MISSISSIPPI Department of MDAH ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The Volunteer Newsletter

Devoted to Mississippi's true treasures — our volunteers

Summer 2014

AmeriCorps NCCC Return for a Day of Service at MDAH

Vicksburg is home to one of only five AmeriCorps National Civilian and Community Corps (NCCC) campuses in the country. Within NCCC is the newly formed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Corps, also based at the Vicksburg campus, which serves eleven states.

MDAH was host to two FEMA Corps teams for their July 28 *Day of Service*. One team (pictured right) assisted MDAH archaeologist Patty Miller-Beech with the archaeological collections. Another team (pictured below) assisted Marilyn Jones with landscaping and with painting of the Manship House Museum Visitor Center interior.

Drawn from the successful models of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the U.S. military, AmeriCorps NCCC is built on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs.

Members serve for ten months and learn CPR, first aid, public safety, and other skills before beginning their first service project. Members are given a living allowance of approximately $4,000 for ten months of service; housing; meals; limited medical benefits; up to $400 a month for childcare if eligible; member uniforms; and become eligible for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the program.

AmeriCorps NCCC is looking for 18-to-24-year olds who would like to travel the country, earn more than $5,600 for college, and make a positive impact in communities. This is the most non-competitive time to apply! There is an October 1 deadline for individuals who would like to start serving Feb 2015.

"This was a really good group of people to work with and I am very pleased with all they accomplished on this visit," said Patty Miller-Beech.

"These members did an outstanding job! Their service will be a tremendous help in our efforts to reopen the Manship House Museum," said Marilynn Jones.

For more information and to apply, visit www.nationalservice.gov/nccc or contact Kevin Jones at the Vicksburg, MS, Southern Region campus at 601-630-4048 or kjones@cns.gov.

To the MDAH Volunteers,

MDAH volunteers lead the pack in terms of quality of service to our great state. When you—our volunteers—take on a project, lead a tour, or advocate for us, we know that we can count on you to do your very best!

Our Board of Trustees is very proud and complimentary of your service to Archives and History. Board member Roland Weeks (Biloxi) recently said that the Trustees appreciate your efforts and accomplishments—and to thank you for your important work. At Board meetings, President Kane Ditto and the other members are always eager to hear the latest report on your activities.

In the not-so-distant future, MDAH will be positioned to have a dramatic impact on our economy via our cultural tourism. You are an integral component of this equation. As our cultural/heritage tourism offerings grow, so will opportunities for our citizens and our community.

MDAH is truly a comprehensive state archives and history agency. It is with your support that we can offer services at our historic sites and museums, assistance to those who seek answers about their heritage, grants for preservation efforts, primary source documentation for scholars, educational resources for the classroom, expertise for landowners who stumble upon history hidden under the earth, and much, much more.

Simply stated, you help make MDAH tick! Thank you for being a part of our history.

Sincerely,

ht holmes

Director, MDAH

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Test your MDAH history facts.

Answers on last page.

1. The "false tooth" at the Eudora Welty House and Garden is located:

a) in the second floor powder room.
b) in the kitchen of the visitor center.
c) on pathway leading up to the house.
d) in the clubhouse located outside.

2. The tunnel at the State Capitol is:

a) located underground.
b) situated within the building.
c) connects the two chambers.
d) a myth. It does not exist.

3. When the Jackson post office was destroyed, Civil War mayor Charles Henry Manship began using which space to process the mail?

a) His home, now known as the Manship House Museum.
b) The governor's office at the Old Capitol Museum.
c) Boarding house located around the block.
d) Warden's office at the state penitentiary.

Hospitality and History in Demand at the Capitol

Commentary by Kathy Broom, Capitol Visitor Services Coordinator

Photographs provided by James Bridgforth

Ah!! Can't help but agree with Brenda Cole and her tour group (right). The stained glass dome in the House Chamber is worth a long gaze.

Left: Who can resist the warm, sweet welcome to the State Capitol by Carolyn Jones and the friendly, informative tour ready to be given by Jean Clarkson?

Right: A north Mississippi family is amazed as they learn from Jane Phillips that the state penitentiary (photograph to right on wall) was on this site before the State Capitol.

If you would like to recommend that an organization, club, or school receive a guided tour of the most beautiful Capitol in the country, have them contact Kathy Broom at 601-359-3114 or <kbroom@house.ms.gov>.

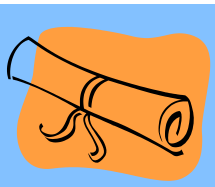
Hospitality and History in Demand at the Capitol

Commentary provided by Kathy Broom, Capitol Visitor Services Coordinator

Photographs provided by James Bridgforth

Right: Visitors are ready to tour the State Capitol after receiving one of Betty Henry's kind greetings paired with her happy smile.

Left and below: As Sharon Anderson (left) begins her tour outside the front of the Capitol and continues through the inside of the building, all can't help but share in the enjoyment of the beautiful Beaux Arts style of architecture.



Sharon Anderson (giving tour in pictures to left) recently passed the docent exam at the Governor's Mansion and will be giving guided tours at that site as well!

Congratulations, Sharon!

Storytime at the Welty House

News from Megan Bankston

The Eudora Welty House and Garden enjoyed having kids ages 4-12 for their annual *Storytime on the Porch* event in June.

Every Thursday, we met inside the Education and Visitors Center to hear the selected stories read by staff from Lemuria Bookstore. Afterwards, we met outside for fun activities and games.

The activities included making pinwheels, planting wheatgrass seeds, writing story books, creating antenna headbands, and searching for bugs in the garden.

Our hats are off to volunteer Dotsie Stevens for keeping the kids entertained each week with games like duck-duck-goose, freeze tag, and Simon Says. We wish we had that much energy too!

Volunteer Dotsie Stevens playing duck-duck-goose with some of the Storytime kids.

Making their own story books.

Volunteer Dotsie Stevens being tackled during a game of freeze tag.

Showing off their bugs and antenna headbands.

Reading inside the Education and Visitors Center.

Winterville Mounds: Kids Camps Big Hit! 500+ Attend!!!

Left to right first row: ***Jersey Pitts, Destiny Haynes, Makaliah Howard, Shamaria Washinginton, Doty Scott, Courtney Towery, Shelia Towery, Kathryn Dunlap, Camarius Phodes & Kristyn Bryant;*** **Second row:** ***Damaria Brady, Taylor Griffin, Jerkristal Brown, Jessica Smith, Camille Towery, Calyer Baker,*** **Third row:** ***Mark Dingeldein, Wanda Williams, Katherine Barret, Camille Towery, Ramona Baker, and Mason Francis***

Summer Activities for Kids at Winterville Mounds (WM) hosted by Mark Dingeldein, Susie Smith, and Winterville Mounds' volunteers took place June 17-20 and 24-27 and July 15-18.

Five hundred children participated in the summer program, which consisted of drum– making, tomahawks, hand rattlers, totem poles, feathered headbands, teepees, canoes, pottery, beaded necklaces, Native American paper dolls, archery, and Native American games.

All of these programs were made possible with the help of our volunteers. They served numerous hours preparing and assisting in the classroom, which has helped in our goal of educating the public about Native American culture in the Delta.

Parents and grandparents enjoy the crafts as much as the children. Even though the dates are past for the activities, we are still serving the public with Native American activities.

Thank you WM staff (employees and volunteers) for a

Winterville Mounds: Kids Camps Big Hit!

"All of these programs were made possible with the help of our volunteers," said Susie Smith, Principal Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator.

1 and 2: Volunteer Lynda Monroe painting faces of camp participants.

3: Staff member Mark Dingeldein with campers.

4: Winterville Mounds volunteer coordinator Susie Smith with volunteer Lee Adams and camp participants.

5: Volunteer Pat Fleming reads to the children.

Mehta Brings Students to Winterville Mounds

Mark Dingledein, Emily Cardinas (Tulane), Haley Holt Mehta (Tulane), Ben Davis (Tulane), Jayur Mehta (Tulane), Brooke Gwin (University of Pittsburgh), Mike Benson (Tulane), Mary Kate Kelly (Tulane), Bailie Dauzat (Tulane), James Sebes (Tulane), Chandler Burchfield (University of Alabama), Katrina Folger (Tulane), Molly Cloutier (Tulane), Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell, Jesse Holt (University of New Orleans). And of course, the dog Duncan.

Jayur Mehta, a doctoral candidate at Tulane University, spoke at Winterville Mounds on recent excavations he led at the Carson Site near Clarksdale.

Attending the presentation were his field school students, some of whom had never been to Winterville before. Carson (A.D. 1000 through 1500) represents one of the largest prehistoric Native American sites in eastern North America.

Ongoing research there is currently focused on documenting the development of the landscape at the site, including the construction of six earthen pyramidal mounds. Before pursuing his doctorate, Mehta worked for MDAH as an archaeologist.

News from the Governor's Mansion

If you have not toured this Greek Revival masterpiece designed by William Nichols, make plans to do so!

Mansion Curator Lauren Miller says that it is busy at the Mansion—docents are giving tours, collections experts Barbara and Peter Avrea (volunteers based in Ohio) continue to share their expertise with us, and another MDAH volunteer, Sharon Anderson, has passed the docent test for the Mansion!

Tours are conducted on the half-hour Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call 601-359-6421.

Note: Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more.

Admission is free.

Student Volunteers, Teachers, and Education

News from Claire Gwaltney, Outreach Programs Coordinator

TAG teachers enjoy a tour at Historic Jefferson College led by site director Robin Person.

For the second year in a row, the MDAH Teacher Advisor Group (TAG) met to discuss the educational offerings at the Department of Archives and History. This year's meeting was held in Natchez, where it was jointly hosted by the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Historic Jefferson College.

Teachers enjoyed staff-led tours of each site and informational sessions on the school tours and programs offered by each. They also received updates on the construction and design of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Finally, TAG teachers gave the MDAH Education team invaluable feedback on fifteen different lesson plans, activity packets, and teaching units, totaling more than 500 pages worth of materials!

Before MDAH offers school programs or lesson plans online, all materials are reviewed by TAG teachers, making these remarkable individuals invaluable members of the MDAH team.

One of the TAG–reviewed resources that will soon make an appearance on the MDAH website is a six-day teaching unit titled *Civil Rights in Mississippi* by volunteer Brian Little. Brian is a former high school English teacher with a love of history, and he crafted this amazing teaching unit using a combination of primary source documents, online resources, and literary works. The TAG teachers were especially impressed with its look at the Emmett Till trial and voter registration.

Congratulations, Brian!

Student Volunteers, Teachers, and Education

MDAH intern Emily Hancock working on education projects.

The MDAH Education team got a little better this summer with the presence of Emily Hancock, a political science student at Samford University in Birmingham. During her six weeks with MDAH Emily completed multiple projects that will ultimately appear on the department website.

This included compiling the Common Core Curriculum (national education standards) for our eight traveling trunks, an important resource that will help teachers identify how these hands-on educational tools can be used in the classroom; a film activity packet focusing on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway that is part of the MDAH Mississippi History on Loan film program and which will soon appear online; and four historic crafts based on the Eudora Welty House and Garden, the Manship House Museum, and the Old Capitol Museum.

These historic crafts will soon be online at http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/learn/students/crafts/ and the rest of Emily's work will appear shortly. While Emily has returned to Birmingham to continue her studies, she made a big, and very positive, impact in the Education section this summer!

Junior Camp Counselors

For the first time, MDAH Education added a new element to its annual Summer Kids Camp: Junior Camp Counselors! Madison Davis, Joseph Rachal, and Tia Webber (all former campers) volunteered to serve as counselors during the week-long camp this July.

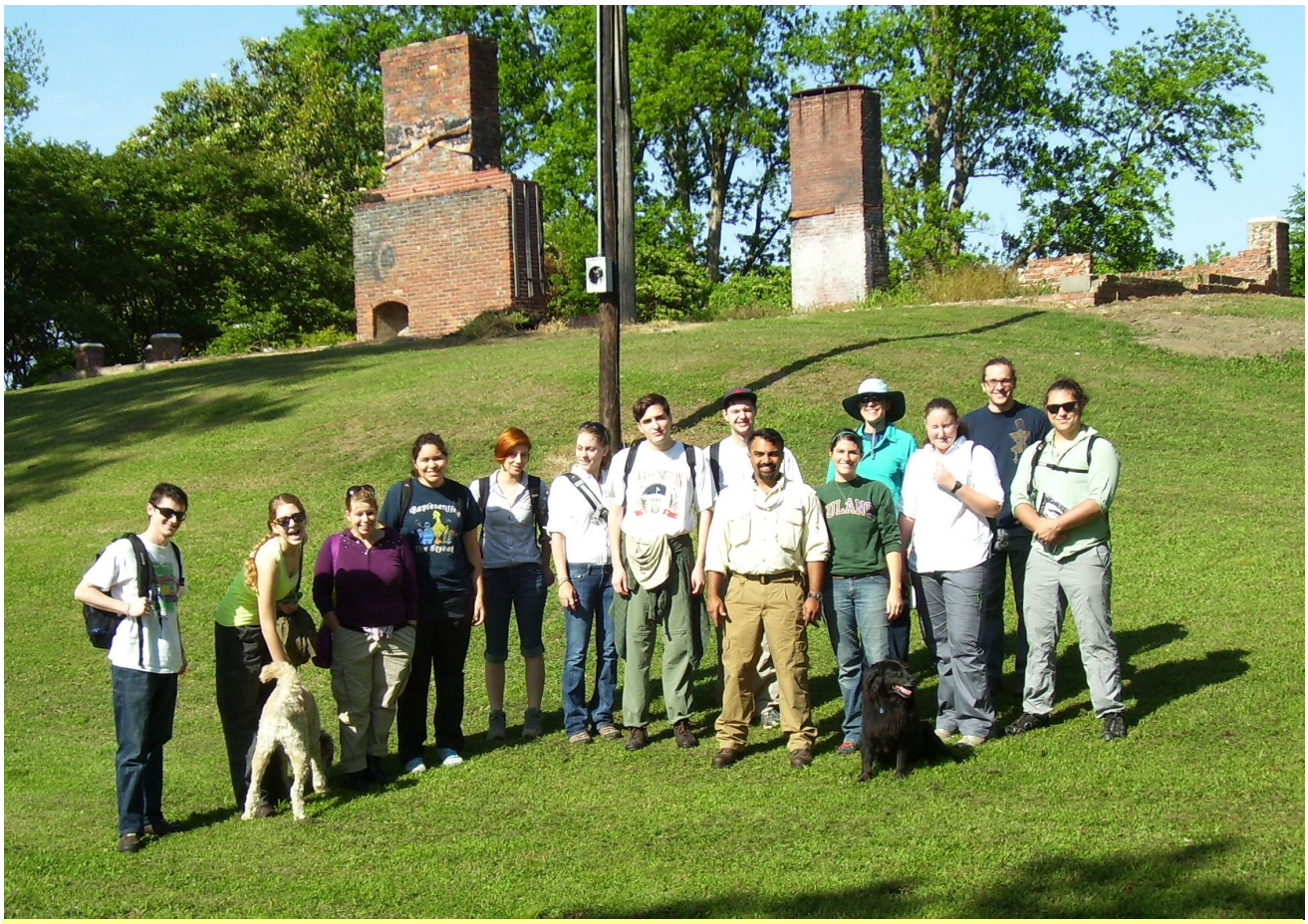
As Junior Counselors they helped campers complete activities such as building a nineteenth century version of downtown Jackson out of shoeboxes at the Manship House and an architectural scavenger hunt at the Eudora Welty House and Garden. They also helped set up and clean up each day and helped maintain order during multiple neighborhood walks around Jackson.

Combined, they volunteered a total of 53.5 hours. Camp couldn't have happened this year without these three outstanding young people and as our first Junior Camp Counselors, these history lovers are now a part of history themselves!

Tia Webber, Joseph Rachal, and Madison Davis display their certificates of appreciation on the final day of camp at the State Capitol.

Excavations at Carson Mounds

News from MDAH archaeologist John Connaway



Chandler Burchfield (University of Alabama), Bailie Dauzat (Tulane), Duncan (the puppy), Katrina Folger (Tulane), Emily Cardinas (Tulane), Brooke Gwin (University of Pittsburgh), Mary Kate Kelly (Tulane), Jackson Hardy (Tulane), Mike Benson (Tulane), Jayur Mehta (Tulane), Haley Holt Mehta (Tulane), Janet Greenfield (University of New Orleans), Molly Cloutier (Tulane), Ben Davis (Tulane), and James Sebes (Tulane).

MDAH archaeologist John Connaway supervises all projects conducted at Carson Mounds. He tells us that from May 21 through June 6 volunteers such as Tulane doctoral candidate Jayur Mehta and Mehta's archaeological field school students served at the site. They worked in two groups—one group worked on the house floor and the other group worked on the village.

Volunteers are now in the process of uncovering a sunken floor house, along with some pits, and water screening, and lots of pit fill. Connaway says that other volunteers who have been helping include Rob Bonney, Benny and Gena Roberts, Bobby Rawlinson, George Lowry, Jennifer Joyner, Ashley Joyner, and Jett Harrel.

Rawlinson recently received a "*Governor's Special Achievement Award* for important excavation work by using his own machinery to strip layers of soils heavily disturbed over time by agricultural activities. These actions have contributed greatly to the speed of the excavation and allowed archaeologists to uncover more new features for purposes of scholarship and research."

Well done, Bobby!!!

See pictures of the excavation on next page.

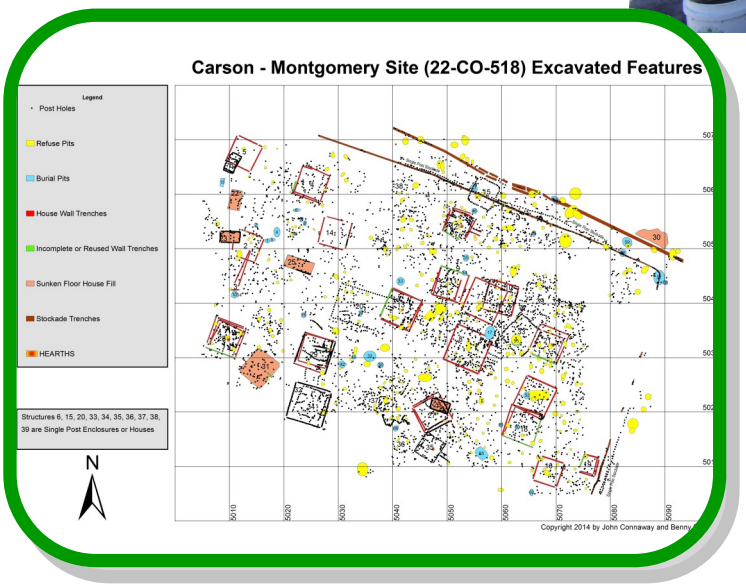
Excavations at Carson Mounds

Some volunteers like to share history by leading tours, helping patrons in the library, or working behind the scenes. Then there are other volunteers who like a more "hands on" approach and dig their history up! However, MDAH archaeology volunteers must follow strict guidelines and procedures of the federal and state government as well as best practices of professional archaeologists! All of the survey work at this site is supervised by MDAH archaeologist John Connaway.

Bobby Rawlinson provides his backhoe, dumptruck, and know-how to save John Connaway from hauling dirt by wheel barrow.

Trench recently excavated at site in North Mississippi.

Outdoor hot dog volunteer appreciation luncheon provided by Connaway.



Enlarge on computer to view site map (left) of excavation.

Old Capitol Museum Turns 175!

News from Clay Williams, director

Cast your vote

at the

Old Capitol Museum!

Anniversaries are always special and this year, the Old Capitol is celebrating a big one with its 175th birthday!!! Although not completely finished, the Old Capitol hosted its first legislative session in 1839.

Over the next 175 years, the building has served as statehouse, a state office building, and a museum, all the while witnessing some of the most important events in the state's history.

To commemorate this anniversary the Old Capitol is having an election where our visitors (and volunteers) can vote on which event they think is the most important to occur in this building.

Is it the secession convention in 1861 or the election of Hiram Revels in 1870? Perhaps it is Hurricane Katrina forcing the building's closure in 2005? Our visitors will decide and results will be posted in December.

This election is just one event we have scheduled to celebrate Mississippi's greatest treasure. For ways you can help, please contact us and check our calendar of events at our website www.oldcapitolmuseum.com.

Old Capitol Museum historian Mike Stoll facilitates voting.

Student Volunteer in Administration

Jackson State University student Krystal Epps-Austin is pursuing an undergraduate degree in human resource development. She currently works part-time at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Krystal recently completed a service learning project within the Administration Division of MDAH and plans to return to acquire more community service hours necessary for graduation.

MDAH Personnel Officer Jessica Kelly, who was responsible for recruiting Krystal, said, "With seven years of experience as an administrative assistant, Krystal was very professional and organized. We were thrilled to have her on board!"

Also, Amanda Lyons who supervises the volunteers in the Director's Office said, "Krystal's experience from the Jackson Convention Complex helped her contribute immediately in the reception area. She hit the ground running!"

MDAH Speakers Roster

Need a speaker for a meeting? Access one of our experts at no cost.

Follow the link below to view the many presentations offered by our staff at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/learn/schedule-a-speaker/

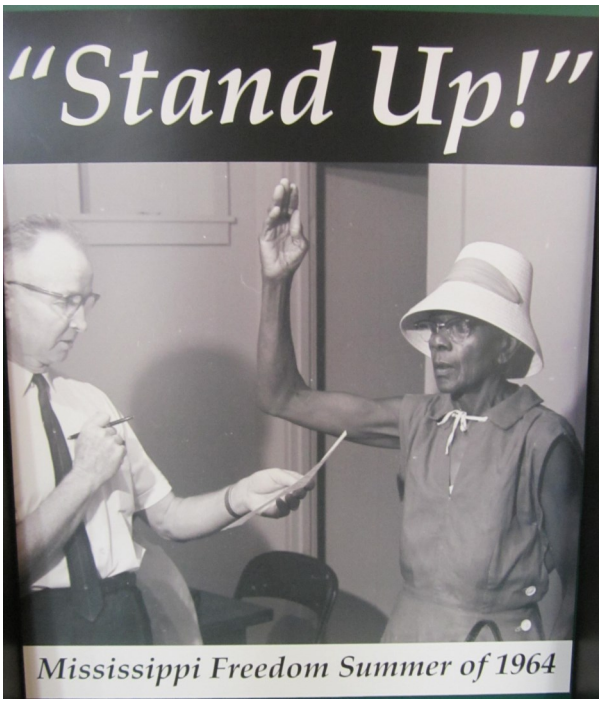
"Beautiful and Painful"
Stand up Exhibit at Archives Proves "Riveting"

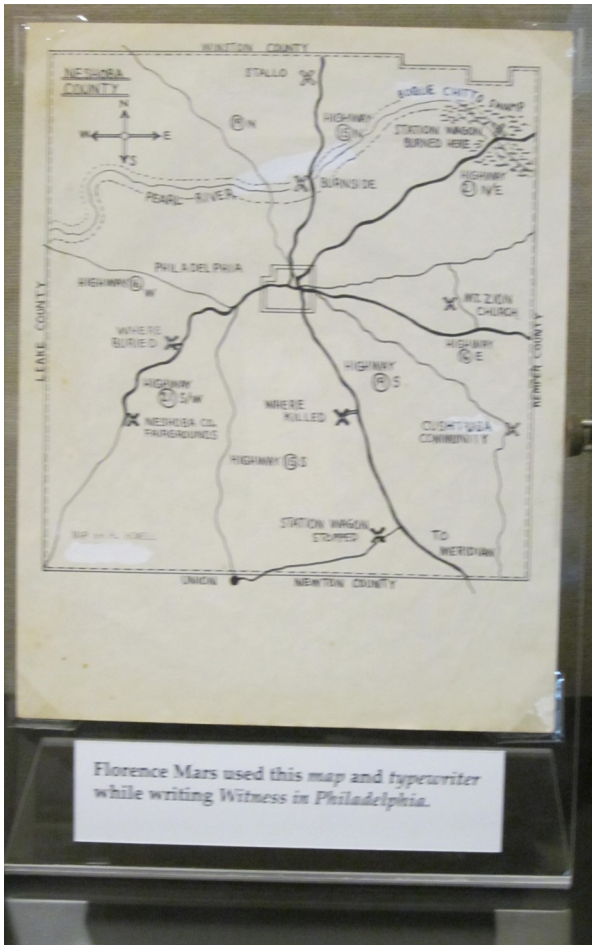
News from Elizabeth Coleman, Volunteer Services

Since its opening on June 2, many visitors have come to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building to view the *Stand Up!: Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964* exhibit.

People from across the United States—California, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky—I counted more than 26 states—as well as visitors from Sweden, Africa, Australia, and Canada, have commented on their visits to this exhibit. Of course, most of the visitors are from Mississippi. There are a variety of comments offered in the visitor register such as "Beautiful and painful," "life changing," "extremely interesting," and "riveting." Another comment from a Jackson visitor was, "I love my heritage and the history associated with it."

You do not want to miss this exhibit, which will remain open until October 31, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m. at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.





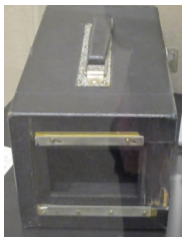
"Beautiful and Painful"

Stand up Exhibit at Archives Proves Riveting

In response to the murders, the FBI opened a field office in Jackson. This *fingerprint camera* was used by FBI agents in that office.

Exhibit pictured on left.

Student Voice (SNCC) newspaper pictured on right.



FBI fingerprint camera

Jackson Photography Book Available at Welty House Gift Shop

News from Megan Bankston

The Welty House photographed at night is featured on the front cover of the book available at the EWHG. Other covers include the Lamar Life building, Fondren Corner, Lemuria Bookstore, and City Hall.

The Eudora Welty House and Garden is pleased to announce the newest arrival in their gift shop – photographer Ken Murphy's *Jackson*, a photography book. *Jackson* is an artful vision of the beauty of the capital city meant to serve as a commemorative memento for all those who hold Jackson close to their hearts.

Several of the photographs depict not only the Welty House but other landmarks associated with Welty's life, including her bedroom and living room, Davis Elementary School, the former Central High School, the Lamar Life building where her father worked, her gravesite at Greenwood Cemetery, and her statue at the Welty Commons near her birth home on Congress Street. Other MDAH sites featured in the book include the Old Capitol Museum, the State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, and the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

Photographer Ken Murphy will be honored at a book signing to be held at the Welty House on Monday, August 11 at 5:30 pm. John Evans, owner of Lemuria Bookstore and publisher of the book, will also be recognized. The book contains a dedication to Welty, reading "To Eudora Welty, dear friend of our bookstore."

Bulletin Board

Answers

MDAH history facts

1. The "false tooth" at the Eudora Welty House and Garden is located:

c) on pathway leading up to the house.

2. The tunnel at the State Capitol is:

d) a myth. It does not exist.

3. When the Jackson post office was destroyed, Civil War time mayor Charles Henry Manship began using which space to process the mail?

b) The governor's office at the Old Capitol Museum.

Picture of two museums work site taken from Human Resources office on August 5, 2014.

To see the MDAH Calendar of Events

Lots to do, people to see, places to go...click the link below.

http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/category/events-category/

MDAH MISSISSIPPI Department of ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources. ©