. Individual grants range from \$20,000 to \$150,000.

Last fiscal year, \$5 million was awarded to sixty-eight projects. Project descriptions are available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hpg/PreserveAmerica/index.htm> **The deadline for applications is February 14, 2007.** Grant guidelines and application forms are available at the same site.