

Mississippi History

MDAH

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OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM
OF MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Jackson

Mississippi History A to Z

Folk art * political memorabilia * war weapons *
clothing * healthcare oddities * more

Over 12,000 artifacts make up the Old Capitol Museum's collection. Each tells a story that is part of Mississippi's rich and fascinating history. By collecting and interpreting these items, the museum fulfills its

mission to educate the public about the history of the state. This exhibit features a sampling of artifacts, each corresponding to a letter of the alphabet, that provide glimpses into the state's many-faceted history.

Elbert R. Hilliard Day

About 700 people filled the Old Capitol January 27 to deliver best wishes to Elbert Hilliard on the occasion of his retirement after almost 40 years of service at MDAH. Top right, H.T. Holmes, new MDAH director (left), presents a faux historical marker entitled "Mr. Hilliard," which contained multiple errors and familiar attributions (see page 2 for text). Governor Haley Barbour read his proclamation declaring the day Elbert R. Hilliard Day.



New National Register Listings

Dockery House, Hernando vicinity, DeSoto County: Built in 1876, this is an architecturally significant and well-preserved example of a Late Victorian Italianate cottage, unusual for its rural location. It is thought to have been designed and built by Panola County architect Andrew Johnson.

Corinth Clothing Manufacturing Co. Building (Adams Machine Co. Building), Corinth, Alcorn County: Built about 1895, this is a rare surviving example in Mississippi of a late-nineteenth century factory building.

Leland Historic District, Washington County: This district contains over 300 buildings in the historic core of Leland, including houses, public buildings, commercial buildings, and churches.

Ratcliffe Mound Site, Natchez vicinity, Adams County: dates from the Late Coles Creek and Plaquemine periods (c. 900-1700 A.D.)

Boundary Increases: **South Central Aberdeen Historic District**, Monroe County; and **Uptown Vicksburg Historic District**, Warren County.

Historical Markers

The MDAH Board of Trustees has approved three markers associated with the **Civil War in Okolona**: a general one describing the role Okolona played during the war; one noting the city's large Confederate cemetery; and another marking the site of the death of Colonel Jeffrey Forrest, younger brother of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Board also approved markers for the **First Baptist Church in Greenville**; **Airlie Wood**, an antebellum house in Holly Springs, and for the prehistory

and history of the unincorporated town of **Nitta Yuma** in Sharkey County.

Abandoned Cemeteries

Cemeteries recently certified as historic cemeteries by the MDAH Board of Trustees under the Abandoned Cemeteries law include the **Cooksey cemetery**, a Neshoba County family cemetery in which Civil War veteran George W. Cooksey and his wife are buried, and the **Stevens cemetery** in DeSoto County that contains graves from as early as 1873.

Historic Schools Survey

An article by MDAH architectural historian Jennifer Baughn on "Mississippi's Historic Schools Survey" has been published in the Winter 2005 issue of *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*, which is published by the National Park Service. Baughn's survey covered all schools built before 1960. The earliest she has located was built in 1888. The survey includes Rosenwald schools and teachers' homes, which were partially funded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Rosenwald, a CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co., was persuaded to help build schools in the South by Booker T. Washington. Mississippi was second in the South for the number of Rosenwald schools and houses—a total of 633 buildings. Of those, Baughn has located seventeen; one burned since her survey.

For an update on the Eudora Welty House restoration, visit mdah.state.ms.us/welty/restoration.html



Live Oak Landscapes recently removed vegetation sprouting among the crevices atop the columns at Windsor Ruins, Claiborne County. Windsor is located on Highway 552 near Alcorn State University and is open to the public. The MDAH Historic Properties Division administers the site.



Faux, error-filled marker presented to Elbert R. Hilliard by staff members at the reception honoring him on January 27. (During his tenure at MDAH, Hilliard meticulously edited text for hundreds of markers for the State Historical Marker program.)

Mr. Hilliard

Also known as "Coach" and "Buddy", Dr. Hillard served for 37 years as director of the Ms. Department of History and Archives. During his tenure Mr. Hillard worked to catalog & preserve a lot of papers, some old buildings, historical cemeteries, the stump from the Garden of Eden and a mummy. Best known for keeping a clean desk and an empty calendar. It is believed that he once told a short story. Not yet listed on the National Registry of Historical Landmarks.

Spring issue *JMH* Features

The spring *Journal of Mississippi History* includes articles on slave trading in Natchez, Senator James O. Eastland's role in the FEPC filibuster and the postwar reconstruction of Germany, and an intriguing Civil War raid.

"Driving Out the Slave Traders: The Natchez Uprising of 1833" is contributed by Natchez National Historical Park historian Thom Rosenblum. University of North Carolina professor Chris Myers wrote "Revisiting Reconstruction: James O. Eastland, the FEPC, and the Struggle to Rebuild Germany, 1945-1946." "Mann's Foray: A Grierson-Like Raid That Failed" is by University of Southern Mississippi professor emeritus James G. Hollandsworth, Jr.

Subscriptions to the *Journal* are \$25 per year for four issues. To subscribe, call 601/576-6849.

LYNCHING ON CAPITOL HILL



"Lynching on Capitol Hill," *Chicago Defender*, January 26, 1946, depicts filibuster in Congress by Senator James O. Eastland and others.

Mississippi History NOW Honored

The Mississippi Historical Society's Internet magazine *Mississippi History NOW* received the Mississippi Humanities Council Chair's Award for Special Achievements in the Humanities in ceremonies February 4. The site, designed for teachers and students, has become popular with scholars and laypeople alike. The site fea-

tures a new essay each month on a pertinent topic in Mississippi history, and previous articles are archived. In the March issue USM professor Deanne S. Nuwer explores the history of gambling—from stickball to casinos—in Mississippi. Right, MHS president Donna Dye, Ridgeland, (left) with *MHNOW* editor Peggy Jeanes, Jackson.



Moore on GI Jews: March 8-10

Deborah Dash Moore, author of *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, will present programs at three sites in early March: March 8 at 7 p.m. at the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans; March 9 at 7 p.m. at the USM Liberal Arts Building in Hattiesburg; and March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Arena Theater in Gulfport. In her book Moore describes the

struggles endured by the half-million Jews in the armed services, battling not only the enemy but also the prejudice of fellow soldiers. She shows how military service strengthened Jews' identification with American democratic ideals as well as their Jewish heritage. The program is part of the Southern States Literary Series sponsored by the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

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Grand Village Special Events

The **Iberville Natchez Reenactment** will be presented Friday and Saturday, **March 4-5**, at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd., Natchez. Reenactors will recreate scenes of French Colonialists and Native Americans at the March 11, 1700, landing of Iberville at Natchez, the smoking of the peace calumet, and the establishment of friendly relations prior to the construction of Fort Rosalie in 1716. Ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, but there will be activities from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day. Admission is free. For more information call (601) 446-6502.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20, the 17th Annual Natchez Powwow will be held at Grand Village. Native American dancing is scheduled for Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon. Craft and food booths will be open both days. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for ages 12 and under. Bring lawn chairs. Only Powwow participants are allowed to camp on the grounds. For more information, contact Powwow chair Dr. Chuck Borum (601/ 442-0200 or cborum@hotmail.com) or visit mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/gvnievents.html.

Camp Van Dorn Museum Opening

The Camp Van Dorn World War II Museum in Centreville opens to the public in ceremonies on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m., according to Mildred Field, museum chair. The museum honors the men and women who trained at the camp during World War II and demonstrates through exhibits of artifacts, photographs, and text the critical contribution of the camp to the war effort. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Mildred Field at 601/ 645-5930.



Governor's Mansion Docents (gathered for Docent Luncheon, December 7, 2004)

First row (l-r): Shirlee Lawson, Lynn Stuart, Andi McDaniel, First Lady Marsha Barbour, Lucy Bishop, Doris Brickell; **second row** (l-r): Sarah Flanagan, Melanie McKinley, MDAH Board member and Mansion Committee chair Lynn Gammill, Dot Fowler, Frances Kees, Barbara Bell, Lounette Maxwell; **third row** (l-r): Dot Ward, Betty Lake, Ruby McLemore, Sally Carmichael, Doris McCullen, Carol Robertson; **fourth row** (l-r): Sylvia Walker, Ruth Byars, Alice Carol Perry, Jane Jones, Earline Raines, Sue McRoberts, Jane Baird, Charlotte Watkins; **back row** (l-r): MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, Buena Lee Huff, Frances VanZant, Clytice Gardner, Charlotte Wallace, MDAH director Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH Archives and Library Division director H. T. Holmes, Babs Sevier, Tom Bowen. **Not pictured:** Martha Ball, Betty Douglass, Nell Jordan, Mary Louise Nosser, Annette Redden, Lois Russell, Sister Simmons, Eula Stanley, Mansion Committee members Jack Garner and Betty Scott, First Lady's executive assistant Brenda Dean, Mansion administrator Cora Gee, and Mansion curator Mary Lohrenz.

NHL Study

The National Park Service is conducting a study on the **Battle of Port Gibson property** in Claiborne County to determine its potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark. The National Historic Landmarks program recognizes properties of national significance in the nation's history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The most recent National Historic Landmark designation in Mississippi was the **Eudora Welty House in Jackson**.

Small World

H. T. Holmes, the new MDAH director, recently had a congratulatory email message from Ken Nail, Jr., a former colleague at MDAH: "I wanted to congratulate you on becoming the sixth director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. I have a special professional feeling for MDAH, since I was a summer intern there in 1973. It was the start of my career in the archives profession, and just last February I became Alaska State Archivist, having worked previously at the University of Mississippi's Department of Archives and Special Collections, as Archivist at Kennedy Space Center, then as Archivist at Montgomery County's Archives." Nail is a native of Tupelo.