

Mississippi History

MDAH

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Welty House Undergoes Foundation Repair



Greg Sahler, center, directs removal of clay from underneath Welty House.

The Eudora Welty House is currently undergoing foundation repair to prepare the house to open as a house museum. Robert Parker Adams, architect, is project director for the restoration, with Bob Ewing and Greg Sahler directing the foundation repair phase. Funding for the foundation repair is provided by the Eudora Welty Foundation.

The restoration will include installation of updated electri-

cal and heating/cooling systems as well as fire suppression and security systems.

The house is scheduled to open to the public in April 2006. The Welty House garden continues to be open for tours on Wednesdays, March through October, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., by appointment. To make an appointment for a tour or for more information about the Eudora Welty House, call 601/576-6965.



Jacks support brick so that wood destroyed by termites can be replaced.

Personal Treasures

Personal Treasures: Their Identification and Care will be presented **Friday and Saturday, June 3—4**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Old Capitol Museum**, Jackson. The public is invited to bring historical objects for experts to identify, at no charge. Information about care of objects will also be provided. Categories include textiles; military items; archaeological objects; paper, photographs, and maps; and small household furnishings. There is a limit of five objects per person per category. For more information call the museum 601/576-6920 or write at P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205.

Congratulations to all of the 2005 Blue Cross/Blue Shield Mississippi Ageless Heroes, including MDAH champion Libby Aydelott of Clinton.

Ditto Joins MDAH Board

The Mississippi Senate has confirmed former Jackson mayor Kane Ditto's appointment to the MDAH Board of Trustees. Ditto fills the seat vacated by the retirement of Dr. Van Burnham, Clarksdale.

A graduate of Greenville High School, Ditto earned his B.A. from Duke University and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. He served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from District 66 from 1987 to 1989 and as mayor of Jackson from 1989 to 1997. Ditto is the owner of StateStreet Group, L.L.C., a real estate development company he started in 1971.

Board members serve six-year terms. The other members of the board are William F. Winter, president; Arch Dalrymple III, Amory; Lynn Crosby Gammill, Hattiesburg; E. Jackson Garner, Jackson; Gilbert R. Mason, Sr., Biloxi; Duncan M. Morgan, Natchez; Martis D. Ramage, Jr., Belden; and Rosemary Taylor Williams, Corinth.

Port Gibson Battle Site Named NHL

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton has announced the designation of the Port Gibson Battle Site as a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

The battle of Port Gibson, fought on May 1, 1863, had a direct and decisive influence on the outcome of the Vicksburg Campaign. Additional information on the NHL program can be found on the National Park Service Web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl.htm>.



Farm Family Collection Online

Thousands of photographs of Mississippi farm families during the 1950s and '60s can now be searched and viewed on the Internet, thanks to a project of Mississippi State University's Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi (CHARM). Photographs and scripts of 136 families from the Howard Langfitt WLBT "Farm Family of the Week" Collection are the first group completed from some 17,000 images and 342 scripts that are being preserved, digitized, and made available to the public at <http://library.msstate.edu/charm/>. For more information contact Mattie Sink, manuscripts coordinator, at 662/325-3848 or at msink@library.msstate.edu

Summer Dress

Summer Dress, an exhibit showing the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months, begins **Tuesday, May 17**, at the Manship House Museum, Jackson. Admission is free, but reservations are required for groups of ten or more. For reservations or information, call 601/961-4724 or write the museum at P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205.

Artist to Icon at Blues Museum

The Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale, presents *Artist to Icon: Early Photographs of Elvis, Dylan and the Beatles*, April 15—August 1, 2005. This traveling exhibit from the Experience Music Project provides a glimpse into the lives of aspiring artists Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and Bob Dylan before they became rock 'n' roll legends. For more information, call the Delta Blues Museum at 662/627-6820.

10 Most Endangered at Old Capitol

Mississippi's 10 Most Endangered Historic Places, a traveling photo exhibit, highlights important historic resources around the state that are in jeopardy, as compiled biennially by the Mississippi Heritage Trust. The photographs hang at the Old Capitol Museum April 27—May 3. For more information call 601/576-6920.

Star Party at Winterville Mounds

Join James Hill, Rainwater Observatory director, on Friday, May 6, after dark at Winterville Mounds for a free stargazing session. Telescopes will be provided. For more information call 662/334-4684.



Synagogue Site Marked

Ceremonies dedicating a historical marker for the site of Temple Beth Israel, the first synagogue to be erected in Mississippi, were held April 15 on the corner of South and South State Street, Jackson. Macy Hart, (third from right) president, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, served as master of ceremonies. Speakers included (l-r) MDAH director H. T. Holmes; Duncan M. Gray III, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi; Jackson mayor Harvey Johnson; Jerry Klinger, Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation; [Hart]; Rabbi Debra Kassof, Jackson; and Stuart Rockoff, director of the history department, Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

Winterville Archaeological Field School

A multi-year archaeological project at Winterville Mounds, an MDAH property near Greenville, begins on June 2 when the University of Southern Mississippi begins to excavate the mounds and surrounding areas.

The field school is organized by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at USM. H. Edwin Jackson, USM professor of anthropology, said, "This

project could take as long as a decade. Over that time we will develop a much better understanding of the archaeological record at Winterville Mounds and the site's story as a political and ceremonial seat of a Mississippian-period chiefdom."

For more information, call Winterville Mounds archaeologist and excavation participant John Sullivan, 662/334-4684.