

Mississippi History

MDAH

NEWSLETTER

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Old Capitol Restoration Nearing Completion

Grand Opening Events Planned for Week of Jan. 4

Work by the general contractor on the restoration of the Old Capitol is on track to be completed by month's end. Stucco has been applied to the exposed brick on the north, south, and west sides and is being stained and scored to match the limestone base—returning the building to its original appearance. The faux limestone was removed during the 1961 renovation of the Old Capitol and never reapplied.

Inside, mechanical, plumb-

ing, and electrical work have been completed and the plasterwork is in the final stages. Final tasks will be interior painting, refinishing wood floors, laying carpet, and hanging drapes and blinds throughout the building before exhibit installation begins on November 1.

On the grounds, the limestone base of the wrought iron fence along Capitol Street has been set. The fence will be fabricated in Clinton to replicate the original and erected early next year.

On Tuesday, January 6, the Mississippi legislature will open its 2009 session in the Old Capitol. The museum will



open to the public on Saturday, January 10.

For more information call 601-576-6920 or email info@oldcapitolmuseum.com.

A photo gallery of the work being done is viewable on the Department of Archives and History's Web site at www.gallery.mdah.state.ms.us.

Free Archives Workshops Nov. 18, 20

Mississippi's State Historical Records Advisory Board is sponsoring two archives workshops free of charge for small historical repositories and libraries with historical materials.

The workshops will provide essential information about collection acquisition, evaluation, processing, access, and preservation. The Nov. 18 workshop will be in Jackson and the Nov. 20 will be on the Gulf Coast. Space is limited; to register call 601-576-6872.

Funded in part by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Society Seeking Nominations

Every year the Mississippi Historical Society awards prizes for outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi history.

Nominations are being accepted now for the following:

The **McLemore Prize**, which carries with it a \$700 stipend, is given for the best book on a subject related to Mississippi history or biography published the previous year.

The **John K. Betterworth Award** is given annually to an outstanding teacher of middle or high school history in Mississippi. The winning teacher receives a \$300 cash award and is invited as the society's guest to its annual meeting.

The **Riley Prize**, which carries with it a \$500 stipend, is

awarded biennially for a doctoral dissertation on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed within the previous two years.

The **Glover Moore Prize**, which carries with it a \$300 cash award, is given to the author of the best master's thesis on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed the previous year.

The **Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award** is given annually to a local historical organization that, as a member of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies, has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. The winning society receives a \$300 cash award.

The **Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award** recognizes as

merited oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collection, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral history.

The **James T. Dawson Award** is presented annually as merited to a local government—municipality, county, or school district—with an exemplary records management program.

Additionally, awards of merit are presented annually to individuals and organizations. All prizewinners will be invited to the society's annual meeting, to be held in Jackson March 5–7, 2009, to receive their awards. Details on the awards are listed online at www.mshistoricalsociety.com. For more information or to make a nomination, email info@mshistoricalsociety.com or call 601-576-6856.

MDAH October Calendar of Events— UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL PROGRAMS FREE OF CHARGE

JACKSON

Millsaps College 601-974-1000

Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. *Mississippi Archaeology Expo.* Demonstrations by the Mississippi Choctaw Indians, educational activities, and displays of Native American and historic European artifacts.

History is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m. at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6998

Wednesday, October 1—

Ed Jackson, professor of anthropology, University of Southern Mississippi, “*Recent Excavations at Winterville Mounds.*”

Wednesday, October 8—

Award-winning Clarion-Ledger civil rights reporter Jerry Mitchell, “*Stories of Justice and Redemption.*”

Wednesday, October 29— Bo Morgan, visiting research professor, University of Southern Mississippi, “*Too Small To Be a Nation, Too Big To Be an Insane Asylum: Mississippi in the Twentieth Century.*”

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification
601-961-4724

October 2-3. *Digging into History.* Students explore the Manship’s past through hands-on activities and observe archaeologists conducting excavations on the grounds. Reservations required.

Saturday, October 25. *Civil War Sites and Sounds.* Step back in time and observe life as it was during the Civil War, as reenactors portray soldiers encamping on the grounds.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901

October 2-3, 9 a.m.–noon. *Pioneer Days: The Way It Was.* School groups learn how pioneers survived on the Mississippi frontier in the 1800s. Open to the public.

Saturday, October 11.

EXPLORE Bats! A new program series for kids ages 6–8 (10–11:30 a.m.) and 9–12 (2–3:30 p.m.) explores history and natural history through hands-on, educational programming. Pre-registration required; \$10 fee.

October 27-29, 6:30 p.m. *Halloween Horror Film Festival.* Six classic horror films, two each night, will be presented in the West Wing. Bring a chair, a blanket, and a brave friend.

Thursday, October 30, 6:30 p.m. *Ghost Tales Around the Campfire.* Enjoy an evening around a bonfire as storytellers weave spooky tales!

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North
662-334-4684

October 1–31. *Archaeology Month.* Joshua Engle, Winterville archaeologist, and Jan Taylor, Winterville historian, are available all month to give archaeology demonstrations and talks about Native Americans to area schools.

Saturday, October 11. *Artifact Identification Day.* From 11 a.m.–2 p.m., the public may bring up to five artifacts for identification. At 2 p.m. Jim Barnett will talk about his new book, *The Natchez Indians: A History to 1735.*

Saturday, October 18, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. *Native American Café.* Francis Johnson, United

Houma Nation, will conduct a program on the preparation and cultural meanings of Native American food. Indian tacos and fry bread will be served while supply lasts.

Saturday, October 25, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Families can participate in a *Mock Archaeology Dig.*

NATCHEZ

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd
601-446-6502

October 8-9. *Student Days.* Local and regional fourth-grade classes learn about Native American culture, archaeology, and nature studies.

Saturday, October 25, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. *Music at the Mounds* featuring gospel, country, and jazz. *Mock Archaeology Dig,* 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 6:30 p.m. Lee Jones, Natchez native and Maya archaeology specialist, will present *The Collapse of the Maya Civilization.*

FOR A FULL LISTING OF ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS, GO TO MSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG