

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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MDAH Offers Summer Activities for Children

The Department of Archives and History's museums and historic sites across the state are offering summer camps for a variety of ages, with focuses ranging from Native American culture to architecture to pioneer skills. Call soon for registration deadlines and further information. Sign up your youngster today—these camps fill fast!

GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NATCHEZ INDIANS, NATCHEZ
info@natchezgrandvillage.com
601-446-6502

June 14–18, 9 a.m.–noon. *Discovery Week*. Play stickball, learn about flint-knapping and pottery, walk nature trails, play games, and make crafts. For ages eight to eleven; \$40 fee includes all supplies.

HISTORIC JEFFERSON COLLEGE, WASHINGTON
info@historicjeffersoncollege.com
601-442-2901

Pioneer Camp. Children learn about pioneer life in the early 1800s. These day camps feature hands-on activities such as quilting, soap-making, animal life, and frontier camp. Cost is \$20.

June 1–4, 9 a.m.–noon. *Pioneer Camp I* for ages seven to nine.

June 22–25, 9 a.m.–noon. *Pioneer Camp II* for ages eight to twelve.

July 9–11, 9 a.m.–noon. *Civil War Adventure Camp*. Young Civil War enthusiasts are encour-



A past summer camp at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.

aged to sign up for this camp for a unique look at the Civil War from a soldier's point of view. Open to boys and girls ages eight to twelve. Campers will learn how to drill and parade, watch a black-powder rifle demonstration, and learn about the gear necessary for survival while in the military. Cost is \$20.

July 20–24, 9 a.m.–noon. *Naturalist Camp*. This camp for ages

nine to twelve focuses on hands-on projects and observation in the field of insects, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bugs, and plants. Cost is \$20.

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM, JACKSON
info@oldcapitolmuseum.com
601-576-6920

Mississippi Faces and Places. Children in grades four to seven

will explore the history of some of the most famous visitors to MDAH's historic sites, including the Old Capitol Museum, Governor's Mansion, Mansion House, and Eudora Welty House. Two sessions, **June 14–18**, 8:30 a.m.–noon, and **July 12–16**, 8:30 a.m.–noon. \$40 fee includes all supplies.

WINTERVILLE MOUNDS, GREENVILLE
info@wintervillemounds.com
662-334-4684

June 14–18, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (session one) and 1:30–3:30 p.m. (session two). *Walk a Mile in My Moccasins*. Muscogee artist Valerie Hanks-Goetz will teach children six to twelve about Native American art and culture. Activities include weaving, storytelling, and making and using a drum and peace arrow. \$45 fee.

June 14–16, 9–10 a.m. *Mommy and Me Workshop*. Children four to five years old and their guardians make a drum, gorget with a bell, and model canoe with Valerie Hanks-Goetz. \$15 fee.

Newsletter Changing to Quarterly Schedule

This issue marks the final monthly printed *Mississippi History Newsletter*. Beginning in July, we will change our publication schedule to print quarterly. We will continue to keep everyone up to date with news from the department, its museums, and historic sites through more frequent email updates.

Everyone currently receiving the monthly

newsletter will continue to receive the printed quarterly edition. If you already receive the newsletter by email, you will be automatically added to the list for email updates. If you are not currently on the department's email list and would like to be, go to the MDAH Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us, and sign up. It's quick and easy!

New Heritage of Mississippi Book Published

The fourth book in the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* has been published. In *Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front*, Timothy B. Smith examines Mississippi's Civil War defeat by both outside and inside forces.

The Union army dismantled the state's political system, infrastructure, economy, and fighting capability. The state saw extensive military operations, destruction, and bloodshed within her borders. One of the most frightful and extended sieges of the war ended in a crucial Confederate defeat at Vicksburg, the capstone to a tremendous Union campaign.

As Confederate forces in Mississippi became overwhelmed militarily, the white populace's morale began to crumble. Realizing that the enemy could roll unchecked over the state, civilians, Smith argues, began to lose the will to continue the struggle. Many white Confederates chose to return to the Union rather than see continued destruction in the name of a victory that seemed ever more improbable. When the tide turned, Unionists and African Americans boldly

stepped up their endeavors. The result, Smith finds, was a state vanquished and destined to endure suffering far into its future.



The first examination of the state's Civil War home front in seventy years, this book focuses new light on previously neglected groups such as women and African Americans.

Tim Smith teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is the author of several books, including *The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and Battlefield* and *Champion Hill:*

Decisive Battle for Vicksburg. Smith will be the speaker at a History Is Lunch program on August 4.

The *Heritage of Mississippi Series* is aimed at a broad audience of scholars, teachers, students, and interested general readers. The works are meant to stand as the definitive studies on the topics for years to come. Published jointly by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Historical Society, and the University Press of Mississippi, the series will cover the history of Mississippi in fifteen volumes to be completed by 2017—the bicentennial of Mississippi's statehood.

Three other volumes in the series have been issued—*Art in Mississippi: 1720–1980* by Patti Carr Black, *Religion in Mississippi*, by Randy J. Sparks, and *Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi after Reconstruction, 1877–1917*, by Stephen Cresswell.

Scheduled for publication are *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles*, by Michael B. Ballard, archivist, Mississippi State University; and *Mississippi's American In-*

dians by James F. Barnett, Jr., Historic Properties Division director, MDAH.

Volumes currently in progress are *Mississippi in the Twentieth Century: An Economic History*, by Connie Lester, assistant professor of history, University of Central Florida and editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and *From Poverty to Promise: Mississippi 1917–1945*, by Chester M. Morgan III, professor of history, University of Southern Mississippi.

Recently commissioned volumes include *Reconstruction in Mississippi* by political commentator Jere Nash, aided by William C. Harris, professor emeritus of history, North Carolina State University, and *Frontier Mississippi, 1798–1840* by James Michael Bunn, curator of history, Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia, and Clay Williams, director, Old Capitol Museum, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Members of the board of editors of the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* are Chairman William F. Winter, Vice-chair John F. Marszalek, Dernal Davis, Elbert R. Hilliard, H.T. Holmes, Peggy W. Jeanes, William K. Scarborough, Charles Reagan Wilson, and Christine Wilson.

Contract Awarded for State Records Center Project

Plans for the development and use of the Naval Reserve Building complex in downtown Jackson by the Department of Archives and History are moving forward. The department is responsible for managing documents and other records created by state agencies, counties, municipalities, school districts, libraries, and all other local government entities in Mississippi.

The State Records Center houses non-archival public records that must be kept available for varying periods of time but are not required to be stored on site at each agency's offices. Currently most of the records are stored in the State Records Center on High Street in Jackson. The new complex

will consolidate public records from three locations and will include a viewing room for agencies to access their boxed documents on site.

The Department of Finance and Administration awarded the \$4 million contract to Thrash Commercial Contractors, Inc., of Brandon to construct records storage areas, provide shelving, and restore the exterior of the Naval Reserve Building.

In addition to improved efficiency, the modern facility will strengthen the safety and security of the documents with a climate control system and sprinkler system. "This will be a much cleaner environment for the documents, and the boxes will last longer,"

said Bob Dent, director of the Government Records section. "We will also be able to have for the first time our staff offices in the same building as the records."

The MDAH Archives and Records Services Division is responsible for the operation of the state archives and management of government records. The Government Records section combines all functions relating to state and local government records, allowing the department to achieve a more unified approach to the management of government records and provide more integrated services.

For more information call 601-576-6806 or email bdent@mdah.state.ms.us.

Contest Winner Awarded \$10,000 Scholarship

The recent partnership of the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Eudora Welty House with the Mississippi Museum of Art and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers has produced a national winner of the 2010 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Jackson Preparatory School senior Alexandra Franklin is one of only fifteen graduating seniors from across the country to win a \$10,000 scholarship for her submission to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Franklin's portfolio received a gold medal in the general writing category.

Since 2008 the foundation has been the Alliance's Mississippi Writing Region affiliate for the writing competition. The Eudora Welty House administers the program, which is currently offered to junior high and high school students in Hinds, Rankin, and Madison counties.

"The Alliance's mission to identify and develop young artists and writers is a perfect fit for us because when Eudora Welty left

her house to the state it was with the understanding that it would be used to encourage writers and artists as she did during her life with Reynolds Price and Elizabeth Spencer," said Meemie Jackson, director of education at the Eudora Welty House.

This year's regional awards ceremony was held on Sunday, April 18 at the Jackson Convention Complex. Holmes Adams, Eudora Welty Foundation president, represented

the foundation at the ceremony. On June 9, the Alliance will honor the national winners at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York



Alexandra Franklin, left, with Paul Smith, her creative writing teacher at Jackson Prep.

City.

The Eudora Welty Foundation and the Mississippi Museum of Art work to connect students and teachers with the awards and to organize the local competition and exhibit students' work. Each year, the Alliance receives thousands of works of art and writing, submitted through regional affiliate programs across the nation for consideration in over 30 categories. The submissions are evalu-

ated locally and nationally by panels of jurors comprising renowned artists, authors, educators and arts professionals.

New Issue of *Journal of Mississippi History*

The latest issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History* features articles on a martyr of the civil rights era and an experimental cooperative farm in the Mississippi Delta.

"'The Saddest Story of the Whole Movement': The Clyde Kennard Case and the Search for Racial Reconciliation in Mississippi, 1955-2007" explores the attempts by Kennard, a black man, to enroll at what is now the University of Southern Mississippi in the 1960s, his subsequent imprisonment and death, and his eventual exoneration decades later by college and state officials. The article was written by Timothy J. Minchin and John A. Salmond, both of La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

Fred C. Smith, professor of history at Lambuth University, wrote the article "The Delta Cooperative Farm and the Death of a Vision" detailing the formation and brief existence of

the venture that saw black and white Mississippians living and working together in the 1930s. Smith's article is accompanied by photographs taken by Dorothea Lange at the Delta Cooperative Farm in 1936 and 1937. The photos are a part of the United States Library of Congress's Farm Security Administration—Office of War Information Photograph Collection.

Other features of the journal include reports on the 2009 annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society, college news and notices, and reviews of recent books.

The *Journal of Mississippi History*, published quarterly, is mailed free to all members of the Mississippi Historical Society. Memberships begin at \$25. To learn more about joining the society and subscribing to the journal, see the MDAH Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us, or call 601-576-6849.

Welty Foundation Announces Grad Research Fellowship

The Eudora Welty Foundation and the Department of Archives and History are pleased to announce the creation of the Eudora Welty Research Fellowship. The \$1,000 fellowship will be awarded to a graduate student for research in the department's Eudora Welty Collection.

Applications will be taken beginning in fall 2010, and the recipient will be announced in early 2011 for research in Jackson during summer 2011.

The \$1,000 stipend may be used to cover travel, housing, and other expenses during the Welty Fellow's stay in Jackson.

Detailed information, including deadlines for application, will be available in late summer.

The relationship between the department and Eudora Welty dates back to 1957,

when the author made her first donation of papers to the archives. The Eudora Welty Collection includes manuscripts of published and unpublished works, letters from and to Welty, photographs taken by Welty, drawings, essays, and film and video footage totaling 120 cubic feet and spanning Welty's entire life. It is the world's premier collection of materials related to Welty, and one of the most varied literary collections in the United States.

The Archives and Records Services Division oversees the Welty Collection, which may be accessed at the William F. Winter Building, 200 North Street, Jackson.

For more information on the collection or the Research Fellowship, contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6850, or by email at fgaley@mdah.state.ms.us.

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Chris Goodwin, editor

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Contents © 2010 Mississippi Department of Archives and History
H.T. Holmes, director

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Summer Activities**
- **Welty Fellowship**
- **New Book in Heritage of Mississippi Series**

JUNE MDAH CALENDAR

JACKSON

History Is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6850

Tuesday, June 1—Join us in a *special Tuesday session* of History Is Lunch as author Alex Heard will discuss his new book *The Eyes of Willie McGee: A Tragedy of Race, Sex, and Secrets in the Jim Crow South*.

Wednesday, June 2—Historians Elizabeth Ann Payne and Martha Swain will discuss their new book, *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives, Volume 2*.

Wednesday, June 9—MDAH historian Clarence Hunter presents “Charles Hamilton

Houston and the Coming of Civil Rights to Mississippi.”

Wednesday, June 16—Art collector and historian Roy Wilkinson talks about Mississippi artists.

Wednesday, June 23—Historian Chester M. Morgan III talks about Theodore Bilbo.

Manship House Museum
420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724
info@manshiphouse.com

Through June 30.
Summer Dress. The Manship House Museum exhibits the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months. Remember that this is the last month to visit the Manship House before it closes for foundation repairs on July 1.

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North
662-334-4684
info@wintervillemounds.com

Sunday, June 6, 2–4 p.m.
Gospel at the Mounds. Local churches, groups, and individuals will perform classic and contemporary gospel music.

NATCHEZ

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

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

Thursday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.
Archaeology Lecture Series. Robin Person, director of Historic Jefferson College in Washington, will give an illustrated talk on *Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs*.

Volunteer Opportunities at MDAH

Volunteers partner with MDAH employees to serve as guardians of our state's history. From behind-the-scenes to up close and personal, there may be a volunteer opportunity that is a match for you. Our department strives to maintain a community-based volunteer resource that is diverse, knowledgeable, talented, and skilled.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering with the archaeology staff, as a guide at the Eudora Welty House or Old Capitol Museum, or as a docent at the Governor's Mansion, contact Elizabeth Coleman at 601-576-6985.