

Mississippi History NEWSLETTER

MDAH

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Kennedy Award To Honor William Winter

A special **Profile in Courage Award for Lifetime Achievement** will be presented to former governor **William F. Winter**, former longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees, by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation May 29 for his leadership in championing racial equality and educational opportunity in Mississippi. Caroline Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy will present the award. "Governor William Winter gives testimony to President Kennedy's belief that politics can truly be a noble profession," said Caroline Kennedy, Foundation president. "His lifetime of public service, both to his country and his beloved state of Mississippi, has been distinguished by its devotion to equality and justice. We are proud to honor him with a Profile in Courage Award for lifetime achievement."

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is presented annually to public servants who have made courageous decisions of conscience without regard to personal or professional consequences. The award is named for President Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, which recounts the stories of eight United States senators who risked their careers by taking principled stands for unpopular positions. The Profile in Courage Award, created in 1989 to honor President Kennedy's commitment and contribution to public service, is presented in May in celebration of President Kennedy's May 29 birthday. The Profile in Courage Award is represented by a sterling-silver lantern symbolizing a beacon of hope. The lantern was designed by Edwin Schlossberg and crafted by Tiffany & Co.

Local Government Records

Created by an act of the Legislature in 1996, the Local Government Records Committee reviews records retention schedules for city and county governments and other local government agencies. Retention schedules define the minimum time local governments must keep their records, based on their administrative, legal, fiscal, and historical value. The seventeen-

member committee is made up of state and local officials who work directly with the records, along with representatives of research organizations that use them. MDAH director H. T. Holmes chairs the committee. At its April 15, 2008, meeting, the committee approved new retention schedules for election records created by the state's new electronic voting systems.

Mississippi Blues Trail: 37 Markers Dedicated

Right, Red Tops members Louis Spencer, left, and Rufus McKay watch marker dedication on Clay Street, Vicksburg; below, Wolf Stephenson with Malaco marker, Northside Drive, Jackson.



By the end of April, thirty-seven markers honoring blues greats around the state had been installed and dedicated by the Mississippi Blues Commission and local sponsors. Five more are scheduled for May. MDAH is represented on and takes an active part in the Mississippi Blues Commission. For more information on the program, visit msbluestrail.org. The Red Tops 1953-74 touring band had a fan base stretched over the South, and Malaco Records, founded by Tommy Couch and Wolf Stephenson, is one of the foremost international labels in soul, blues, and gospel.

Fiddlin' Contest May 17

The Mississippi Fiddlers Association will host the **First Annual Big Yam Potatoes Gathering** on May 16-18 on the grounds of **Historic Jefferson College** in Washington, Mississippi, east of Natchez on Highway 61. The gathering will feature fiddling contests (with cash prizes) on Saturday, May 17, starting at 9 a.m., and a dance featuring the music of Sound Wagon at 7:30 p.m. There will be no admission charge, but a five-dollar contestant fee

is required to compete in the fiddling contest for each tune category. Fiddlers or bands who would like to share their music are urged to contact Robert Gray at 601-898-8265. Talent will include Wild Fiddlin' Jack Magee and Friends, the Mississippi Old Time Music Society, and more. Primitive camping will be available Friday and Saturday nights. The only scheduled events are on Saturday, but organizers expect fiddling to start on Friday and not end until Sunday.

MDAH EVENTS

Jackson

Manship House

420 East Fortification Street
Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. “Gardening, Victorian Style.” Experts provide insight into the plants and gardens of the nineteenth-century South. Reservations required. Call 601-961-4724.

Tuesday, May 6, through Saturday, August 30. Summer Dress exhibits the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months.

Friday, May 9, 5-7 p.m. Manships at Dusk. Enjoy an evening tour of the Manship House and its Victorian garden, featuring musical entertainment. Free of charge.

William F. Winter Archives and History Building

200 North Street
March 1–April 2.

History Is Lunch 601-576-6857

Wednesday, May 14, noon–1 p.m. MDAH historical archaeologist **Jack Elliott** will present “Paving the Trace,” from his award-winning article on the subject.

Wednesday, May 28, noon–1 p.m. Author **Elli Morris** will talk about her new book, *Cooling the South: The Block Ice Era, 1875-1975.*

Greenville

Winterville Mounds

2415 Highway 1 North

Sunday, May 18, 2-4 p.m. “Music of the Delta.” Winterville Mounds director **Mark Howell** will talk about and illustrate the many musical genres of the region, with a special emphasis on Native American music. For more information call 662-334-4684.

Saturday, May 24, 1-7 p.m. “Bark in the Park” **RESCHEDULED from April 19.** Annual fund-raiser for the Greenville Humane Society. Admission fee to attend dog show.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. –9 p.m. Great Big Yam Potatoes **Fiddling Contest.** (See page one for details).

Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m. Black and Blue Civil War Encampment featuring living history accounts of the black experience during the Civil War and the Freedom Summer of 1863. Free. Call 601-442-2901 for details.

Grant Writing Workshop

“Grants and Grant Writing Basics,” a workshop tailored for small and medium-sized historical repositories and libraries with historical collections, will be offered by Mississippi’s State Historical Records Advisory Board on **June 5, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**, at the **William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.**

Panelists will include representatives of MDAH, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the University of Southern Mississippi. **The workshop is free**, but no more than two participants per organization may register due to limited space. A box lunch will be provided.

The registration deadline is May 30, 2008. For more information contact Forrest Galey, 601-576-6872. The State Historical Records Advisory Board and its programs receive partial funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

New HJC Director



After twelve years as director of Cottonlandia Museum in Greenwood, Robin Seage Person has returned to MDAH, where she formerly worked in the Museum division, to be branch director of Historic Jefferson College in Washington.

A Michigan native, Person has successfully led the Cottonlandia Museum to a new level of museum operation. She is perhaps most proud of the success of Cottonlandia’s popular summer education programs for area children.

Person is currently secretary/treasurer of the Mississippi Museums Association. She will live in the 1830s president’s home on the College grounds.

MDAH, the Mississippi Library Commission, and the University of Southern Mississippi are cosponsoring an **ONLINE COLLECTIONS SURVEY** of all museums, libraries, and archives in the state. The survey work of the \$40,000 grant, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, will span two years (May 2008 - April 2010). For more information call 601-576-6991.