

# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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### Newsletter Moving To Quarterly Schedule

Beginning next month, the *Mississippi History Newsletter* will change its publication schedule. In equal parts an effort to be more environmentally friendly and in response to state budget issues, the newsletter will print quarterly instead of monthly. We will continue to keep everyone current with news from the department, its museums, and historic sites through more frequent email updates.

Subscribers who receive the newsletter via email now—about 500 of you—will be automatically added to the new distribution list, and everyone currently receiving the monthly newsletter will continue to receive the printed quarterly edition. For those of you not receiving the newsletter electronically but who would like to receive the monthly updates after June, go to the MDAH Web site, [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us), to sign up.

Following the June edition, the next print issue will be in September.

## Legislature Funds Manship Repairs

The Manship House Museum will close July 1 to prepare for a nearly half-million-dollar repair of the building's foundation. The floor of the circa-1857 house is thirteen inches out of level, resulting in huge cracks in the plaster walls and gaps at doors and windows throughout the house.

Once the site closes, staff offices and the extensive collection of Manship family furniture and artifacts must be packed and moved off site before repairs to the foundation can begin. Manship House staff will be reassigned to other sites during repairs.

"This is a huge project that will be a major step in the preservation of the building," said Marilynn Jones, Manship House Museum director. "This is also an excellent opportunity for us to evaluate our collection and improve interpretation for when we reopen."

In 2008 the department com-



A crack in the plaster wall of the dining room that has ripped through the hand-grained faux wood finish wallpaper.

missioned Wayne F. Timmer and WFT Architects, P.A., to conduct a historic structure report and condition assessment for the Manship House, a Mississippi Landmark property. The report concludes that the Yazoo clay found throughout the region is mainly responsible for the foundation problems, with a large Magnolia tree on

the north side of the house contributing to the instability.

The Mississippi legislature authorized \$445,000 for the project this session, and Governor Haley Barbour signed the bill on April 20. A timeline for the project will not be available until construction documents are finalized, but the site could be closed for eighteen months.

## MDAH Events during Preservation Month

May is National Historic Preservation Month, and the Department of Archives and History will celebrate it with a guided walking tour of downtown Jackson, presentations at the Old Capitol Museum, a statewide conference in Natchez, and other activities.

Architectural historians from the department will lead the downtown walking tour on Saturday, May 1. The tour be-

gins at 10 a.m. on the steps of the Old Capitol Museum and explores the city's architectural gems. The tour is part of the international movement Jane's Walk, in honor of the urbanist Jane Jacobs.

The Old Capitol Museum will also highlight preservation issues in Mississippi when it hosts the History Is Lunch series on Wednesdays throughout the month. Architectural historian

Todd Sanders, Historic Natchez Foundation former director Ron Miller, architect Robert Parker Adams, geologist David Dockery, and Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi will be featured speakers throughout the month. The talks will begin at noon and will be held in the House of Representatives Chamber.

The Mississippi Historic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Department Awards \$67,000 in Community Grants

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling more than \$67,000 to fifteen preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state. Amounts range from \$12,000 to restore the interior of the M & O Depot in Aberdeen to \$600 for a survey of buildings in Sharkey County.

“We are excited about the variety of projects that will be undertaken with CLG grants this year,” said program administrator Michelle Jones. “We are especially pleased that Raymond is partnering with MDAH to provide local GIS mapping for all sixty CLG communities in Mississippi.”

The 2010 grants are as follows:

- **Aberdeen**, \$12,000, for interior work on the M & O Depot, a Mississippi Landmark, including rebuilding the ticket counter, replacing/restoring bead-board walls, and insulation and electrical work.
- **Canton**, \$6,000, for repair of the cedar shake roof on the log cabin behind the old Madison County Jail, which is now the home to the Madison County-Canton Historical Society.
- **Corinth**, \$2,160, for a structural analysis of the Corinth Machinery Works Building.
- **Eupora**, \$3,768, for a historic resources survey of the local his-



**The Corinth Machinery Works Building, Mississippi's oldest surviving industrial building.**

toric district and preparation of the National Register of Historic Places district nomination.

- **Greenville**, \$2,880, for a historic resource inventory and a National Register district nomination for the Downtown Greenville Commercial District.
- **Greenville**, \$720, for the creation of a historic preservation commission Web site to include photos of all Mississippi Landmark and National Register properties and state historical markers in Washington County.
- **Jackson**, \$6,000, for street signs identifying the Farish Street Historic District.
- **Leland**, \$3,000, for signs identifying the city's historic district.
- **Meridian**, \$3,300, for restoration of the Zehler Monument fountain to its original condition.
- **McComb**, \$2,500, for the

survey of a portion of the States neighborhood of the city.

- **Natchez**, \$5,000, for external repairs to Magnolia Hall.
- **Oxford**, \$3,000, for the re-organization and enhancement of graphics used in the Oxford Historic Preservation Design Guidelines.
- **Pascagoula**, \$630, for the creation and distribution of banners for buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places or located in the local historic district.
- **Raymond**, \$2,751, to add a layer in the new GIS map of National Register properties and districts and Mississippi Landmarks to identify local historic district boundaries.
- **Sharkey County**, \$600, for a survey of buildings around the Rolling Fork courthouse to help

establish a local historic district as well as possible future use in a National Register nomination.

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. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Michelle Jones in the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH, 662-325-2520, or see the MDAH Web site, [www.mdah.state.ms.us/hpres/clgprogram.html](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/hpres/clgprogram.html).

The sixty CLG communities in Mississippi are Aberdeen, Amory, Baldwin, Biloxi, Blue Mountain, Brandon, Canton, Carrollton, Carthage, Centerville, Claiborne County, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Como, Corinth, Eupora, Friars Point, Gautier, Greenville-Washington County, Greenwood, Grenada, Hattiesburg, Hernando, Holly Springs, Indianola, Jackson, Kosciusko, Laurel, Leland, Lexington, Louisville, Magnolia, McComb, Meridian, Moss Point, Mound Bayou, Natchez, Newton, Ocean Springs, Osyka, Oxford, Pascagoula, Philadelphia, Port Gibson, Raymond, Sardis, Sharkey County, Summit, Tunica, Tupelo, Vaiden, Vicksburg, West, West Point, Winona, Woodville, Yazoo City.

## PRESERVATION MONTH, continued from p. 1

Preservation Conference will focus on the sustainability movement in historic preservation. The two-day meeting begins May 6 at the Eola Hotel in Natchez. Topics will include practical ways to make historic buildings more energy efficient, the durability of historic materials, and how preservation fits into the “Green” movement. The conference is co-sponsored by the Mississippi Department of

Archives and History and the Mississippi Heritage Trust.

*Petitions, Protests, and Patriotism: Mississippi Women in Preservation, 1890–1950*, a special exhibit at the Old Capitol Museum, will run through the end of May. The exhibit explores the impact women had on the early preservation movement in Mississippi

The preservation theme will extend into June with the third

annual “Preservation Boot Camp,” June 17–18 at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson. Participants will learn how to put historic preservation programs to use in their community.

“Boot Camp is an intensive training opportunity for historic preservation commissioners, building department staff, elected officials, and Certified Local Government Coordinators, as

well as individuals interested in historic preservation,” said seminar coordinator Michelle Jones. “There is not a more comprehensive training on the fundamentals of historic preservation policy in Mississippi than is offered at the annual Boot Camp.”

For more information about events scheduled for Preservation Month, call 601-576-6940.

## Lockett Awarded Riley Prize for Best Dissertation



Committee chair Joyce Broussard (right) presents Robert Lockett with the 2010 Franklin L. Riley Prize for his dissertation “Yapping Dogs: Joe T. Patterson and the Limits of Massive Resistance” at the 2010 annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society.

## Students Celebrate Welty Birthday



Members of Martha Jane Hamburg’s middle school classes watch as Power APAC assistant principal Marlynn Martin cuts a cake in celebration of Eudora Welty’s birthday on April 13. Hamburg brought some of her students to the Welty House in the fall to work on a class project about the importance of a sense of place in the artist’s creative process. Her students painted and drew in the garden, and the older students read Welty’s short stories “Petriified Man” and “Death of a Traveling Salesman.” The students were invited to come to the Welty House to to kick off an exhibition of their work and help celebrate Welty’s birthday.

## Old Time Music Festival at Jefferson College May 15

The third annual Great Big Yam Potatoes Festival will be held May 15 on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College. It is the state’s only old-time fiddle music festival. The free event will feature competitive fiddling in a Pee Wee, Junior, and Senior divisions as well as performances by groups and individuals throughout the day.

Arthur Davis, owner of the Old Country Store in Lorman, will be selling fried chicken for lunch. Many attendees arrive on Friday night and camp on the grounds.

### SCHEDULE

9 a.m.—R.W. Gray plays a mix of Old Time and Irish music along with a little Woody Guthrie.

10 a.m.—Mississippi Reeves Jones plays original material and explores blues geography and the life of Mississippi John Hurt.

11 a.m.—Johnny and Beth Rawls play guitar and clawhammer banjo.

Noon—Connie and Hal sing harmonies and play guitar, fiddle, and mandolin on Old Time gospel songs.

12:30 p.m.—Childrens’ storyteller Lizzie Turner.

1 p.m.—The Dead Fiddlers Collective, featuring Edwin MacAllister on strings, fiddler Kate Morgan, and Mellisa Haus playign Old Time, gospel, klezmer, and Irish tunes, supported by a jug rhythm section.

2 p.m.—The Canegrinders are Buzz, Buddy, Willy, and Faith, poets and philosophers of the fiddle and the clawhammer banjo. The group will show how ladies and gentleman should behave in society—while still having a good time.

3 p.m.—Pat and Cindi’s Cajun Retinue. Pat’s Cajun



accordion and Cindi’s flat top box, along with Shea O’Mires’ snare drum, join together with a string section for Cajun, Old Time, cross-tuning fiddle with waltzes and mazurkas.

4 p.m.—Bridging the Gap, featuring lap dulcimer, banjo,

and fiddle on Old Time, folk and Irish music.

Great Big Yam Potatoes is co-sponsored by the Mississippi Fiddlers Association and MDAH. For more information contact Robert Gray at 601-984-1210 or [rwgray@lrc.umsmed.edu](mailto:rwgray@lrc.umsmed.edu).

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Chris Goodwin, editor

For a free subscription to the newsletter or to submit news, call 601-576-6998 or email [newsletter@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:newsletter@mdah.state.ms.us)

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H.T. Holmes, director

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## MAY MDAH CALENDAR

### GREENVILLE

#### **Winterville Mounds**

Highway 1 North  
662-334-4684  
[info@wintervillemounds.com](mailto:info@wintervillemounds.com)

**Saturday, May 8,** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. *Twining Gourd Workshop.* Native American artist Valerie Hanks-Goetz will demonstrate the process of making a twined gourd. From cutting and cleaning a gourd to twining a basket at the top of the gourd, participants will create their own twined gourd. Pre-registration required; \$55 fee. Class for 18 years old and up.

**Sunday, May 16,** 2–4 p.m. *Music of the Delta.* Mark Howell, director of the Winterville Mounds, will explore the different kinds of music heard in the Delta from prehistoric times to the present using samples of audio and musical

instruments. The talk is geared to young and old, and parents are encouraged to bring their children.

### JACKSON

#### **History Is Lunch Series**

Noon–1 p.m.  
**Old Capitol Museum**  
State Street at Capitol  
601-576-6920  
[info@oldcapitolmuseum.com](mailto:info@oldcapitolmuseum.com)

*In observance of Historic Preservation Month, History Is Lunch will be held in the Old Capitol during May.*

**Wednesday, May 5—** architectural historian Todd Sanders presents “Plantation Houses in Mississippi: More Than Just White Columns.”

**Wednesday, May 12—** Ronald Miller, MDAH architectural historian and execu-

tive director emeritus of the Historic Natchez Foundation, presents “Historic Natchez Landscapes and Gardens.”

**Wednesday, May 19—** “Restoration Amidst Yazoo Clay,” a panel discussion featuring architect Robert Parker Adams, geologist David Dockery, and engineer Jeff Laird.

**Wednesday, May 26—** Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi talks about Mississippi’s most endangered places.

**Manship House Museum**  
420 E. Fortification Street  
601-961-4724  
[info@manshiphouse.com](mailto:info@manshiphouse.com)

**Saturday, May 1,** 1–4 p.m. *Music and May Flowers.* Tour the historic gardens of the Manship House Museum, Eudora Welty House Museum,

and Oaks House Museum. Musical entertainment provided. Since this is an outdoor event, in the case of rain it will be canceled.

**Saturday, May 15,** 10 a.m. *Gardening, Victorian Style.* Experts will discuss the plants and gardens of Mississippians during the nineteenth century.

### NATCHEZ

**Grand Village of the Natchez Indians**  
400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.  
601-446-6502  
[info@natchezgrandvillage.com](mailto:info@natchezgrandvillage.com)

**Thursday, May 13,** 6:30 p.m. *Archaeology Lecture Series.* MDAH historical archaeologist Jack Elliott will present “Paving the Natchez Trace,” based on his award-winning article in the *Journal of Mississippi History*.