

Spring 2015



***MDAH Volunteer Kathy Gray working on the Aaron Henry papers from the Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection. Kathy is nearing completion of her project, which will be an enormous aid to researchers. To read more about this project, see the story on page 4.***



**4,000+ attend the 2015 Natchez Powwow. Story and pictures on page 13. Image courtesy of Becky Anderson.**



**Carson, Tulane Field School and local volunteer Bobby Rawlinson. See story on page 6.**

**Massive archaeological project led by MDAH archaeologist John Connaway with the help of more than 300 volunteers. Image courtesy of John Connaway.**

## Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. Mississippi has had four constitutions, the last one having several amendments. Name the years each constitution was ratified.
  - A) 1798, 1817, 1832, 1890
  - B) 1817, 1832, 1868, 1890
  - C) 1776, 1787, 1868, 1890
  - D) 1787, 1868, 1890, 1965
  
2. The Native Americans in Mississippi loved to play a game that was similar to a combination of modern-day football and lacrosse. This sport was called ishtaboli or “stick ball,” which means:
  - A) “little brother of war”
  - B) “big brother of games”
  - C) “Great Sun with stick”
  - D) “leader of tribe”
  
3. This baseball legend was born in Starkville and is considered to be the fastest man to ever play professional baseball. He was posthumously inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 1995. The road leading up to the museum is named for him. This baseball player’s name is:
  - A) Bubba Phillips
  - B) Papa Williams
  - C) Doc Wood
  - D) James “Cool Papa” Bell



**Answers are on the last page.**



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Dear MDAH Volunteers:

The work on the two new museums is progressing quickly, so please check out the last page to see updated pictures. Behind-the-scenes work continues in preparation of their opening. Also, the daily work of MDAH continues throughout the agency.

In almost every nook and cranny of our agency, there is a wonderful volunteer helping us. Thank you for a job well done!

Best to the best,  
Elizabeth Coleman, CVA

*P. S. Elvis sighting at the Capitol. See page 9.*

## Museum Division Education: New Volunteers!

News from Claire Gwaltney



**Volunteer Grace Allen (Paducah, KY) pictured at the Manship House Museum. Grace served in the Museum Division Education section, the Archaeological and Historic Sites section, and assisted Volunteer Services with a large, day-long national service tour.**

For four weeks in March and April, the Museum Division Education Section was lucky enough to have the special skills and dedication of a Kentuckian—Grace Allen! Because of her family ties to Mississippi and her desire to pursue a career as a museum professional, Grace decided to travel to Jackson for an intensive volunteer experience with MDAH in education and archeology.

While working with education staff, Grace completed a Mississippi History on Loan Film Activity Packet for a documentary on the *Brown vs. Board* decision that consisted of research in the Archives, the writing of a lesson plan, and its design using Adobe Creative Suite. This project was unique in that it will play a central role in June's Summer Teachers School, a week-long professional development opportunity for teachers that will focus on teaching Mississippi's complex history. The packet will then join other classroom materials on the MDAH website.



New volunteer Mike Daly has jumped right into a variety of MDAH volunteer opportunities, including giving tours at the State Capitol. But his work for the Museum Division Education Section has been growing, as he researches and writes scripts for living history characters that will be featured in the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Since first signing on as a volunteer in February, Mike has written scripts for Newton Knight, the famous Civil War leader of Jones County; an antebellum flatboat trader on the Mississippi; and a mid-twentieth-century African American hotel owner and blues promoter. Mike's help with this ongoing project has been much appreciated as we get ever closer to the opening of the 2 Mississippi Museums— Thank You!

**Left:** Image courtesy of Mike Daly.



## Kathy Gray and the Aaron Henry Papers News from Dr. Betty Uzman



Kathy Gray has been volunteering in Paper Archives for a little over a year. During that time she has been revising and checking the finding aid for the Aaron Henry Papers in the Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection.

She did a particularly outstanding job with the Photographs series, using her own knowledge and doing considerable and detailed research to identify as many people and places as possible, and describe the accompanying correspondence. This has created a finding aid that is really a detailed list and should prove an invaluable tool for researchers.

The best word I can find to describe Kathy Gray is generous—generous with her time, her talent, and her concentration to do the best job possible. She is also generous in lending her free time.

Quite early in her time working in Paper

Archives she voluntarily pitched in to help create the retirement party for Anne Webster with Reference Services, not only lending crystal and silver, but creating fantastic flower arrangements for the occasion. Just recently, she drove up to Jackson from New Orleans and stayed in a hotel in order to spend more time working on the Aaron Henry Papers.

She is always willing to arrange her time to help us further. It has been a great privilege to get to know and to work with Kathy Gray.

*Note from Editor: Kathy began her volunteer service for MDAH in archaeological collections with MDAH archaeologist Patty Miller-Beech. Kathy has also helped with special events such as the two new museums groundbreaking. We will miss Kathy, as she and her husband, the Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray III, have temporarily relocated to New Orleans.*

**Thank you for everything, Kathy!**

# Eudora Welty House and Garden: Like Grandmother's Garden



From left, volunteers Bill Wardlaw and Alabel Wiser in front of a camellia bush with EWHG Education Director Lee Anne Bryan and Governor's Mansion Curator Megan Bankston, formerly of the EWHG.

During March, MDAH hosted another *Mississippi History Day Tour* for national service members based in Vicksburg. These young people come from all over the country. When they visited the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG), volunteer Alabel Wiser had an interesting exchange with one of the guests. The young guest said that going through the Welty Garden was like visiting her grandmother's garden. What a great compliment to the volunteers who maintain the garden under the supervision of Susan Haltom! Other volunteers who helped with this large tour included Bill Wardlaw, Sandra West, Lee Harding, and Carol Busbee.



Sandra West



Lee Harding



Lee Anne with AmeriCorps training specialist Tamika Eatmon.



Carol Busbee

## Archaeology and Historic Sites

News and Images from John Connaway



*Note from the Editor: MDAH archaeologist John Connaway has been leading volunteers for decades to assist in his work. These volunteers include fellow archaeologists and scholars, archaeology enthusiasts, and history lovers of all kinds. John Connaway was recognized by Governor Phil Bryant in 2013 with the **Governor's Special Achievement Award** in recognition of his many years of exemplary service to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, his dedicated commitment and contributions to the field of archaeology in the state of Mississippi, and his sterling leadership in inspiring Mississippi citizens to serve as volunteers at innumerable archaeological site excavations throughout the state.*

If you follow the link provided in the green box below, you will be able to access a summary of work at Carson we did in 2014, which I prepared and sent to the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MMA) Newsletter (*MAA Newsletter, Vol. 50, No. 2, Spring 2015*). Note that the first paragraph mentions the 7-Year Summary that I completed and just submitted to *Mississippi Archaeology* for publication, which should come out this year sometime. It's about one hundred pages long, and there are also two theses and ten short papers on Carson (one by volunteers Benny and Gena Roberts) that will be included in that volume, which will be dedicated to the Carson Mounds project.

Work there has slowed somewhat this winter with a lot of rain, several days of snow and ice and sleet, and especially very cold temperatures, all of which tends to make us focus on the backlog of office/lab work and catching up on papers and reports to be written.

Carson becomes duck ponds during such times! Volunteers Rob Bonney and Benny and Gena Roberts have come to help with the lab work on several occasions, and Benny continues to produce maps of the features for our research, as well as an updated map to be the centerpiece of a large poster for the MAA annual meeting in Greenwood. The hours Benny has spent at home doing maps for us have not been included in the volunteer time list for the past several years, since I have no way of keeping track thereof, so he is to be commended for those numerous extra hours!

We look forward to the return of the Tulane field school in May-June at Carson, and the continued presence of volunteers helping to excavate. There are fascinating things coming to light out there, which are discussed in the 7-Year Summary, so everyone interested in finding out more should become MAA members and get the journal when it comes out, and come to the annual meetings (everyone welcome, member or not!). JC

### **John's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in the field.**



**To access John Connaway's summary of work completed at Carson Mounds, please follow the link below:**

<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/emailupload/uploads/CarsonMoundsSummaryforMAANewsletter2015.docx>

## Student Volunteer Maurice Smith Returns

*News from Chris Goodwin*

Maurice Smith returned to MDAH to help the Public Information Office with the digitization of important MDAH publications. Maurice is a student volunteer and will transition to traditional volunteer status with MDAH upon his graduation from Jackson State University in May. Congratulations, Maurice! Maurice works fulltime for the Department of Health.



Maurice completed a significant scanning project for us a few years ago when he digitized all the early volumes of the department's Archaeological Reports Series so that we could offer them free to the public online. Now he has begun work on several significant—and very large—reports on topics

ranging from Native American sites in the Delta to Windsor Ruins. Maurice's efforts will translate directly into increased resources for the general public, once again made available for free on the Internet.

## New AmeriCorps Members Learn About Mississippi

*Images courtesy of Volunteer Grace Allen*



**New members from the AmeriCorps campus in Vicksburg spent a day in Jackson to learn more about Mississippi's history. Their day of touring started at the Old Capitol where they learned about the early years.**

# Governor's Mansion Closed for Repairs

News and Images from Megan Bankston



The Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration is working along with MDAH to maintain the second oldest continuously occupied Governor's mansion in the United States, second only to the Mansion in Virginia. The Mississippi Governor's Mansion—a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—requires continuous upkeep.

The Mansion will reopen for tours on Tuesday, July 7. We apologize for any inconvenience that this closure may cause. However, upon reopening in July, our Mansion will take its place as one of the grandest buildings in the South.

The Mississippi Governor's Mansion closed for repairs on Monday, April 27. This final phase of the restoration project that began in January of 2013 focuses on needed plaster repair throughout the entire building.

*Megan wanted to share the new map of Downtown Jackson to reflect the street changes.*

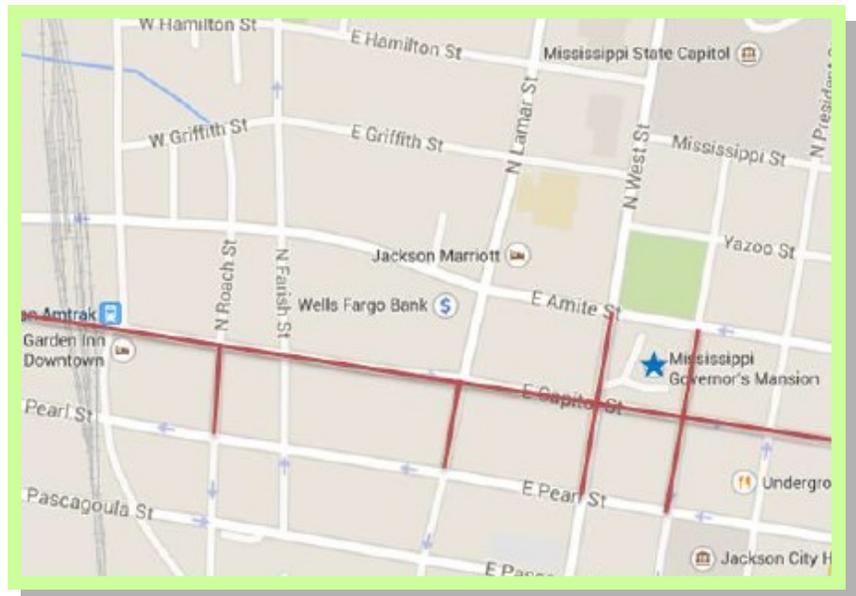
## Downtown Jackson Street Change

The City of Jackson opened Capitol Street and parts of four other downtown streets to two-way traffic on **Saturday, April 18th**. The streets that changed from one-way to two-way are the following:

- Capitol St** from Gallatin St to State St
- Roach St** from Pearl St to Capitol St
- Lamar St** from Pearl St to Capitol St
- West St** from Pearl St to Amite St
- Congress St** from Pearl St to Amite St

Motorists and pedestrians need to be cautious as traffic patterns change. Please pay close attention to all one-way and two-way signage and drive cautiously on all streets. Yield to motorists already in roundabouts and yield to pedestrians in all crosswalks. Do not stop in traffic or in a roundabout to load or unload passengers.

Although these streets are open to two-way traffic, some minor work still remains. Please drive cautiously around construction crews.



## Winterville Mounds: Scenes of Special Events

News from Mark Dingeldein, Images Courtesy of Volunteer Joe Walker



**Winterville Mounds volunteer coordinator Susie Smith greeting visitors to the site at a recent special event.**

### 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

The Easter Bunny came on Saturday Night and scattered hundreds of eggs (both dyed and plastic ones filled with candy) across the Winterville Site!

More than **350 treasure hunters** started to arrive shortly after noon. At 1p.m. the starter whistle was blown, and they were off! One hour later, there was nary an egg to be found ... good job hunters!



**Many children left Winterville Mounds with goodies in hand and smiles on their faces!**



**Volunteer Pat Fleming greeting visitors and taking names for the Easter Basket Drawing.**



**Volunteer Lisa Bruce-Robinson, one of our many fine volunteers, ready to assist with a smile!**

# Legislative Session at the Capitol A Time of Increased and Interesting Activity

News from Kathy Broom



**Left: MDAH Volunteers Jeri Reiff (left) and Jane Phillips have become friends while serving at the Capitol.**

**Below: MDAH Volunteer Betty Fulgham makes a new friend—Elvis!—at the Capitol.**



Of the nearly 10,000 people being assisted by Visitor Services during the 2015 Legislative Session, approximately 1,800 were greeted by our MDAH Volunteers.

How wonderful it was to have our MDAH Volunteers as part of the team who welcomed and educated visitors about our Mississippi State Capitol and state!

During the Session, there is a special energy in the air that one can't help but feel and hear while working in or visiting the building. Each day, from exhibits of various entities and organizations on the first floor to groups of people busily hurrying through to meet with legislators, one never knows what or who he/she may see.

We're glad a couple of our volunteers shared photos of themselves with us from the Session at the Capitol. As said, you never know who you may meet while volunteering at the Capitol ....



## Visit the First IHL in Mississippi: Historic Jefferson College

*Images courtesy of Robin Person*



**Visit us Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.**

Historic Jefferson College is the site of the first institution of higher learning chartered in the Mississippi Territory. It features a museum and several original buildings, including the East Wing (circa 1819), President's House (circa 1835), and West Wing (circa 1839).

Incorporated by an act of the first General Assembly of the Mississippi Territory in 1802, the college was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States and president of the American Philosophical Society. Territorial governor William C. C. Claiborne served as president of the college's first Board of Trustees.

Jefferson College opened its doors on January 7, 1811, as a preparatory school, with 15 students. Funds from Congress, the Legislature, and private citizens led the way to new prosperity, and by 1817 Jefferson College had become a full-fledged college; 10-year-old Jefferson Davis attended in 1818 ... to read the rest of this story visit: <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/visit/historic-jefferson-college/>





# Historic Jefferson College

News from Kay McNeil

The annual Easter Party for Pleasant Acres Day School was held at Historic Jefferson College (HJC) on April 1. The group included the students from Pleasant Acres, their teacher Mary Ann Eidt, and several volunteers. The volunteers who assisted with the event were the Byerses from Brookhaven, as well as Shirley Wilson of the Beta Phi Sorority. The Byerses brought all of the food for the picnic including stuffed Easter eggs, I couldn't do this event without the help of my wonderful volunteers. And what would Easter be without the Easter Bunny (aka Rebecca Anderson), historian at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. **Note from the Editor:** We thought you might enjoy seeing images from days gone by ....



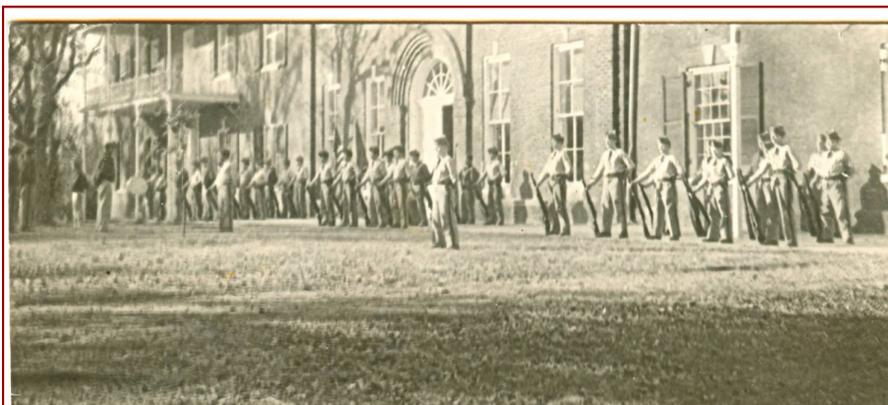
Breathtaking oak trees greet you at the entrance of the site. Image courtesy of Robin Person.



One of the first known photographs of baseball ever being played at Jefferson College c. 1870. Image courtesy of MDAH.



Above: John Wayne in a scene filmed at Jefferson Military College for the movie *The Horse Soldiers* made in the late 1950s. Image courtesy of MDAH.



Left: Actual Jefferson Military College cadets in formation. Image courtesy of MDAH.

# Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

## 27th Annual Natchez Powwow

*News from Lance Harris, Images Courtesy of Becky Anderson*



Traditional American Indian dancing, singing, and fun are part of the annual Grand Village of the Natchez Indians Powwow, which was held on March 28 and 29. More than 4,000 attended this year's event. Activities included gourd dancing, grand entry, and intertribal dancing. Tribes represented included the Choctaw, Comanche, Natchez, Ottawa, and Kiowa. Invited gourd dance groups included Gulf Coast Tiapiah (Texas), White Star (Indiana), and Wounded Warrior (Louisiana).

For more than a quarter century the Natchez Powwow has been an important cultural link promoting and honoring our American Indian heritage. During its heyday as the ceremonial center for the Natchez nation this site saw many dances, and we are proud to participate in this event that continues the dynamic nature of American Indians.



# Summer Fun!

## Summer Storytime

The Eudora Welty House and Garden and Lemuria Bookstore are teaming up to inspire and entertain your young reader. Parents and their children grades K-4 will hear a classic story and make a related craft.

Reserve spots for you and your child today!



June 4, 11, 18, 25 ❖ 3-4 p.m. ❖ FREE

Eudora Welty House and Garden ❖ 1109 Pinehurst ❖ Jackson  
601-353-7762 ❖ [weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:weltytours@mdah.state.ms.us)

Mississippi Department of Archives and History



## Once Upon a Time

### Story Time at the Manship House

Each Wednesday in July, parents and their children in grades K-3 will listen to a classic fairy tale, and make a craft. Space is limited, call today to make a reservation.

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

3:30-4:30 p.m.

FREE

Reservations required

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification St. Jackson, MS 39202  
601-961-4724 or [info@manshiphouse.com](mailto:info@manshiphouse.com)

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

# Summer Fun!

## Mississippi Inspectors Mississippi Time Travelers Kids Camp



From mounds to modern Mississippi, rising 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students will discover how Mississippi became the wonderful and diverse place it is today. Activities will include crafts, tours, and more at the Old Capitol Museum, the Manship House Museum, and the State Capitol.

**Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17, 2015**

**8:30 a.m.–noon Old Capitol Museum  
601-576-6800**

## Winterville Mounds Summer Fun Days

Tuesday–Saturday, June 9–13, 10 a.m.–noon  
Tuesday–Friday, June 16–19, 10 a.m.–noon  
Tuesday–Friday, July 14–17, 10 a.m.–noon

Children will learn about Native American culture through arts and crafts and special presentations. Activities include pottery making, beading, face painting, storytelling, head-band making, hand-rattle construction, as well as archery. Registration for individuals or groups is required ahead of time. Admission is free. For more information or to register, please call 662-334-4684 or email [info@wintervillemounds.com](mailto:info@wintervillemounds.com)

## Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

### Discovery Weeks

Monday–Friday, June 15–19,  
9 a.m.–noon

Children ages 7-9 will play stickball, learn about flint-knapping and pottery, walk nature trails, play games, and make crafts. Cost is \$40 and includes all supplies. For more information or reservations, call 601-446-6502 or email [info@natchezgrandvillage.com](mailto:info@natchezgrandvillage.com)

Tuesday–Friday, June 23–26, 9–11 a.m.

Children ages 5-6 will play Native American games, create small crafts, pottery, nature lessons, and stories. Cost is \$20 and includes all supplies. For more information or reservations, call 601-446-6502 or email [info@natchezgrandvillage.com](mailto:info@natchezgrandvillage.com)

## Historic Jefferson College: Naturalist Camps

Tuesday–Thursday, June 9–11,  
9 a.m.–noon

Children ages 10-12 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](mailto:info@historicjeffersoncollege.com)

Tuesday–Thursday, July 14–16,  
9 a.m.–noon

Children ages 7-9 will learn about nature through observation and fun, hands-on crafts. Cost is \$35, pre-registration is required. For more information call 601-442-2901 or email [info@historicjeffersoncollege.com](mailto:info@historicjeffersoncollege.com)





*Pictures above taken of the 2 Mississippi Museums from the Human Resources office on April 23, 2015. Notice the inset picture. Work is progressing on the inside, too!*



## 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/>

## Answers

### Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. B) 1817, 1832, 1868, 1890
2. A) "little brother of war"
3. D) James "Cool Papa" Bell

MDAH Volunteer Newsletter

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

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Department of Archives and History  
Katie Blount, director



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. ©