

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

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MDAH Awards \$2 Million in Preservation Grants

Sixteen preservation and restoration projects from Corinth to Summit have been awarded \$2 million in the seventh round of the MDAH Community Heritage Preservation grant program. The 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.

“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 MDAH director H.T. Holmes. “With over \$14 million in requests and only \$2 million available, it was difficult choosing from such a competitive group.”

The awards are as follows:

Col. William P. Rogers

Civil War Statue, Corinth, Alcorn County—\$19,800. *For repair and restoration of the monument.*

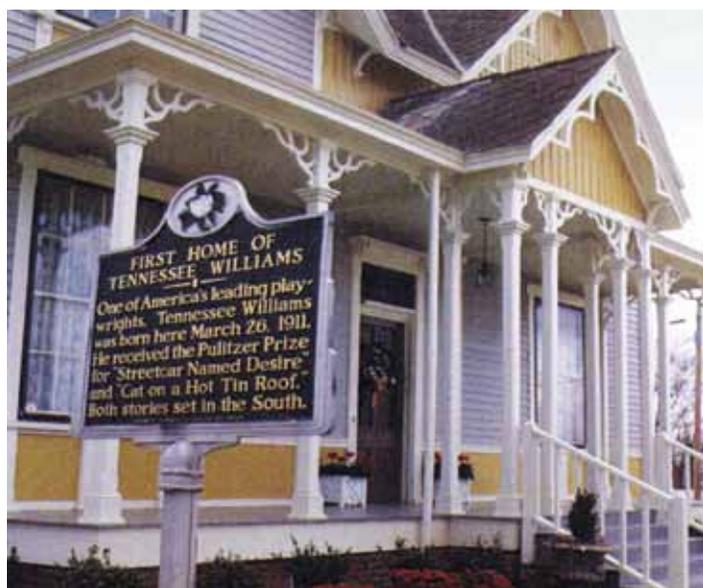
Curlee-Veranda House, Corinth, Alcorn County—\$266,000. *For restoration of the exterior of the house.*

Bolivar County Courthouse, Rosedale, Bolivar County—\$300,000. *For wall and foundation repair and stabilization.*

Carrollton Town Hall, Carrollton, Carroll County—\$26,100. *For stabilization and restoration of the back three walls of the building.*

(Old) West Clay Agricultural High School, Pheba, Clay County—\$51,170. *For interior rehabilitation of the first floor.*

Governor A.M. Scott Monument, Jackson, Hinds County—\$4,000. *For stabilization of*



the monument.

Lowry-Flannegan House, Jackson, Hinds County—\$92,928. *For exterior restoration.*

Prentiss Institute Rosen-

wald School, Prentiss, Jefferson Davis County—\$164,000. *For exterior and interior renovations.*

Ventress Hall, University

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Katrina Recovery Theme of 2010 MHS Meeting

The Gulf Coast and its recovery after Hurricane Katrina's devastation is the focus of the Mississippi Historical Society's 2010 annual meeting in Gulfport.

The meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, with a public reception at the reconstructed historic home Grass Lawn in Gulfport. On March 5–6 at the Courtyard Marriott presentations will be made about the photographic



collections “Down South” and Dixie Press Collection, the

restoration of Beauvoir, the centennial celebrations at the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast

Community College, and the ongoing work of Gulf Coast historical societies and museums.

James Pat Smith, professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi–Gulf Coast, will give the banquet address, “Katrina: the Mississippi Tsunami.” Since 2005, Dr. Smith has worked with the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage gathering interviews to document the impact of Katrina on the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He is working on a book for the University Press of Mississippi with

the title *Tsunami: The Katrina Story from Ground Zero on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*.

At the Friday luncheon Jefferson Davis impersonator George Buss will present “Jefferson Davis at Beauvoir.” A tour of Beauvoir will follow at 3 p.m. The winner of the McLemore Prize for best book of 2010 will be announced at the Friday luncheon. The Bettersworth Award for best history teacher of 2010 will be given Saturday at the awards luncheon.

“We are all very excited

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Humor Focus of Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

“Humor in the Deep South” is the theme of the 21st annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which will take place Feb. 25-28, 2010, in Natchez. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Archives and History.

“This conference couldn’t come at a better time,” said NLCC founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith. “With the economy as it is, and with so many other serious pressures all around us, we hope the conference will let us slow down, laugh a little, and leave refreshed.”

The Olympic Award-winning conference will feature four days of presentations, movie screenings, readings, and more, including:

- Programs by outstanding authors, historians, and film experts, including James C. Cobb, Thad Cochran, Trudier Harris, Mary Donnelly Haskell, Sam Haskell, M. Thomas Inge, Mark LaFrancis, John Mayfield, Scott Dixon McDowell, JoAnne Prichard Morris, Marshall Ramsey, Clifton Taulbert, Charles Vahlkamp, Sarah McLaurin Vahlkamp, Jerry W. Ward, Jr., Jane Feltus Welch, Rebecca Wells, Diane Williams, Charles Reagan Wilson, Gerald Wood, and others.

- Screening and discussion of Robert Harling’s *Steel Magnolias* and Horton Foote’s *The Trip to Bountiful*.

- Premiere screening of Scott Dixon McDowell’s documen-



(From left) Karen Gilfoy, Jane Petty, Eudora Welty, and Patti Carr Black enjoy a laugh in Oxford, Mississippi, in 1977. Photograph by Reynolds Price from the Patti Carr Black Collection.

tary *Horton Foote: Regional Voice, Universal Vision*, about the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenplay writer.

- Premiere screening of Mark LaFrancis’s documentary *Now! That’s Funny! Jokes, Stories,*

and Other Musings from the Deep South.

- Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony honoring authors Robert S. McElvaine, Jr., of Millsaps College and Steve Yarbrough

of Emerson College in Boston.

- Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting ceremony honoring the screenplay writer and playwright Robert Harling.

- Thad Cochran Humanities Achievement Award ceremony honoring Jerry W. Ward, Jr.

- The play *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, in cooperation with the Natchez Little Theatre.

- Writing workshops for adults and grade school children

- Book signings and other informal times with authors.

- Live music.

- Festive social events in two of Natchez’s most beautiful mansions, Greenlea and Stanton Hall.

Because of major support from the four co-sponsors as well as the Mississippi Humanities Council and other agencies, most of the NLCC is free of charge, Smith said. “There are only three ticketed events,” she said.

Information and tickets are available at www.colin.edu/nlcc; by calling toll-free 866-296-6522; or by emailing NLCC@colin.edu.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MDAH, Natchez National Historical Park, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Co-chairmen are Smith, representing Co-Lin; Kathleen Jenkins, NNHP; Jim Barnett, MDAH; and Sherry Johnson, MPB.

PRESERVATION, continued from p. 1

of Mississippi, Lafayette County—\$40,724. For repair and restoration of the stained glass window.

(Old) Matty Hersee Hospital, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$300,000. For asbestos abatement.

(Old) Carthage Elementary School, Carthage, Leake County—\$134,400. For preservation

of the building.

Elizabeth Cottage, Brookhaven, Lincoln County—\$98,260. For stabilization of structural components and restoration of exterior architectural features.

Tennessee Williams House, Columbus, Lowndes County—\$108,000. For repair of floor and framing, reproduction

of fireplaces and chimneys, and roof replacement.

Amory (Old) National Guard Armory, Amory, Monroe County—\$132,775. For roof replacement.

Liberty-White Depot Museum, Summit, Pike County—\$56,843. For restoration of depot.

Tallahatchie County Court-

house, Sumner, Tallahatchie County—\$205,000. For replication of windows and doors.

The Board of Trustees determined the grant recipients at a special meeting on December 4 in Jackson. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Mingo Tingle in the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH, 601-576-6952.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, continued from p. 1

about our society's annual meeting on Mississippi's historic Gulf Coast," said MHS president Westley F. Busbee, Jr. "It will be a great opportunity to recall this region's important role in our state's history and to see and learn about its reconstruction since Hurricane Katrina. I hope everyone will make plans to attend and enjoy the meeting."

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard Marriott in Gulfport. Call the Courtyard Marriott at 228-864-4310 by February 11, 2010, to request the Mississippi Historical Society annual meeting rate of \$110 plus tax.

Registration cost for the annual meeting is \$50 for individuals and \$65 for couples, or for MHS members \$25 for individuals and \$30 for couples. The registration form can be printed from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us, or contact MDAH at 601-576-6849 or by email at mhs@mdah.state.ms.us to have a copy mailed to you.

Governor's Mansion Docents Honored



First Lady Marsha Barbour hosted a luncheon for the Governor's Mansion docents on December 7, 2009. Retiring MDAH trustee and Mansion Committee chair Lynn Gammill was recognized for her 22 years of service. Three retiring docents were recognized for their service: Frances Kees (22 years), Sue McRoberts (10 years), and Barbara Magoun (3 years). Eight docents were recognized for giving the most service this year: Pauline Akers, Ruth Byars, Janis Roberts, Clytice Gardner, Judy Lacy, Freda Spell, Janet McLaurin, and Andi McDaniel.

Pictured above are (front row seated) Lynn Stuart, Andi McDaniel, Barbara Magoun, Frances Kees, First Lady Marsha Barbour, Shirlee Lawson, Sarah Flanagan, and Sylvia Walker;

(middle row seated) Mary Louise Nossier, Bernie Lieb, Jean Clarkson, Melanie McKinley, Alice

Carol Mazingo, Janis Roberts, Judy Lacy, Earline Raines, and Doris Brickell;

(back row standing) Janet McLaurin, Pat Pierce, Ruby McLemore, Sister Simmons, Joan Dattel, Mackie Jernigan, Sally Carmichael, MDAH director Hank Holmes, Shirley Abney, Tom Bowen, Ruth Byars, MDAH trustee and Mansion Committee member Jack Garner, Jean Hallman, Pauline Akers, Charlotte Turner, Babs Sevier, Ruth Tant, MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, Clytice Gardner, Morella Henegan, Freda Spell, Mansion curator Mary Lohrenz, and Billie Henry.

Not pictured are Lynn Gammill, Mansion Committee member Henri Burnham, Mansion administrator Cora Gee, and docents Jane Baird, Peggy Dawson, Buena Lee Huff, Jane Jones, and Sue McRoberts.

AmeriCorps Team To Work at Winterville Mounds in Jan.-Feb.

In mid-January a team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps workers from around the country will arrive at Winterville Mounds to undertake a mound-clearing project. About a dozen AmeriCorps team members will live and work on site from January 13 through February 5.

"We are grateful to the AmeriCorps program for choosing Winterville as one its projects, and we look forward to having the workers

here," said Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell. "I know the Greenville community will help us make them feel welcome."

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18-24. Members are assigned to one of five campuses, located in Denver, Colorado;



Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa.

The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with non-profits—secular and faith-based, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national or state parks, Indian Tribes, and schools—members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.

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Chris Goodwin, editor

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H.T. Holmes, director

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JANUARY MDAH CALENDAR

JACKSON

History Is Lunch Series

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

Wednesday, Jan. 13—

Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi will discuss sites on the “10 Most Endangered” list.

Wednesday, Jan. 20—

“New Directions in the Study of Richard Wright,” by Dillard University professor Jerry Ward. *Sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.*

Wednesday, Jan. 27— University of Southern Mississippi history professor Deanne Nuer will talk about the scourge of yellow fever in Mississippi. *Sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.*

Eudora Welty House

1119 Pinehurst Street, Jackson
601-353-7762
info@eudoraweltyhouse.com

The Eudora Welty House is accepting writing submissions for the *2010 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards*. This is the second year for the writing program to be offered in Mississippi. It is open to junior high and high school students in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties. To register or to learn more about competition categories or submission guidelines, go to www.artandwriting.org. All Mississippi regional submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, by mail or delivery to:

*Eudora Welty House
Education and Visitors Center*
1109 Pinehurst Street
Jackson, MS 39202

For more information or questions about the application process, contact Maurine Jackson at 601-353-7762 or at mjackson@mdah.state.ms.us.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@jeffersoncollege.com

Saturday, January 16,
10–11:30 a.m. (ages 6–8)
and 2–3:30 p.m. (ages 9–12).
EXPLORE! Weaving. Students will learn the art of weaving using paper and cloth, as well as how pioneers used looms. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to stay and learn. \$10 pre-registration fee.

Wednesday, January 20,
noon. *Lunchtime Lecture.*
“Water, Water Everywhere: A

Look at Mississippi’s Fossil Record.” George Phillips, paleontology curator for the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, will present an overview of the fossil history of Mississippi and the various marine inundations that figured so prominently in Mississippi’s geologic past. Free of charge, bring your lunch.

NATCHEZ

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
601-446-6502
info@natchezgrandvillage.com

Saturday, January 30, 24
p.m. *Eleventh Moon Storytelling.* Local and regional storytellers spin tales about Native Americans and nature. Of interest to ages nine to adult. Free of charge.