

# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Spring 2012

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## Two Museums Project Update

The Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum projects are in high gear as the department has been coordinating community meetings around the state, collecting artifacts, and raising funds for exhibits through the Foundation for Mississippi History. The foundation has launched a campaign to raise at least \$12 million in private funding for the two museums—\$8 million for exhibits and a \$2 million endowment for each of the museums.

Public meetings for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (MCRM) began early this year and will continue through April. Hilferty & Associates, the firm hired to develop exhibits for the civil rights museum, met with MDAH staff and members of the Legislative Black Caucus in January to review and discuss preliminary exhibit plans. MDAH director H.T. Holmes asked caucus members to help the department make contact with civil rights movement veterans and other citizens around the state with stories to tell or artifacts to donate. In February the department held a focus group meeting with Jackson-area leaders at Tougaloo College and public meetings in McComb and Hattiesburg.

Over the coming weeks a series of



**The department is making it easy for the public to stay current with news about the two museum projects with a new Web site, [2mississippimuseums.com](http://2mississippimuseums.com). The site will feature current news and pictures, a calendar of events, and a forum to offer feedback on the plans for the museums. Find it online at [www.2mississippimuseums.com](http://www.2mississippimuseums.com).**

meetings will be held at sites across the state. The first will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 6 p.m. on the Mississippi Valley State University campus in Itta Bena. Dr. Marvin Haire, director of the Delta Research and Cultural Institute and member of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Advisory

Commission, will serve as local host, and Hilferty & Associates will facilitate the meeting.

On Wednesday, April 4, at 11:30 a.m. a meeting will be held at the Beckley Conference Center at Rust College in Holly Springs. Rust College president Dr. David L. Beckley, Holly Springs mayor Andre DeBerry, and executive director and founder of the Hill Country Project Dr. Roy De Berry, will be the local hosts, and Hilferty & Associates will again facilitate the meeting.

The Philadelphia Coalition and the Community Development Partnership will host a meeting in Philadelphia on Tuesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the restored historic train depot. The University of Mississippi's William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation will facilitate the meeting. Meetings in Cleveland and Gulfport are being planned.

"These meetings are about listening to the public," said Lucy Allen, MDAH Museums Division director. "Hilferty, the Department of Archives and History, and the MCRM team want to hear from people across the state and incorporate their voices

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## Old Capitol Museum Offers Guided Tours

Have you ever wondered why the back of the Old Capitol is exposed brick instead of limestone like the front and sides? Or why the governor's office is so far from the House and Senate chambers? You can learn the answers to these and many other fascinating questions when you take one of the guided tours at the Old Capitol Museum.

The tour begins in the Chancery Court and moves through the first floor exploring the quarters of the Keeper of the Capitol and the office of the governor to the third floor and the State Library and Mississippi Hall of Fame. After seeing the House and Senate Chambers on the second floor, the hour-long tour concludes in the Government

and Constitution gallery, which features an interactive exhibit that allows people to take on an identity from the past. The staff-guided tours are available by request, as well as every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Specialized tours for school groups are also available and focus on the nineteenth-century political history of black Missis-

sippians, roles of state elected officials, and the Civil War in Mississippi. Each program begins with an introduction to the topic and interactive activities and is followed by a teacher-guided tour of related rooms and exhibits.

"Our staff continues to work hard developing programs that

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and stories—tragic, uplifting, and unflinching—because the museum will only be as good as the input.”

Angela Stewart is the interim project manager for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum through April 30. Stewart has served as the archivist for the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African-American Experience at Jackson State University since 2004. One of Stewart’s responsibilities has been organizing the community meetings.

“We were glad to have Linda VanZandt from the University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for Oral History at the meetings in Hattiesburg and McComb,” said Stewart. “Many community members, including civil rights movement veterans, came to the meetings and shared their stories and experiences. We will depend on their oral history recordings in planning museum exhibits.”

MDAH staff and exhibit team members will also be on hand to answer questions about oral history interviews and artifact



Interim project manager Angela Stewart (standing, center) speaks at the February 29 community meeting in McComb.

donations at the upcoming meetings. The department holds the world’s finest collection of objects related to Mississippi’s history, but there are some areas where more artifacts are being sought. In order to tell the most complete story possible, the department is actively searching for items related to Native Americans, African Americans, the woman suffrage movement, and more (See complete list inset). All donated items will be conserved to meet the highest professional standards using the state-of-the-art collection care facility planned for the two museums.

The Community Advisory Committee and core scholars group for the Museum of Mississippi History met in March in Jackson. The exhibit firm Design Minds presented the first round of design and content plans to the group for review. The plans will also draw from the input gathered at the fifteen community meetings held in 2005 across the state and with Chickasaw and Choctaw leaders in Oklahoma.

On March 22 the department held the first major fundraising event for the two museums project at the Old Capitol Museum. The ticketed gala gave donors a special viewing of the rare Twenty-star Flag that flew over the United States only in 1818, the year after Mississippi became the twentieth state. Supporters also enjoyed a sneak preview of the special exhibit “A Walk through History,” which features

iconic artifacts from the department’s collection. The exhibit is on display at the Old Capitol through April 29.

The Department of Finance and Administration’s Bureau of Building, Grounds, and Real Property will oversee construction of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History, with the goal of opening both in 2017 as centerpieces of the state’s bicentennial celebration. The two museums will be constructed side by side on state-owned land next to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in downtown Jackson. Architects and design firms have been selected and are developing plans for the buildings and exhibits.

Governor Haley Barbour and the 2011 Legislature worked together to provide \$40 million in bond funding for the projects. Total cost of the two museums is expected to top \$70 million. Construction of the two museums, parking garage, and museum complex is scheduled to begin in 2013 and take three years.

The Mississippi Development Authority has estimated the two museums will draw approximately 200,000 visitors and have an economic impact of nearly \$19 million in their first year. Additionally, the construction of the two museums will create an estimated 500 jobs, \$19 million in wages, and \$2 million to the state’s general fund over the life of the project.

### MDAH is actively collecting artifacts from the following categories:

- 1950s–2000s
- African American
- Civil Rights Era
- Ethnic Immigrant
- Industry
- Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Native American
- Natural Disasters
- Reconstruction Era
- Statehood Period
- Territorial Period
- Transportation
- U.S. Military
- Woman Suffrage

Contact MDAH about these or any other artifacts of historical significance at 601-576-6901 or by email at [info@2mississippimuseums.com](mailto:info@2mississippimuseums.com).

## New Trustee Elected at Jan. Meeting

### Board Also Makes Preservation Grant Project Awards

At its regular quarterly meeting in Jackson on Friday, January 20, the MDAH Board of Trustees elected a new member. Nancy Carpenter will fill the seat of Martis D. Ramage, Jr., who died November 28, 2011.

Carpenter is the director of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau. A former executive director of the Columbus Historic Foundation, Carpenter began her career as a banker in 1971 and rose to vice president of marketing and sales manager at Unifirst Bank in Jackson. After moving to Columbus in 1990 she served as vice president of marketing for First Columbus National Bank and then as regional vice president for Deposit Guaranty National Bank. In 2011 she was appointed to the Civil Rights Museum Advisory Commission by Governor Haley Barbour. All

nominees to the board of trustees must be confirmed by the state senate.

At the meeting the board also awarded more than \$440,000 in grants and designated new Mississippi Landmarks.

Two grants were awarded through the Community Heritage Preservation Program. Built in 1863, the Church of the Annunciation in Lowndes County is the oldest Catholic Church in northeast Mississippi. The award of \$191,093 will cover the cost of roof replacement. Located in Marshall County, the Old Byhalia High School Auditorium was built in the Italianate style in 1921. The award of \$100,000 will go to the rehabilitation of the auditorium.

Mississippi Landmark Program grants were awarded to the McElroy-Hoye House in Newton County and the Noxubee County Courthouse. The grant of \$73,463 for the McElroy-Hoye House will go toward the completion of the exterior restoration and reconstruction and installation of electrical service to



Nancy Carpenter with Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto.

the house. The Noxubee County Courthouse will receive \$80,000 for the purchase and installation of an independent generator system. The Neo-Greek Revival courthouse was built in 1952.

Mississippi Landmark designations were approved for Mendenhall Public School; Alexander Hall at Jackson State University; and the Natchez Toll Plaza. State Historical Markers were approved for Camp Williamson, Warren County; First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis,

Hancock County; Grant’s Mississippi Central R.R. Campaign, multiple counties; Gulfport Army Airfield, Harrison County; and Magee Plantation, Jefferson Davis County.

Members of the board of trustees are Kane Ditto, president; Rosemary Taylor Williams, vice-president; Reuben V. Anderson, Jackson; E. Jackson Garner, Jackson; Web Heidelberg, Hattiesburg; Valencia Hall, Natchez; Hilda Cope Povall, Cleveland; and Roland Weeks, Biloxi.

## Fourth Welty Print by Barry Moser Issued

The fourth in a series of engravings depicting Eudora Welty by award-winning illustrator Barry Moser is being issued on April 13—Welty’s birthday. Each print is in a limited run of one hundred and is signed and numbered by the artist. The engravings are being donated by Moser, whose friendship with Welty began during a joint publishing project in the 1980s. The prints sell for \$250, with all proceeds supporting the Eudora Welty House.

Barry Moser’s body of work includes more than three hundred volumes he has illustrated or designed, including Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*, which won the National Book

Award for Design and Illustration in 1983. Moser’s Pennyroyal *Caxton Bible* has been exhibited at the National Gallery of Art, the Israel Museum, and other galleries around the world. His works have been displayed in the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum, Harvard, and the Library of Congress.

“I met Eudora Welty in Jackson, Mississippi, on May 1, 1986,” said Moser. “Mutual friends John and Mel Evans drove me to her house about two o’clock. We visited for a couple of hours, during which time we laid plans for my private press, Pennyroyal Press, to issue a new, limited edition of *The Robber Bridegroom* with a few of

my engravings as illustrations. When I asked her if she wanted to read proofs or see sketches for the images she just smiled and said, ‘Oh no, Barry. It’s your book now.’ Such is the attitude of a truly great, gracious, and generous writer.

“A couple of times that afternoon she asked us if we would like something to eat and each time the three of us declined.

We didn’t want her to trouble herself. When we finally got up to go Miss Eudora said ‘It sure was good meeting you.’ Then with hardly a pause she continued, “But I sure do wish you all had eaten some of those sandwiches I made.”

Prints from the series are available at the Eudora Welty House, 601-353-7762, or by mail order through the Mississippi History Store, 601-576-6921.



# Society Awards History Prizes at Meeting

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting March 1–3 at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus to honor its award winners and offer presentations on the meeting’s theme of “The Bicentennial of the War of 1812.” More than one hundred twenty participants attended the sessions, where topics included the battle for the southern frontier, Mississippi’s American Indians, the Natchez Trace, and local history projects.

Daniel P. Jordan, president emeritus of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, was awarded the society’s honor, the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history. For twenty-three years Jordan headed the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, and was concurrently a Scholar in Residence at the University of Virginia. His publications include *Political Leadership in Jefferson’s Virginia* (University of Virginia Press), *A Richmond Reader* (University of North Carolina Press), and *Tobacco Merchant: The Story of Universal Leaf Tobacco Company* (University Press of Kentucky). He is now a partner in Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC in Richmond, Virginia.

Ron and Mimi Miller received the Dunbar Rowland Award for their lifelong contributions to the preservation, study, and interpretation of Mississippi history. For more than thirty years the Millers have worked to save and restore hundreds of historic buildings in Natchez. From the storefront rehabilitation program for the historic downtown to the courthouse records project, their tireless leadership at the Historic Natchez Foundation has resulted in programs that continue to stimulate development while preserving the town’s history.

Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science history and government teacher Charles M. Yarborough won the John K. Bettersworth Award for outstanding teacher. The prize includes a \$300 cash award.

Paul T. Murray of Siena College was awarded the Willie D. Halsell Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of Mississippi History*. His article “Father Nathaniel and the Greenwood Movement” appears in the Fall 2010 issue. The prize carries a \$200 cash award.

The Covington County Historical Society won the Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award for outstanding contributions to the preservation

and interpretation of local history.

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History award was presented to Avery Rollins of Madison for his exemplary work in coordinating and implementing the FBI Oral History Program in Mississippi.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown, the Richard J. Milbauer Professor Emeritus at the University of Florida and Visiting Scholar, Johns Hopkins University, won the 2012 *Mississippi History Now* Award for his article



**Pictured from left are B.L.C. Wailes Award winner Daniel P. Jordan, banquet speaker Robert V. Haynes, new Society president Mary Carol Miller, and immediate past president Aubrey K. Lucas. See more photos from the annual meeting on the following page.**

“Anne Ellis Dorsey: a Woman of Uncommon Mind.”

Patricia Buzard Boyett received the Franklin L. Riley Prize for her doctoral dissertation “Race and Justice in Mississippi’s Central Piney Woods, 1940–2010” presented for her Ph.D. in history from the University of Southern Mississippi. The prize carries a \$500 cash award.

Awards of merit were presented to Samuel H. Kaye for his work preserving the history of Columbus and Lowndes County; the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum for its work preserving and interpreting the history of Oktibbeha County; Bridget Smith Pieschel for her work with the Center for Women’s Research and Public Policy and the Welty Writer’s Symposium; Mona Vance for her work with the archival and history programs of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library; and Chrissy Wilson, for her work with the “History Is Lunch” program

for MDAH and for her longtime service as managing editor of the *Journal of Mississippi History*.

Newly elected officers of the Mississippi Historical Society are Mary Carol Miller, Greenwood, president; Charles Sullivan, Perkinston, vice president; and Elbert R. Hilliard, Madison, secretary-treasurer.

New members of the society’s board of directors for 2012–15 are Larry Albert,

Hattiesburg; Dernoral Davis, Jackson State University; Martha Hutson, Mississippi College; Elizabeth Ann Payne, University of Mississippi; Stuart Rockoff, Jackson; and William “Brother” Rogers, Mississippi State University. Thomas P. Watts, Madison, was elected to fill an unexpired term.

Re-elected to the society’s Board of Publications for 2012–15 are John Langston, University Press of Mississippi, and Charles Sallis, Jackson.

The Mississippi Historical Society, founded in 1858, encourages outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi History. Membership is open to anyone; benefits include receiving the quarterly *Journal of Mississippi History* and *Mississippi History Newsletter*, and discounts at the Mississippi History Store. For information on becoming a member, call 601-576-6849 or see the MHS Web site, [www.mdah.state.ms.us/admin/mhist-soc.html](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/admin/mhist-soc.html).



**1–MHS Awards Committee chair Stuart Rockoff (left) presented the Dunbar Rowland Award to Mimi and Ron Miller; 2–Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students presented skits from the award-winning Tales from the Crypt program at the March 1 reception at historic Whithall; 3–Janet E. Smith, June C. Ellis, and Geneva Grayson of the Covington County Genealogical and Historical Society accepted the Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award; 4–Thomas P. Watts (left) presents the John K. Bettersworth Award to Charles M. Yarborough; 5–Jane Elliott Crawford (left) presents the Franklin L. Riley Prize to Patricia Buzard Boyett, USM; 6–USM doctoral panelist Rebecca Zimmer and MUW undergraduate panelists Jaleesa Fields, J. Matthew Ward, and Nichole Larson.**



# 1940 Census To Be Made Available Online

Data from the 1940 census will be available by the federal government free of charge online when the National Archives releases the records through its Web site on April 2. The federal census has been taken every ten years since 1790. Over time the information gathered has become a vital research tool for sociologists, demographers, historians, political scientists, and genealogists. The specific information gathered in the censuses are opened to the public after seventy-two years.

The 1940 census contains standard information such as name, age, gender, race, education, and place of birth, but it also includes new questions about employment status and occupation that reflect concerns of the Great Depression and document the flow of immigrants into the country.

“The federal population census is the best single source for the beginning genealogist to consult,” said Anne Webster, MDAH chief of reference services. “Most professional

genealogists recommend that the search for family roots proceed from the known to the unknown, starting with one’s self, one’s parents and grandparents, and so forth back to earlier relatives. Since each successive census provides more information, you will find that as you proceed in reverse chronological order, less and less material will be available. So take advantage of the new 1940 census, study it carefully for all of the information provided, and then proceed to the previous census years one by one.”

The 1940 census is organized only by enumeration district, the area covered by a census taker during that period. The size of enumeration districts varied from several city blocks in densely populated urban areas to an entire county in rural areas. Using the home address of the time, researchers can identify the district and then look for the family name in the records of that area.

Although no index is available to search

by name, the genealogy organization FamilySearch is partnering with MDAH and other groups to coordinate a volunteer project to create a searchable index that will be available online for free. Those interested in volunteering should contact Elizabeth Coleman at 601-576-6985.

Mississippi’s state archives has the 1820–1930 federal population censuses for the state on microfilm. Indexes for the years 1820–1870 are in book form, while the 1880–1930 indexes are on microfilm. (The 1890 census was destroyed in a U.S. Department of Commerce fire.) The federal government also conducted special censuses that include agricultural, manufacturing, mortality, and slave schedules.

The National Archives has a Web site devoted to the 1940 census, including digital versions of the enumeration district maps. For more information or to begin researching the 1940 census go to [1940census.archives.gov](http://1940census.archives.gov).



MDAH hosted its annual Valentine Volunteer Luncheon at the Old Capitol Museum on February 13, 2012. First Lady Deborah Bryant thanked the volunteers for their service to the state. Special recognition was given to thirty-two volunteers who served 100–1,000 (or more) hours in 2011 with Awards of Merit signed by Governor Phil Bryant. The award winners in attendance were (front, left to right) Carol Busbee, Nan Harvey, Natalie Heberg, Malinda McCullouch, Joyce Black Smith. First Lady Deborah Bryant, Linda Overman, Freda Spell, Clytice Gardner, Buena Lee Huff, and Carolyn Jones, (back, left to right) Elbert Hilliard, Susie Smith and Mark Howell accepting for Boy Scout Troop #4043, and Stephen Harper.



The Governor’s Mansion Docent Luncheon was held on December 5, 2011, and hosted by First Lady Marsha Barbour. Pictured are (front row) Sarah Flanagan, First Lady Marsha Barbour, Mansion Committee member Betty Hamilton Lake, and Joyce Huskey; (second row) Mary Louise Nosser, Sister Simmons, Andi McDaniel, Lynn Stuart, Sylvia Walker, and Carol Busbee; (third row) Mansion curator Mary Lohrenz, Janis Roberts, Ruth Tant, Jean Clarkson, Babs Sevier, Sally Carmichael, Shirley Abney, Janet McLaurin, Peggy Jeanes, Buena Lee Huff, and Alice Carol Mozingo; (back row) Bernie Lieb, Joan Dattel, Charlotte Turner, Judy Lacy, Freda Spell, Peggy Dawson, MDAH trustee and Mansion Committee member Hilda Cope Povall, Clytice Gardner, Brenda Cole, Becky Herren, MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, Pat Pierce, Pauline Akers, Melanie McKinley, Billie Henry, and Jean Hallman.

## Shoe Bird Exhibit Opening at Welty Education Center

Children’s literature will be the focus of an exhibit and story series at the Eudora Welty House this spring. “Welty constantly went back to her love of reading in her childhood and how that led her to be a writer,” said Memie Jackson, director of education at the Eudora Welty House. “That joy of reading is the springboard for our upcoming programs.”

Welty wrote one children’s book, *The Shoe Bird*, which will be the focus of a new exhibit opening April 10 at the Eudora Welty House Education and Visitor Center. The exhibit examines two interpretations of the book: a 1968 Jackson Ballet Guild performance and

a musical adaptation written by composer Samuel Jones and performed by the Mississippi Boychoir.

Composed by acclaimed Broadway musical director and Jackson native Lehman Engel, the ballet was intended to promote Mississippi talent. Artifacts will include original watercolor drawings of the owl, quail, and other costumes by designer Theo Inman, the colorful vest worn by Arturo the parrot, and a letter from Engel to Welty discussing the ballet. The drawings will be paired with photographs of dancers in the costumes.

In 2002 the Mississippi Boychoir commissioned Samuel

Jones, a Mississippi native and Seattle Symphony composer-in-residence, to create a musical version of *The Shoe Bird*. Jones’s innovative adaptation is often compared to *Peter and the Wolf*. The exhibit will feature the original narrator’s score, which was first performed by Lester Senter, and the musical composition.

On Tuesday, April 17, there will be an open house for the *Shoe Bird* exhibit at 4 p.m. in conjunction with a special event at Belhaven University. At 5:30 p.m. in Barber Auditorium, award-winning illustrator and Jackson native Scott Cook will present “Books and the Process of Creating Art,” featuring

sculptures and original paintings he has made for children’s books. The event is free and open to the public.

In May the Eudora Welty House Museum, the Brandon Public Library, and the Eudora Welty branch of the Jackson Public Library will partner to inspire and entertain young readers with the second annual “Storytime on the Side Porch” at the Welty House. The series begins May 23 and runs through June 27. Each Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., children entering grades K–3 and their parents will listen to a classic story then make a related craft. “Storytime on the Side Porch” is free of charge; call 601-353-7762 to reserve a spot.

# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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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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## APRIL-JUNE HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

The department's History Is Lunch programs are held at noon most Wednesdays in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. There is no admission charge.

For more information on any of the programs, call 601-576-6998 or email [cwilson@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:cwilson@mdah.state.ms.us).

**April 4**—Award-winning Jackson novelist Howard Bahr will present "Anti-Romanticism in Historical Fiction."

**April 11**—University of Mississippi archaeologist Edward Henry will present "Rediscovering Jackson's Historic Cemetery: A Non-invasive Ground-penetrating Radar Survey to Identify Unknown Burials at Greenwood Cemetery."

**April 18**—Vexillologist Clay Moss will talk about the many historic flags in the MDAH collection.

**April 25**—Agricultural economist Jimmie Hillman will talk about his new memoir, *Hogs, Mules, and Yellow Dogs: Growing Up on a Mississippi Subsistence Farm*. **To be held in the Old Capitol Museum.**

**May 2**—Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Ken P'Pool will talk about preservation and restoration projects on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**May 9**—Mississippi Arts Commission director Malcolm White will talk about Southern Culture.

**May 30**—MDAH architectural historian Jennifer Baughn will

talk about modern architects of Mississippi.

**June 6**—Former Blue Mountain College president Bettye Rogers Coward will talk about the history of the school.

**June 13**—MDAH Historic Properties Division director Jim Barnett will talk about and sign copies of his new book in the Heritage of Mississippi Series, *Mississippi's American Indians*.

**June 20**—Southern Studies scholar Noel Polk will read from his latest book, *Walking Safari: Or, the Hippo Highway and Other Poems*.

**June 27**—Jacksonian Bill Patrick will present "The Truth about Casey Jones." **To be held in the Old Capitol Museum.**

## OLD CAPITOL GUIDED TOURS, cont'd from p. 1

will appeal to groups of all ages," said Old Capitol Museum director Clay Williams. "One of our goals is to supplement the information students get in the classroom. I encourage teachers to book these special programs and use the Old Capitol Museum as a resource."

Completed in 1839, the Old Capitol is Jackson's oldest building. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. To book tours for school groups or any group of ten or more, call 601-576-6902. A teacher's resource guide is available as a supplement to tours.