

# Mississippi History

# MDAH

# NEWSLETTER

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*This image, Lawn Party at the Elms, is part of a memorial in the newly designated Hennen Room in the Winter Building. Earl Michael Hennen, Jr., worked for the department for twenty-four years and served as curator of manuscripts from 1985 until his death in 2005. He was responsible for acquiring and processing numerous collections, building an incomparable trove of archival materials relating to Mississippi, and making a lasting contribution to the preservation of the state's rich culture. The Elms Papers, which contains material dating to the mid-nineteenth century for Adams County and Warren County, was one of the collections most meaningful to Hennen. The Board of Trustees approved the designation at its July board meeting.*

## MDAH Partners on Oral History Project

Mississippi Humanities Council director Barbara Carpenter (left) and MDAH director H.T. Holmes recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the Mississippi Oral History Project. The project is a joint venture between the Humanities Council,



MDAH, and the University of Southern Mississippi that documents and preserves the history and culture of the state through interviews with its citizens. The 2008 Mississippi legislature appropriated \$150,000 through the Department of Archives and History to continue the program.

Grants for the Oral History Project are awarded by the Humanities Council to government agencies and not-for-profit organizations across the state to

plan, conduct, and transcribe interviews. The University of Southern Mississippi provides professional assistance and training, helps plan specific projects, and transcribes interviews. The master tapes are permanently archived at the USM library, and copies of the tapes and transcriptions are distributed to the participants. The materials are available on site as well as online at <http://www.usm.edu/msoralhistory/>.

## State Institutions in Pilot Disaster Preparedness Program

During the coming months, five museums in Mississippi will be conducting risk evaluations and developing emergency plans with the assistance of a team of experts. Institutions from Mississippi, Ohio, and Texas that represent the diversity of museums in terms of size, location, and collections have been selected to participate in the pilot phase of the Risk Evaluation and Planning Program. Mississippi participants are the Delta State University Archives

and Museum, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel, the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson, the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo, and the Tishomingo County Archives and Museum in Iuka.

A 2005 survey of museums and libraries nationwide revealed 80% of collecting institutions do not have an emergency plan that includes collections, with staff trained to carry it out. The Risk Evaluation and Planning Program aims to increase the number of

cultural institutions that are prepared to deal with disaster.

“Being prepared for emergencies large and small is essential for responsibly caring for collections held in the public trust,” said Lawrence Reger, president of Heritage Preservation, a national, nonprofit group that works to save the objects and sites that embody the nation’s history.

The Risk Evaluation and Planning Program is modeled after Heritage Preservation’s

successful Conservation Assessment Program. It supports an on-site visit by two professionals—one in preservation and one in local emergency response—to evaluate risks, suggest ways to mitigate hazards, and provide guidance to institution staff in developing an emergency plan. The program is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency.

## Film Crew Utilizes MDAH Materials in Project



*A documentary film crew from Spain visited the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in August to shoot material from the collection related to Fannie Lou Hamer. The group is at work on a film that will feature material from the Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection, housed at the Winter Building, as well as photographs and film from the archival collections at MDAH.*

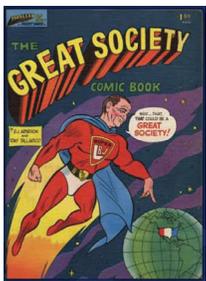
## Vicksburg Park Guide Training Being Offered

Vicksburg National Military Park is seeking new recruits to help meet the demand for guided tours of the battlefield. To prepare prospective guides for the required tests, retired Brigadier General Parker Hills is teaching a series of twelve seminars beginning on September 9. For more information contact Parker Hills at [parker@battlefocus.com](mailto:parker@battlefocus.com).

**On the Web:** [www.commart.net/clientarea/vicksburg\\_site/](http://www.commart.net/clientarea/vicksburg_site/)

## Special Exhibit on Presidents at UM Library

The University of Mississippi will host the first presidential debate of 2008 on September 26 in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. In conjunction



with the debate, "Hail to the Chief!: An Exhibit on Presidents and Mississippi in Presidential Elections"

has been installed in the J.D. Williams Library. The exhibit ranges from George Washington to George W. Bush and includes presidential letters, photographs, and ephemera. The exhibit also documents the role the Magnolia State has played in presidential elections from the antebellum era to the twentieth century.

"Hail to the Chief!" will remain up through August 2009. The public may view it Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except during school holidays). For more information email [slmcwhit@olemiss.edu](mailto:slmcwhit@olemiss.edu). To see more events associated with the debate, go to <http://events.olemiss.edu/events/>.

## MDAH September Calendar of Events

### JACKSON

#### History is Lunch Series

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

**Wednesday, September 3**—Photographer David Wharton, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, presents "Southern Cultural Landscapes: The Church, the Farm, the Town."

**Wednesday, September 10**—Richard Wright Bicentennial, film and talk with William Winter and Julia Wright, daughter of Richard Wright.

**Wednesday, September 17**—Archaeologist Sam Brookes presents "Birds in Southeastern Indian Art and Lore."

#### Board of Trustees

**Wednesday, September 10**, 10 a.m. The MDAH Board of Trustees will meet in the first-floor meeting room of the Winter Building. For more information call 601-576-6855.

**Manship House Museum**  
420 E. Fortification  
601-961-4724

**Monday, September 8**, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. "Step Into

My Parlor," a symposium examining the arts in everyday nineteenth-century life. Featuring talks on period architecture, decorating styles, and ornamental painting, and tours of the Manship House, Eudora Welty House, and Oaks House Museum. Free of charge, reservations required.

**September 9–30.** *Manships in Mourning.* Period rooms reflect how homes were prepared for the Victorian rituals of mourning. Reservations required for groups of ten or more.

### GREENVILLE

#### Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North  
662-334-4684

**Saturday, September 6**, 1–4 p.m. *Dreamcatcher Workshop.* Florida Muscogee artist Valerie Goetz will lead a workshop on how to make a dreamcatcher, a small hoop covered with mesh and decorated with feathers and beads and believed to give its owner good dreams. A \$35 registration fee is due by September 3 and covers the cost of all materials.

### NATCHEZ

#### Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd  
601-446-6502

**Saturday, September 20**, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. *Bark in the Park.* Annual fund-raiser for the Natchez Humane Society. Admission fee to attend dog show.

### WASHINGTON

#### Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North  
601-442-2901

**Saturday, September 20**, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. *27th Annual Copper Magnolia Festival and Flea Market.* Crafts fair features handmade goods, food, and music. Free of charge. Vendor space available; email [hjc@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:hjc@mdah.state.ms.us) for information.

**Wednesday, September 24**, noon. "Pieced Together: Mississippi Quilts," a slide lecture by Mary Lohrenz, co-author of *Mississippi Homespun: Nineteenth Century Textiles and the Women Who Made Them*. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.