

Mississippi History

MDAH

NEWSLETTER

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MDAH EVENTS

Jackson

Manship House Museum
421 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724

Tuesday, June 5–Saturday, June 30. *Manships Marry: Weddings in the Nineteenth Century.* Exhibit of nineteenth-century wedding attire and setting of the 1879 “duplex wedding” of Jennie and Jessie Manship. Free, but reservations required for groups of ten or more.

William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6857

History Is Lunch Series
Wednesday, June 6, noon–1 p.m. Historian **Plater Robinson**, New Orleans, will discuss the **Civil War battles of Woodville and Liberty, Mississippi.**

Wednesday, June 20, noon–1 p.m. **Tom Henderson**, librarian, Millsaps-Wilson Library, will display and discuss his collection of **Gulf Coast memorabilia.**

The **Old Capitol Shop**, located in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, will be closed June 25–29, 2007, for inventory.

Natchez

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians /400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard 601-446-6502
June 11–15: *Discovery Week.* Daily sessions introduce children ages eight to eleven to

Native American culture, archaeology, and nature studies. Registration fee.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College Highway 61 601-442-2901
June 4–8: *Pioneer Week: The Way It Was.* Children ages eight to twelve learn pioneer skills. Free of charge.

Nearly \$60,000 Awarded through CLG Grant Program

The Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling nearly \$60,000 to fourteen preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state. Amounts range from \$1,250 for a survey of Osyka’s historic resources to more than \$7,500 for the cleaning and stabilization of a Mississippi Landmark school building in Hattiesburg. “The Department of Archives and History is pleased to be able to assist these worthy projects,” said Historic Preservation Division director Ken P’Pool. “We only regret we could not fully fund all of the requests.”

The Certified Local Government program is a federal-state-local partnership designed to assist communities in dealing with diverse preservation needs through funding and technical assistance. CLG communities

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Old Capitol Restoration, Phase One, in Progress



The first phase of the Old Capitol restoration proceeds and should be completed by the end of June. Left, pipes in newly created channels will effectively drain the site, as drainage has been a perennial problem at the Old Capitol. Below left, project architect Robert Parker Adams and MDAH Board of Trustees president William F. Winter inspect plaster removal and brick damaged by “rising damp.” Bottom left, first-floor door and floor trim are removed so that water-damaged plaster—up to eight feet—can be removed; bottom right, old exhibitry components are demolished. Other tasks of phase one include asbestos removal and carpet removal.



CLG Grants, *continued*

may apply for annual grants to undertake preservation projects of importance to the community. Grants may be used for such diverse projects as the restoration of historic buildings; historical, architectural, or archaeological site inventory work; preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; educational programs; and staff support for new historic preservation commissions.

Funding for the grants comes from the National Historic Preservation Fund, appropriated by the U.S. Congress and administered by the National Park Service, which provides financial support to State Historic Preservation Offices—in Mississippi the MDAH Historic Preservation Division. For a complete list of the grant awards, please visit mdah.state.ms.us or call 601-576-6950.

The Eudora Welty House and summer garden are open for tours Wednesday–Friday by reservation, 9 and 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 students, free for children under six. For reservations, call 601-353-7762 or email weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us.

Heritage of Mississippi Series: Proposals Invited

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Mississippi Historical Society invite proposals for volumes in the *Heritage of Mississippi* Series, a significant book series covering the history of Mississippi in fifteen volumes, to be completed in 2017 to commemorate the bicentennial of the entrance of Mississippi into the Union. The volumes, published by the University Press of Mississippi, are aimed at a broad audience of professional historians and educated lay readers.

Proposals are invited for books on remaining topics in the series or related subjects:

Colonial Mississippi

From Frontier to Secession: Mississippi, 1840–1861

From Bondage to Freedom: Slavery in Mississippi, 1719–1865

Reconstruction in Mississippi

From Hope to Heartbreak: Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow

The Struggle for Civil Rights

Mississippi's Cultural Heritage: Literature

Interested historians are invited to contact John Marszalek at 662-323-8068 or johnmarsz@yahoo.com or Christine Wilson, director, Public Information, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, at 601-576-6857 or pubinfo@mdah.state.ms.us.

Three volumes have been published: *Art in Mississippi, 1720–1980*, by Patti Carr Black

Religion in Mississippi, by Randy Sparks

Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi after Reconstruction, 1877–1917, by Stephen Cresswell

Scheduled for publication are the following:

Blood and Destruction: Civil War Campaigns and Battles in Mississippi, by Michael Ballard

From Poverty to Promise: Mississippi 1917–1945, by Chester Morgan

Indians of Mississippi, by James Barnett

Mississippi in the Twentieth Century: An Economic History, by Connie L. Lester

Mississippi and the Civil War: The Home Front, by Timothy B. Smith.

Blues Trail Markers

Jackson's first Mississippi Blues Trail marker was dedicated May 30 on the site of the **Subway Lounge in the Summers Hotel** at 619 W. Pearl Steet. The Subway was documented in a film made by Robert Muggge in 2002, *Last of the Mississippi Jukes*.

Scheduled for June are two more markers, honoring blues greats **Son House** on Monday, June 18, at 10 a.m. in Tunica, and **Elmore James** on Tuesday, June 19, in Canton (time of event to be announced). For more information, please visit msbluestrail.org.

Robert J. Bailey, 1946–2006

Robert James “Bob” Bailey, a former MDAH director of the Historic Preservation and Archives and Library divisions, died Tuesday, May 8, in Gulfport. Bailey received a B.A. and an M.A. in history from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was also a Ph.D. candidate in history. While at MDAH he contributed to many Department publications and had submitted a manuscript for publication by MDAH on the history of the State Capitol. Bailey was currently employed as a state historic preservation specialist by FEMA.

Patricia Young, 1930–2007

Patricia Glen Brown Young died Sunday, May 6, in Tupelo at the age of seventy-seven. The widow of Loren Ticer Young, she was a retired entrepreneur and a founding officer of the Oxford–Lafayette Heritage Foundation. She was an active member of the Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society, served as a board member for the Mississippi Historical Society, and was president-elect of the Mississippi Genealogical Society. In 2002, Patricia Young was named a Blue Cross Blue Shield “Ageless Hero” for her work in community affairs.

Turkey Creek Community Named National Register Historic District

Turkey Creek Community in Biloxi, settled shortly after the Civil War by a group of emancipated African Americans, was named in 2001 to the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places list in the state. Turkey Creek is more endangered than ever, having suffered serious flooding during Hurricane Katrina. On May 8, MDAH director H. T. Holmes and Historic Preservation Division director Ken P'Pool visited the Turkey Creek Community for ceremonies dedicating it as a National Register Historic District. Shown left, in the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, are, l-r, the Reverend Calvin H. Jackson, Sr., H. T. Holmes, Gulfport councilwoman Ella Holmes Hines, Gulfport mayor Brent Warr, and Ken P'Pool.



MDAH Awards \$8.3 Million in Third Round of Hurricane Grants

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded \$8.3 million to 112 applicants in the third 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 total amount awarded thus far through the grant program is more than \$21 million.

The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History determined the grant recipients at a meeting on April 20 in Jackson. 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. Only properties not eligible for FEMA assistance are eligible for awards from the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation.

"We will review late applications and applications already submitted until all available funding is exhausted," said Chelius H. Carter, director of the MDAH Gulf Coast Field Office. For a complete list of the grant awards, please visit mdah.state.ms.us or call 228-435-1180.

To receive email alerts regarding MDAH events, please send your email address to pubinfo@mdah.state.ms.us

Ten Most Endangered Sites Unveiled

To help raise awareness about the most historically significant threatened places in the state, the Mississippi Heritage Trust released its biennial *10 Most Endangered Historic Places* list on April 26. At the unveiling, the 2007 Honorary Event Chair, Ted Duckworth of Duckworth Realty, was recognized for his contributions to saving historic sites in downtown Jackson. Beginning in May, the photographic exhibit of the 2007 *10 Most* will travel across the state to continue to raise awareness about the sites, which are as follows:

Afro-American Sons and Daughters Hospital, 1928
Yazoo City

Beverly Drive-In Theatre, 1948
Hattiesburg

Chandler House, circa 1870
Okolona

Coker House (also known as "Greenwood"), 1852
Edwards vicinity

Mannsdale-Livingston Heritage Preservation District, (1840s through 1920s)
Madison vicinity

Mobile and Ohio Railroad Depot, circa 1869
Aberdeen

Mississippi Gulf Coast (Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties)

Naval Reserve Center, 1948
Jackson

The Picayune Colored Gymnasium, 1930
Picayune

Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church, circa 1921
Tupelo

For details about these sites, please visit mississippiheritage.com. Details regarding joining the Mississippi Heritage Trust, as well as support levels, are also available at this site, or call 601-354-0200.

Jackson Movie Theaters Featured in Spring *Journal of Mississippi History*

"Movie Theaters in Twentieth-Century Jackson, Mississippi," by Jerry Dallas (professor of history emeritus, Delta State University), tells of the rise of such popular Jackson theaters as the Paramount, the Majestic, the Century, and the Pix, and reasons for their eventual closings. Also featured in the spring issue are "Mississippi Community Colleges, 1972-2000," by Dennis Mitchell (history professor, Mississippi State University, Meridian), and "The Highly Effective First Missis-

issippi Regiment in the Mexican War, 1846-1848," by Jochen S. Arndt (graduate student, Stephen F. Austin State University). Included in this issue are the annual compilation of manuscript accessions at Mississippi colleges, annual bibliography of dissertations relating to Mississippi, book reviews, and history news. Members of the Mississippi Historical Society receive the *Journal* (\$25 annually). To subscribe, call 602-576-6849 or send a check to MHS, PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205.



The historic Shaifer House on Shaifer Road, Port Gibson vicinity, survived the Battle of Port Gibson. Now under restoration by MDAH, the site will be opened to the public in the fall when the restoration is complete and interpretive signage installed. Above, MDAH director H. T. Holmes and Libby Hollingsworth, a descendant of the Shaifer family, inspect an interior room.

David Halberstam, 1934–2007

Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist David Halberstam, who delivered the dedicatory address for the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in 2003, died April 23. After graduating from Harvard University, the New York native moved to Mississippi to begin his career as a journalist. On the staff of the West Point *Daily Times Leader*, Halberstam covered the beginnings of the civil rights movement in the state. By 1960 he was a reporter for the *New York Times*, covering the early years of the American war in South Vietnam, exposing the corrupt government there as well as other aspects of the conflict. For that work he shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1964. He went on to write more than twenty books. Halberstam's address at the dedication of the Winter Building was published in the Summer 2005 issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History*. In that address he referred to Governor Winter as "my favorite American politician, my personal hero." He ended the address with these words about the new Mississippi archives building: "So many of our secrets are housed here. How fortunate we will be if a new generation of talented young

men and women come here and study them (and study us in the process), for the less secret the past becomes, the freer we will all be."

Carey Bell, 1936–2007

Blues harmonica player Carey Bell, who performed with both Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon, died May 6 in Chicago. "He was truly a master of his instrument," said *Alligator* label president Bruce Iglauer. "When he picked up that harp, it was deep down. He reached in."

Carey Bell Harrington was born on November 14, 1936, in Macon. He wanted a saxophone but his family could not afford one. Instead, his grandfather bought him a harmonica. He was playing the harmonica by age 8, and in 1956, at age 19, he moved to Chicago with his godfather, pianist Lovie Lee. Soon, he was supporting himself as a professional musician, playing on the street for tips, Iglauer said. He learned from Marion "Little Walter" Jacobs and Sonny Boy Williamson II, but found a special fatherly mentor in Big Walter Horton. Bell spent 1971 traveling and recording with Muddy Waters and worked regularly in the 1970s with Willie Dixon's Chicago Blues All-Stars. (Biloxi *Sun-Herald*)

Mohamed Show at Lauren Rogers

The embroidered "story pictures," of Belzoni artist Ethel Wright Mohamed are featured through July 8 in "The Needle's Song: The Folk Art of Ethel Wright Mohamed," at the Lauren Rogers Museum, Laurel. During the 1970s Smithsonian Institution researchers identified Mohamed's work, which vibrantly depicts life in her family and community, and secured pieces for the Smithsonian collection. The Old Capitol Museum has featured Mohamed's stitchery in several major exhibits and in its permanent exhibits and published two volumes on her work. For more information, call 601-649-6374.

The 43rd Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs Memorial Service and Conference and Caravan for Justice will be held at the Longdale Community Center site, County Road 632, Neshoba County, Mississippi June 23–24, 2007. For more information, call chair John Steele at 925-497-9868.

Richard Wright Branch

The South Hills Branch of the Jackson Public Library System, 515 West McDowell Road, was officially renamed for Richard Wright on April 20. Wright related in his autobiography that in order to obtain books from the public library, he had to forge notes saying that he was getting the books for a white co-worker.

Richard Wright was elected to the **Mississippi Hall of Fame** in 2006. This year, the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, he is being honored in *Reading Richard Wright*, a program coordinated by Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, in Natchez, Wright's birthplace. For more information on the program, visit colin.edu/nlcc/wright-reading.htm. The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will feature Richard Wright and his works at the 19th annual NLCC, February 21–24, 2008.

2007 Mississippi LAMP (Library and Archival Media Professionals) Workshop, August 27–30. For information visit lampworkshop.org.