

Groundbreaking: Old Capitol Restoration



Chris Goodwin

At the January 11 groundbreaking ceremony for the restoration of the Old Capitol, Governor Haley Barbour, Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck, Secretary of State Eric Clark, and other dignitaries addressed a crowd of about 300. Project architect Robert Parker Adams related the building's history and explained challenges of this restoration. Governor Barbour performed the actual groundbreaking on a backhoe. Then honor-

ees unveiled the artist's rendering of the restored building. Above, (l-r): MDAH director H. T. Holmes, Governor Haley Barbour, Lt. Governor Amy Tuck, former governor and MDAH Board of Trustees president William F. Winter, MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, former Old Capitol directors Patti Carr Black and Donna Dye, and Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH director emeritus. The projected completion date is January 2009.

Ellen Douglas Tribute March 11

A tribute to acclaimed Mississippi writer Ellen Douglas (pen name of Josephine Ayres Haxton) will be held at the Recital Hall, Ford Academic Complex, Millsaps College, Jackson, at 3 p.m. on March 11. Douglas is the author of six novels, two books of short stories, and one book of non-fiction. The public is invited to attend free of charge for an afternoon of stories, readings, and conversation honoring Douglas.

INSIDE:

Powwow / EVENTS
Reading Wright
Sun Herald Grants
Traveling Exhibits
Archives Programs

Natchez Powwow

March 24–25

The 19th Annual Natchez Powwow at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Natchez, will include a historic meeting of Natchez descendants from eastern Oklahoma and South Carolina. In the 1730s, following defeat by the French, Natchez refugees left Mississippi and moved to the Southern Appalachian area to join the pro-English Cherokee and Creek tribes. A century later, many Southeastern Indians were forced to move to reservation land in Oklahoma, a journey along a route known as the “Trail of Tears.” Many of the Natchez descendants accompanied their Cherokee and Creek hosts on that forced migration. The upcoming meeting at the Natchez Powwow will be the first reunion of these two communities since Removal.

Baughn, Lieb Honored

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians recently presented a special award for “Professional Commitment” to Jennifer Baughn, MDAH architectural historian, for her “extraordinary devotion and work” in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Baughn organized and led teams of staff and volunteers in the enormous task of inventorying, assessing, and preserving the damaged historic buildings on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

MDAH archaeology chief Pam Lieb has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Editorial Advisory Board of *American Archaeology*, the Archaeological Conservancy’s quarterly publication.

MDAH EVENTS

JACKSON

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification St.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 1–29, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Growing up in Mississippi, 1857–1888. Students grades K–4 experience history through hands-on activities, learning what life was like for nineteenth-century Mississippi children. This program meets many of the Mississippi Department of Education social studies curriculum benchmarks. Free, reservations required. Email manship@mdah.state.ms.us or call 601-961-4724.

Old Capitol Inn
226 North State Street

Thursday–Saturday, March 1–3. Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting. This year’s theme is “Telling Mississippi’s Stories,” with Jim Loewen as keynote speaker. More information: call 601-576-6849 or email mhs@mdah.state.ms.us.

William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North St.

Wednesday March 7, noon–1 p.m. History Is Lunch. Charles Bolton will discuss and sign copies of his book, *The Hardest Deal of All: The Battle Over School Integration in Mississippi, 1870–1980*. Information: call 601-576-6857.

Wednesday, March 21, noon–1 p.m. History Is Lunch. Kara Long, MDAH Museum exhibits staff, will discuss the new Winter Building exhibit, *Inspiring the Next Generation: Exceptional Mississippi Women*.

NATCHEZ

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians
400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
Saturday–Sunday, March 24–25. Natchez Powwow. Weekend activities include Native Ameri-

can dancing, food, and crafts. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children. For information email gvni@mdah.state.ms.us or call 601-446-6502.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College, Highway 61

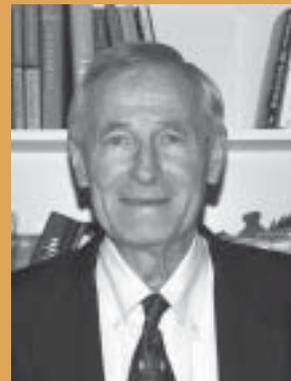
Saturday–Sunday, March 31–April 1. Ladies Academy. Women’s classes on dress and preparations for Civil War reenactments. Registration fee of \$30. Visitors may view historically accurate encampments free. Email hjc@mdah.state.ms.us or call 601-442-2901.

James G. Hollandsworth, Jr., Jackson, (left) was presented a Mississippi Humanities Council Special Recognition Award February 9 for his work on MDAH’s Alfred Holt Stone Collection and organization of a symposium on Stone. Presenting the award at the annual



MHC Awards program was Dr. Charles Sallis, former professor of history, Millsaps College, and the 2005 recipient of the Mississippi Historical Society’s Dunbar Rowland Award.

New MDAH Board Members



Reuben Anderson (left) and Roland Weeks will become new members of the MDAH Board of Trustees upon their confirmation by the Mississippi Senate. Anderson, an attorney with Phelps Dunbar LLP of Jackson, was the first African American Supreme Court justice in Mississippi. Weeks directed the Biloxi/Gulfport *Daily Herald*’s development into the *Sun Herald* and serves on many boards on the Gulf Coast.

MMH Traveling Exhibits Available

The **Museum of Mississippi History** staff, while planning for the new MMH facility and for the restored Old Capitol, offers the following traveling exhibits to cultural institutions:

A River Unleashed: The 1927 Mississippi River Flood: fifteen panels of photographs, maps, and text detailing that event.

Eudora Welty: Other Places: twenty-two panels of photographs Welty took in New Orleans and New York City 1936-1939.

From Monuments to Mufflers: seven panels of photographs documenting public sculptures throughout the state, from the formal to the whimsical.

Inspiring the Next Generation: Exceptional Mississippi Women: eleven panels of photographs and text focusing on thirty-two women who shaped Mississippi and the nation in the arts, culture, politics, and sports.

Putting Hernando de Soto in His Place: eight three-dimensional panels with reproduction artifacts and documents focusing on the Soto expedition in Mississippi and interaction between the Spaniards and Native Americans 1539-1543.

Welty: fourteen panels of photographs Eudora Welty took during her travels across Mississippi as a publicist for the Works Progress Administration.

Mississippi's Greatest Treasure: The Old Capitol is in preparation. Sample news releases are included with exhibits. Exhibits are free, but borrowing institutions are required to pay one-way shipping costs. For information, please call MMH, 601-576-6934.

Historic Preservation Board Makes National Register Recommendations

The courthouse where the **Emmett Till murder trial took place, an early twentieth-century house in Columbus, an American Legion hut built in the Rustic style, and a Gulf Coast community established by newly emancipated African Americans during Reconstruction** were recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at a January 18 meeting of the Historic Preservation Professional Review Board. The board's decisions will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of the Interior for final review.

The **Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse in Sumner** was built in 1910 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, characterized by masonry construction, broad proportions, and a sense of massiveness. The building has a four-story clock tower on one corner and two-story towers on the three other corners. The courthouse is perhaps more significant as the site of the 1955 Emmett Till murder trial. Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam were accused of murdering Till, a fourteen-year-old African American youth from Chicago. Many historians cite the Till murder and the exoneration of his killers as the beginning of the civil rights era.

The **Owen-Richardson-Owen House** was built in 1907 in Columbus for Thomas Goronwy Owen, a cotton buyer and florist who would go on to operate one of the largest commercial nurseries in the United States. The three-story house, clad in brick, is an excellent example of late Neo-Classical residential design and remains largely unchanged from its original appearance. After serving as the residence to three families through 2003, the house has been converted to a bed-and-breakfast.

The **Newton County American Legion Post No. 89 Hut**, located near Decatur, was constructed in 1934. The characteristics of the Rustic style are clearly seen in the hut's log construction, use of peeled logs, and wide overhanging roof with exposed rafters. It also features plank floors, two large ironstone fireplaces with fieldstone surrounds, a raised stage, and a kitchen.

The **Turkey Creek Community Historic District**, located in north Gulfport, dates to the 1870s. Founded by freed slaves, the community largely retains its geographic boundaries, residential nature, architectural heritage, and sense of community. The district features sixty-one contributing properties, most residential but also including the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, circa 1950, and the Turkey Creek Consolidated School buildings, circa 1948-50. In 2001 Turkey Creek was named one of Mississippi's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places by the Mississippi Heritage Trust due to threats from outside development, highway construction, and airport expansion.

The Department of the Interior will review the nominations and notify MDAH when they are listed on the National Register. MDAH will notify the property owners and local governments.

The Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board is an independent board composed of professionals in fields related to historic preservation. **Board members are chairman James F. Barnett, vice chairman Samuel H. Kaye, Michael W. Fazio, E. Jackson Garner, Arthur H. Kinnard Jr., Alferdteen Harrison, Jay K. Johnson, Elizabeth M. Boggess, and H. T. Holmes.**

MDAH is the official State Historic Preservation Office in Mis-

issippi and handles all requests for National Register information and assistance. For more information call 601-576-6940 or visit mdah.state.ms.us.

Sun Herald Preservation Grant Awards

Members of the **Preservation Task Force**, which includes the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mississippi Heritage Trust, Mississippi Main Street Association, MDAH, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, gathered February 13 at the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi to honor the **Sun Herald** for its commitment to preservation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and announce the grant awards from the **Sun Herald** Preservation Fund. Governor William Winter, president, MDAH Board of Trustees, presented publisher Ricky Matthews with a resolution thanking the **Sun Herald** for its leadership.

Established with proceeds from the sale of the **Sun Herald's** Hurricane Katrina book, the Preservation Fund awarded \$98,000 in grants to eleven projects across the Gulf Coast.

The grant awards are as follows:

Coast Main Street Organizations in Pascagoula, Ocean Springs, Biloxi, Gulfport and Picayune each received \$100 to assist in travel expenses for staff training.

Captain Colle House, Pascagoula, one of the few historic houses on the beachfront in Pascagoula to survive the hurricane: \$5,000.

Saint Michael's Church, Biloxi,

Grant Awards
continued page four

Wright Centennial Reading Program

“Reading Richard Wright on the Eve of His 100th Birthday” is the title of a year-long discussion series. Each month during 2007, a book or books by Richard Wright (1908-1960) will be read and discussed at venues in Natchez and Adams County. Readers outside the area are invited to read along and visit www.colin.edu/nlcc/News-release.htm for a schedule of reading material and discussion questions. Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, is coordinator. Discussions will be led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr., Dillard University, New Orleans, a noted Wright scholar.

Richard Wright was elected to the Mississippi Hall of Fame by the MDAH Board of Trustees in December 2006.

Willye B. White, 1940-2007

Mississippian Willye B. White, the first American female track athlete to appear in five Olympic competitions, died February 6. Born in Money, Mississippi, White grew up in Greenwood, where she was an exceptional athlete. She attended Tennessee State University 1959-1962 and appeared in each of the Olympics between 1956 and 1972. She won a silver medal in the long jump in

Archives and Library Programs

MDAH staff members offer the following free programs on Archives/Library topics to public venues.

GENERAL

- **Introduction to the Archives**
- **Beginning Genealogy**
- **The MDAH Online Catalog**
- **Tracing Your African American Ancestors**
- **African American Resources**
- **Military Research**
- **Native American Resources**
- **Using County Records**
- **Photographic Collections**

SPECIFIC

- **Medical Resources at MDAH**
- **Talks and Tours Along the River**
- **Thanksgiving Day**

To schedule, please contact Anne Webster at 601-576-6880 or awebster@mdah.state.ms.us

Sun Herald Grants, continued

built as the Fisherman’s Church on Point Cadet: \$7,500

Allenbach House, Beach Boulevard Historic District, Bay Saint Louis, a circa 1880s side-hall shotgun house washed from its foundation: \$10,000.

Historic Beulah Methodist Church Community Center, Lyman, erected circa 1900: \$10,000.

Edwards House, Pearlinton, a circa 1875 center-hall raised cottage: \$10,000.

Walter Anderson Cottage, Ocean Springs, filled with murals by world-renowned artist Walter Anderson: \$10,000.

Soria City Masonic Lodge, Gulfport, a community resource since it was constructed circa 1930: \$10,000.

Old Waveland School, one of the few remaining historic buildings in Waveland: \$10,000.

Randolph School, Pass Christian, a circa 1928 Rosenwald school built for African American students: \$10,000.

Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art, Creel House, Biloxi, a single-story, eight-room frame house built circa 1895 and scheduled to become part of the new museum complex: \$15,000. (*Sun Herald*)

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, 1942-2007

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, historian and author of studies of antebellum women in the South, died January 2. Among her books were *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South* (1988) and *To Be Worthy of God’s Favor: Southern Women’s Defense and Critique of Slavery* (1993). With her husband, Eugene D. Genovese, a historian of American slavery, she wrote *Fruits of Merchant Capital: Slavery and Bourgeois Property in the Rise and Expansion of Capitalism* (1983) and *The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slaveholders’ Worldview* (2005). Fox-Genovese accomplished much of her research in the MDAH collections. In 1986 she founded Emory University’s Institute for Women’s Studies and was its director until 1991. In 2003 she was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Bush. (*New York Times*)

Oxford Conference for the Book

March 22–24, honoring Larry Brown. Visit <http://oxfordconferenceforthebook.com> or call 662-915-5993.