

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Legislature, Donors Provide 2MM Funds

The Mississippi Legislature has approved \$20 million in bonds to complete the construction of the 2 Mississippi Museums and to begin the fabrication and installation of exhibits. Department director Katie Blount commented, “We are grateful for the Legislature’s ongoing commitment to this important project, and we’re excited about this latest milestone on the road to opening the museums to the public. The department will seek additional funding next year to complete the exhibits and furnish the building.”

Since January 2015 the department has received \$3.35 million in private donations for the project. On January 9 the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and philanthropist Ray Neilsen committed \$2.5 million to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. In a joint announcement on February 10, Trustmark CEO Jerry Host and Butler Snow chairman Don Clark made commitments of \$500,000 and \$350,000 respectively.

The Neilsen Foundation was established in 2002 by Craig H. Neilsen, the founder of Ameristar Casinos who died in 2006. A Mis-



Former governor Haley Barbour speaks from the construction site at the Feb. 10 announcement.

issippi resident, Ray Neilsen is president of the real estate development firm Neilsen & Company and co-trustee and chairman of the board of the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

“I share my late father’s commitment to

the principles of diversity and inclusion, and I am honored to support the history—and the future—of our state in this way,” said Ray Neilsen.

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Emancipation Symposium April 15–17 in Jackson

Music, Lectures, Live Theater Events Planned at Sites

As the nation remembers the conclusion of the Civil War, Mississippi Jubilee, a celebration of the 150th anniversary of emancipation, will be held April 15–17, in Jackson. Activities will range from musical and theatrical performances at Smith Robertson Museum and Cul-

tural Center and the Mississippi Museum of Art to symposia at the Old Capitol Museum and Tougaloo College.

“There was no more important watershed event in Mississippi’s history,” said Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, one of the co-sponsoring organizations. “Emancipation transformed the lives of all Mississippians, the majority of whom had been enslaved. This free symposium will bridge the

worlds of academia and the general public, bringing leading scholars to explain the continuing resonance of this crucial period.”

An opening reception on Wednesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. at Smith Robertson will showcase the history of African American music from slave songs to the present with live performances throughout the museum. Jackson Mayor Tony Yarber will make welcoming remarks.

“The word jubilee is befitting

for this event because the liberation was a mass celebration of freedom for the African,” said Pamela Junior, Smith Robertson director. “This is a time to reflect on the feelings of our ancestors of the great jubilee of freedom and understand the spirit and meaning of this word in the twenty-first century. I am very excited about the City of Jackson and Smith Robertson co-sponsoring this magnificent celebration.”

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MUSEUMS, continued from p. 1

In commemoration of the \$2.5 million gift, the 2 Mississippi Museums will feature the Craig H. Neilsen Auditorium and the Ray Neilsen Hall of History.

Trustmark's gift will sponsor the lobby and Community Room shared by the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History. Butler Snow's donation will sponsor the opening gallery, "Mississippi's Freedom Struggle," in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

"Being engaged in the communities we serve has been a corporate philosophy at Trustmark for 125 years," said Trustmark CEO Jerry Host. "The 2 Mississippi Museums will be an asset to our state, both culturally and economically, by providing an optimum place for education on our state's history, diversity, and culture for Mississippi citizens and guests from around the world."

"We're pleased to be able to make this contribution to honor those who strived for equality in Mississippi and to support the important mission of the museum," said Don Clark, chairman of Butler Snow. "This will be a significant landmark for our state and will serve as an educational resource for decades to come."

Former governor Haley Barbour recommended joining the two museums and locating them in downtown Jackson. He then worked with the 2011 Legislature to secure funding for the 2MM project. Barbour joined Butler Snow as an attorney in 2012.

"Mississippians need to know their history—the good parts and the bad parts—because we learn from our history," said Barbour. "We base our plans for the future on the experiences of the past. These mu-



Pictured at the Neilsen gift announcement are, from left, state senator John Horhn, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute chair Myrlie Evers, former governor William F. Winter, Neilsen and Company president Ray Neilsen, MDAH board of trustees vice president Jack Garner, MDAH board of trustees president Kane Ditto, and Ambassador John Palmer, Foundation for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Inc.

seums will be places where we can teach about our state's history, about the things of which we ought to be very proud and the things we need to learn about so we don't commit those sins again. Mississippi is long past ready for that."

Since construction began in December 2013, all interior floors have been completed. Work on the limestone façade and the 150-car public garage is underway. The concrete roof of the museums is in place and construction of the oculus, the round opening on the roof of the MCRM, has begun. Phase one of the project is ex-

pected to be completed in summer 2015. Phase two, interior construction, will last eighteen months.

The 2011 legislation authorizing construction of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum required MDAH match the public money with private dollars for exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History and Foundation for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum are on target to meet the goal of \$16 million—\$12 million for the exhibits plus a \$2 million endowment for each museum.

Mary Helen Schaeffer, Gulf Coast Preservationist, Dies at 73

Mary Helen Schaeffer, a tireless supporter of local historic preservation efforts, died February 27, 2015. She was 73.

Schaeffer was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1942. She graduated from Vanderbilt University and earned a master's in philosophy at Tulane University. After a career of teaching and public service in New Orleans, she moved with her husband Phil

to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1988, where she served on the board of directors for the Mississippi Heritage Trust and the George Ohr Museum, and was an active member of the Pass Christian Historical Society.

"Mary Helen was the epitome of can-do spirit and



was a great inspiration to everyone after Hurricane Katrina," said Ken P'Pool, who oversaw the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for MDAH. "Her

home in Pass Christian was so badly damaged that it was seemingly beyond repair.

But Mary Helen's dogged determination and unbounded enthusiasm moved the project forward almost by sheer force of her will. She was a tremendous inspiration to MDAH staff and volunteers after the storm, and her tenacity daily gave us energy to press forward. Without her leadership, it is likely that we would have lost many more historic buildings in Pass Christian and on the Coast."

Music Festival Returns To Jefferson College

The Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest returns for its eighth year to Historic Jefferson College on Saturday, May 16. Enjoy performances by some of Mississippi's best old-time musicians on the outdoor stage, watch talented fiddlers young and old vying for the prize in the fiddle contest, or join a jam session in the shade of the majestic live oaks.

This free festival celebrates Mississippi's long tradition of fiddle and string band music. Live acoustic performances begin at 9 a.m. on the outdoor stage and will feature some of the region's finest traditional musicians. Scheduled acts include gourd banjo player Jason Smith; clawhammer banjo player and multi-instrumentalist Johnny Rawls; early Americana duo Hal and Connie Jeannes; finger-picking blues guitarist Reeves Jones; old time band Mississippi Cajun, outlaw fiddlers Frank and Jesse, fiddler band extraordinaire Kinney's Two Carr Garage, and more.

The old-time fiddle contest gets underway at 10 a.m. in the circa-1839 West Wing building with musicians seventeen

and younger. Fiddlers eighteen and older take to the stage af-

Aunt Suzie's Catering will return as food vendor. Primitive

Washington, four miles northeast of Natchez on Highway 61.

In 1939 the federal government assigned Herbert Halpert to travel to Mississippi and make field recordings of folk songs for the Library of Congress. Halpert captured performances by several fiddlers, in some cases preserving songs that might otherwise have been lost to time. A selection of these recordings was released by MDAH in 1985 under the name "Great Big Yam Potatoes," after one of the featured tunes. The gathering and fiddle contest is named after that influential album, now out of print.

Jefferson College was the first institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Territory. Jefferson Military College, as it came to be known, closed its doors in 1964 after serving as a prep school from 1866. Today the site is open throughout the week, allowing visitors a look at the restored student dormitory, dining hall, kitchen buildings, and other historic sites. A nature trail winds by St. Catherine Creek, and a museum and gift shop are located in the visitor center. For more information call 601-442-2901.



ter lunch. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three fiddlers in each division. The contest entry fee is five dollars. Updated rules, registration information, and an event schedule are online at www.bigyampotatoes.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GreatBigYamPotatoes.

A dance featuring live music will be held in the West Wing at 7:20 p.m. following the contest and performances.

camping is available Friday and Saturday night on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College.

The Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest is presented by the Mississippi Fiddlers Association, which aims to foster interest in rural fiddle music. To learn more contact Robert Waldo Gray at rwgray@umc.edu or at 601-898-8265. Historic Jefferson College is located in

Civil Rights Veteran Jesse Harris Dies at 75

Jesse Harris, a longtime leader in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, died January 27, 2015. He was 75.

Harris was an organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and a board member of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. In 2014 he was awarded the 2014 Humanitarian Award by Jackson State University's Fannie Lou Hamer Institute at COFO.

Harris was invited by James Farmer, a leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, to join SNCC as a field secretary. Harris was assigned to Laurel, Mississippi, to organize a voter registration project and a non-violent workshop with area high school students. After seeing the results

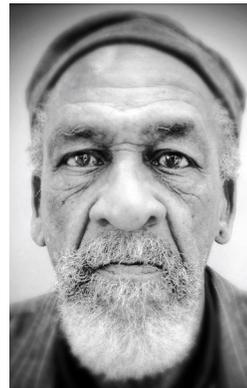
of Harris's work in Laurel, Mississippi, state director of SNCC Bob Moses asked Harris to go to Greenwood to support and reinforce the work being done in the Mississippi Delta.

In 1964, Harris helped train Freedom Summer volunteers before they came to Mississippi and managed the volunteers in and around McComb. Harris was also an organizer for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. In the mid-1960s he worked for the Child Development Group of Mississippi, a predecessor of Head Start.

Later, Harris worked with the Poor People's

Corporation and the Federation of Southern Co-Ops to improve the economic opportunities for black craftspeople and farmers.

"Jesse was one of the first 'foot soldiers' that I met when I went to Mississippi in April 1962," said Dave Dennis. "He was one of the many local unsung heroes who continued the struggle until his death. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to be a friend and to work by his side and under his leadership. He was and is an inspiration to all, and he will



truly be missed."

JUBILEE, continued from p. 1

Thavolia Glymph, author and associate professor of history and African and African American studies at Duke University, will deliver the keynote address “Enslaved Women and the Civil War in the Mississippi Valley” at the Old Capitol Museum on Thursday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m.

“Dr. Glymph has devoted her career to the study of slavery and emancipation and is one of the nation’s leading experts on the subject,” said Max Grivno, University of Southern Mississippi history professor. “Her current research on violence against African Americans during the Civil War sheds new light on an important but often overlooked subject.”

A freedom celebration will follow the symposium at 5:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Art and will feature theatrical and musical performances by Jackson State University’s student troupe MADDRAMA and Tougaloo College assistant professor of music Laurence Albert on the Art Garden stage. MADDRAMA will present dramatic readings of letters and other documents written by freedmen. Albert will perform spirituals, including “Sweet Jesus,” “Let Us Break Bread Together,” and “Walk Together Children.” Tours of the special exhibit *Civil War Drawings from the Becker Collection*

will be free during the event.

On Friday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, Tougaloo College will host sessions on emancipation’s impact on education and the emancipation experience in Margaret Walker’s *Jubilee*.

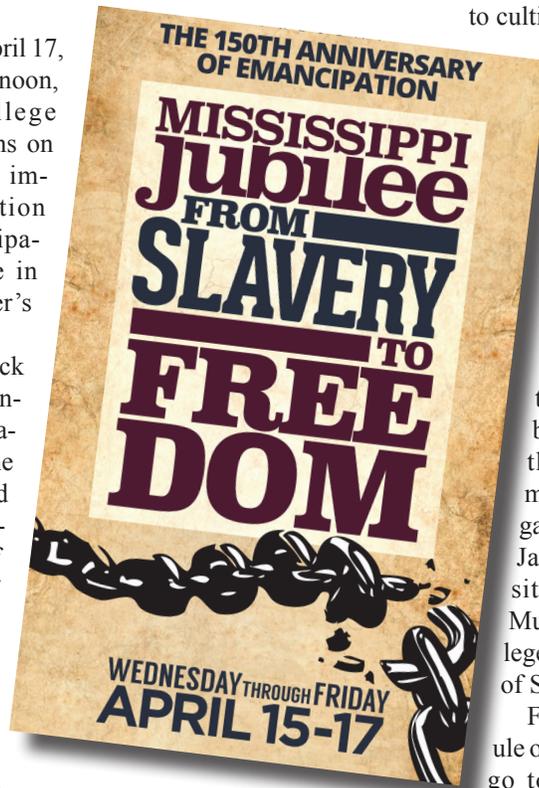
“As far as black people were concerned, emancipation was only the beginning,” said Michael Williams, dean of the division of social sciences at Tougaloo College. “We desired not only the complete destruction of the institution of slavery in all of its physical forms, which our ancestors fought to bring about, but freedom from mental slavery as well. The founding of HBCU’s

demonstrated the freedmen’s determination to cultivate on a larger scale

what had before-hand occurred in secrecy under enslavement: education for continued liberation and all the rights and privileges that education could secure.”

Mississippi Jubilee is made possible through a partnership between MDAH and the Mississippi Humanities Council, Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, Smith Robertson Museum, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

For a complete schedule of speakers and events, go to mdah.state.ms.us/jubilee. For further information, contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752 or email srock-off@mhc.state.ms.us.



Author of *Coming of Age in Mississippi* Dies at 74

Anne Moody, author of the seminal memoir *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, died on February 5, 2015, in Gloster, Mississippi. She was 74.

Essie Mae Moody was born on September 15, 1940, near Centreville, Mississippi. After high school, Moody attended Natchez Junior College on an athletic scholarship and then Tougaloo College on an academic scholarship. While in college she became a leader in the effort to register African American voters. Moody gained national attention during the sit-in at the Jackson Woolworth’s, where she and others endured abuse at the hands of the white crowd opposing the integration attempt.



Anne Moody, courtesy Chrissy Wilson.

After graduating from Tougaloo in 1964, Moody worked at Cornell University for a year before moving to New York City. In 1968 she published *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, which told the story of

her difficult childhood and eventual involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. The book earned positive reviews and was named best book of 1969 by the National Library Association. In 1975 Moody released *Mr. Death: Four Stories*, after which she largely avoided the public eye.

“Anne Moody ends *Coming of Age in Mississippi* with speculation on the eve of the 1964 Freedom Summer,” said her friend Rev. Ed King. “Her words are of doubt and almost bitterness about the possibilities of nonviolence and of any deep change in America. ‘We shall overcome some day. I WONDER. I really WONDER.’ These words were often

repeated at news of her death by many of her friends and comrades in the Civil Rights Movement.

“But I also knew Anne as a very spiritual and deep-thinking person. At her funeral I read a different statement from this book. In 1963 after the Woolworth’s sit-in, city jail, even the fairground prison camp, the assassination of Medgar Evers, being turned away from white-only churches, Anne and several black friends are welcomed and seated at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. Moody writes that after the worship service the minister, the Rev. Chris Keller, ‘...invited us to visit again ... and I began to have a little hope.’”

Summer Camps

The Department of Archives and History's museums and historic sites across the state are offering summer camps for a variety of ages, with focuses ranging from architecture to pioneer skills to Native American culture. Call soon for registration deadlines and further information. Sign up your youngster today—these camps fill fast!

GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NATCHEZ INDIANS, NATCHEZ

*Monday, June 15–Friday, June 19, 9 a.m.–noon. **Discovery Week.*** Play stickball, learn about flint-knapping and pottery, walk nature trails, play games, and make crafts. For ages seven to nine; \$40 fee includes all supplies; pre-registration required. Call 601-446-6502 or email info@natchezgrandvillage.com for reservations.

*Monday, June 22–Friday, June 26, 9–11 a.m. **Little Discovery Week.*** Children ages five and six will play Native American games, create small crafts, pottery, nature lessons, and stories. \$20 fee includes all supplies; pre-registration required. Call 601-446-6502 or email info@natchezgrandvillage.com for reservations.

HISTORIC JEFFERSON COLLEGE, WASHINGTON

*Tuesday, June 9–Thursday, June 11, 9 a.m.–noon. **Naturalist Camp.*** Children ages ten to twelve will get a close-up look at insects, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bugs, and plants through hands-on projects and observation in the field. Cost is \$35, pre-registration is required. For more information call 601-442-2901 or email info@historicjeffersoncollege.com.

*Tuesday, July 14–Thursday, July 16, 9 a.m.–noon. **Junior Naturalist Camp.*** Children ages seven to nine will learn about nature through hands-on arts and crafts projects and observation in the field. Cost is \$35, pre-registration is required. For more information call 601-442-2901 or email info@historicjeffersoncollege.com.

MANSHIP HOUSE MUSEUM, JACKSON

*July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2–3 p.m. **Man-ship House Summer Workshops.*** Summer



reading and craft workshops for children grades K-3. Free of charge, pre-registration required. For more information call 601-576-6851.

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM, JACKSON

*Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17, 8 a.m.–noon. **Mississippi Time Travelers.*** Rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will learn about the architecture of the capital city as they visit the Old Capitol Museum, Manship House Museum, and Mississippi State Capitol. Registration is \$50. Pre-registration required. For more information call 601-576-6800.

WINTERVILLE MOUNDS, GREENVILLE

*Tuesday, June 9–Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m.–noon. **Summer Fun Days: Native Americans.*** Children will learn about Native American culture through arts and crafts and special presentations. Activities will include archery, beading, face painting, storytelling, and making pottery, headbands, and

hand-rattles. Pre-registration is required, admission is free. For more information or to register call 662-334-4684 or email info@winterville-mounds.com.

*Tuesday, June 16–Friday, June 19, 10 a.m.–noon. **Summer Fun Days.*** Children will learn about Native American culture through arts and crafts and special presentations. Activities will include archery, beading, face painting, storytelling, and making pottery, headbands, and hand-rattles. Registration is required, but admission is free. For more information or to register call 662-334-4684 or email info@winterville-mounds.com.

*Tuesday, July 14–Friday, July 17, 10 a.m.–noon. **Summer Fun Days.*** Children will learn about Native American culture through arts and crafts and special presentations. Activities will include archery, beading, face painting, storytelling, and making pottery, headbands, and hand-rattles. Registration is required, admission is free. For more information or to register call 662-334-4684 or email info@winterville-mounds.com.

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Archives Acquires Significant Collection of Welty Letters

In 1970, detective novelist Ross Macdonald wrote a letter to Eudora Welty, beginning a thirteen-year correspondence between the authors and kindred spirits. Twenty recently acquired letters will strengthen the collection of their letters already held by MDAH and add to the understanding of the impact each had on the other's writing.

"These letters from various points in their friendship offer a wealth of insight into their craft and the emotional and artistic connection between the two," said Julia Marks Young, MDAH Archives and Records Services Division director.

Ross Macdonald was the pen name of Kenneth Millar. He was well known for his hardboiled mysteries, including his series set in Santa Teresa, California, featuring detective Lew Archer.

The correspondence between Welty and Millar continued until his developing Alzheimer's made it impossible. After Millar's death in 1983, Ralph B. Sipper, a friend of both writers and a rare book dealer, donated 156 of Welty's letters to Millar to MDAH.

This correspondence between Welty and Millar is the subject of a forthcoming book edited by Suzanne Marrs and Tom Nolan.

"When I was still researching my book, I contacted Ralph Sipper for permission to quote from some of his letters to Eudora," said Marrs. "He agreed, then asked if I would like to see a group of letters from Eudora to Ken that were in his possession. Of course, I

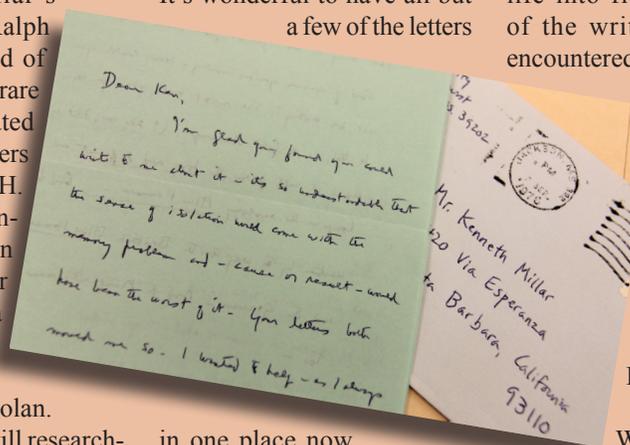
said yes! As it turns out those twenty letters add tremendously to our understanding of the Welty/Millar relationship. It's wonderful to have all but a few of the letters

bear their literary talents on a wide range of topics, discussing each others' publications, the process of translating life into fiction, the nature of the writer's block each encountered, and books they

were reading. They also discussed the world around them, including the Vietnam War and the presidencies of Nixon, Carter, and Reagan.

The Eudora Welty Collection at MDAH includes

drafts, revised copies, and printer's versions of Welty's works, as well as stories, books, essays, reviews, lectures, speeches, correspondence, memorabilia, and negatives and photographs.



in one place now and to have archivists who are so knowledgeable and helpful."

Though separated by background, geography, genre, and his marriage, the two authors shared their lives through letters. In them, they brought to

Preservation Projects Receive \$2M

Seventeen preservation and restoration projects throughout the state have received more than \$2 million from the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program. The program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, other historic properties. Over the life of the program MDAH has awarded more than \$32 million to 203 projects. The 2015 Legislature has approved funding for another round of the program.

The latest grant awards are as follows:

Natchez Institute, Natchez, Adams County—\$150,000. *For installation of a fire suppression system.*

West Point City Hall, West

Point, Clay County—\$81,597. *For exterior restoration and roof repair.*

Clarksdale Central Fire Station, Clarksdale, Coahoma County—\$46,458. *For electrical upgrades, restoration of interior, and repair to masonry, doors, and windows.*

Eureka School, Hattiesburg, Forrest County—\$131,000. *For restoration of the school's second floor.*

Lanier High School, Jackson, Hinds County—\$80,000. *For restoration of the building's façade.*

Lowry House, Jackson, Hinds County—\$59,708. *For rehabilitation of interior, installation of interior and exterior lighting, and landscaping.*

Morning Star School, Edwards, Hinds County—\$75,000. *For restoration of roof and*

walls.

Rhino Barn at Jackson Zoo, Jackson, Hinds County—\$148,400. *For interior rehabilitation and roof and masonry repair and restoration.*

LaPointe-Krebs House, Pascagoula, Jackson County—\$200,000. *For further stabilization and restoration of interior and exterior.*

Lynville School, Preston, Kemper County—\$216,000. *For roof replacement.*

Temple Theatre for the Performing Arts, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$38,240. *For roof repair, exit door replacement, and termite treatment.*

Marion County Courthouse, Columbia, Marion County—\$141,830. *For cupola repair and restoration.*

Old Water and Light Plant, Holly Springs, Marshall Coun-

ty—\$160,000. *For roof replacement and masonry restoration.*

Immanuel Church, Winona, Montgomery County—\$138,094. *For restoration of stained glass windows.*

Old Holmesville-Pike County Courthouse, Holmesville, Pike County—\$120,750. *For restoration and stabilization of the exterior and rehabilitation of the interior.*

Tallahatchie County Courthouse, Sumner, Tallahatchie County—\$122,370. *For restoration of the east entrance.*

Union County Courthouse, New Albany, Union County—\$245,000. *For restoration of the roof and cupola.*

There are sixty CLG communities in Mississippi. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Barry White at 601-576-6940.

Society Awards Annual History Prizes

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting March 5–7 in Corinth to honor its 2015 award winners and offer presentations on the meeting's theme of north Mississippi's role in the Civil War. Topics included the Battle of Corinth, Unionism, life on the homefront, and slavery.

Rosemary Taylor Williams of Corinth received the Dunbar Rowland Award for her lifelong contributions to the preservation, study, and interpretation of Mississippi history. Williams served on the board of directors of the Civil War Trust, a national organization that has led the way in protecting and preserving Civil War battlefields. As chair of the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission since 1993, Williams led the way in establishing and funding the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, a unit of the Shiloh National Military Park. She played a key role in the preservation of historic sites in the area, including the Civil War contraband camp, Oak Home, the Coliseum Civic Center, and many others. Williams served on the MDAH board of trustees for twenty years.

The society's award for the best Mississippi history book of 2014 went to Aram Goudsouzian, University of Memphis, for his work *Down to the Crossroads Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear* published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

"In graphic and masterful prose, Aram Goudsouzian depicts the watershed moments of the Meredith March Against Fear from Memphis to Jackson in pursuit of black voters' rights," said Joyce L. Broussard, McLemore Prize committee chair. "He shines a new light on the heretofore little-told tale of the fitful transition in the Civil Rights Movement's leadership and politics from an era of

relatively peaceful, non-resistant methods (as personified by the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr.) to a more militant stance and posture within the crusade as epitomized by Stokely Carmichael and the emerging Black Power movement. In essence, *Down to the Crossroads* is the genesis of that unfolding and fateful story."

Michael Vinson Williams, dean of social sciences at Tougaloo College, received the Willie D. Halsell Prize for the best article in the *Journal of Mississippi History* for his submission "With Determination and Fortitude We Come to Vote: Black Organization and Resistance to Voter Suppression in Mississippi."

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award was presented to the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc., for the exemplary oral history program involving individuals who were active in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.

Jane Sullivan, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at Perkinston, received the inaugural William Edward "Bill" Atkinson Mississippi Civil War History Award for her research on the former residents of the Jefferson Davis Confederate Veterans Home who are buried in the Beauvoir Cemetery in Biloxi.

Awards of merit were presented to Thomas E. Parson of the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and Steven H. Stubbs of Philadelphia. Organizations receiving Awards of Merit included the Alcorn County Genealogical Society, Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, the Natchez Trace Parkway, Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, City of Starkville, Unity Park Committee of Oktibbeha County, Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc., Siege and



Aram Goudsouzian, above left, receives the McLemore Prize from committee member Robert Flegler. The Dunbar Rowland Award went to Rosemary Taylor Williams, pictured below from left with 2014-15 MHS president Ann Simmons and MHS secretary/treasurer Elbert R. Hilliard.



Battle of Corinth Commission, Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society, Tippah County Development Foundation, and the Tippah County Board of Supervisors.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Chris Goodwin, editor

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Katie Blount, director

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APRIL-JUNE HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

Programs in the *History Is Lunch* series are held noon Wednesdays in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building (WFW) or Old Capitol Museum (OCM). There is no admission charge.

For information call 601-576-6998 or email info@mdah.state.ms.us.

April 1—daniel johnson will present “Civil War Drawings from the Becker Collection,” the special exhibit at the Mississippi Museum of Art. **WFW**

April 8—Nell Linton Knox and Ellen Rodgers Johnson will discuss their book *Studio Jackson: Creative Culture in the Mississippi Capital*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

April 15—Lisa Todd will dis-

cuss her book *For a Voice and the Vote: My Journey with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

April 22—Janis Dyson will present “Turning Clay into History: The Story of W.D. Suggs Pottery.” Book sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

April 29—Elise Winter and JoAnne Prichard Morris will discuss *Once in a Lifetime: Reflections of a Mississippi First Lady*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

May 6—Jackson native Katy Simpson Smith, author of *The Story of Land and Sea*, will present “Turning History into Fiction.” Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

May 13—Wilma Mosley Clifton will screen *Jessie: One Woman, One Vision*, her documentary on the life of her mother, Dr. Jessie Bryant Mosley. **WFW**

May 20—MDAH archivist Chloe Edwards will present “A Trial in Pleasant Hill,” the story of J. Olin Watson, a Mississippian sentenced to life in prison for murder who was pardoned despite intense opposition in his hometown. **WFW**

May 27—Paul Kapp and Todd Sanders will discuss their book *The Architecture of William Nichols: Building the Antebellum South in North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi*, the first comprehensive biography of a significant yet overlooked architect. Sales and signing to follow. **OCM**

June 3—Janice Tracy will discuss her book *Mississippi Moonshine Politics*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

June 10—Clarence Hunter will present “The American Missionary Association and the Founding of Tougaloo College.” Rescheduled from February due to winter weather. **WFW**

June 17—Ronald Borne will talk about his book *Troutmouth, The Two Careers of Hugh Clegg*, a Mississippian who rose to leadership positions with the FBI (1926–54) and the University of Mississippi (1954–69). Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

June 24—Architect Belinda Stewart will discuss the restoration of the historic Tallahatchie County Courthouse. **OCM**