Dear MDAH Volunteers,

There are no words to adequately describe the tremendous impact of your service to MDAH and the great state of Mississippi; however, I do have some numbers to share with you. In 2016, a very conservative view of your service includes 18,746 hours served with a labor value of a whopping $441,656.00 (Independent Sector)!!! Because of you, our services and resources are generously shared with all. Thank you for this tremendous gift!

Elizabeth Coleman, CVA, Volunteer Services Administrator, MDAH
Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1) In 1917, Mississippi planned to celebrate its 100th Anniversary of Statehood on a 92 acre stretch of beachfront property in Gulfport. With the onset of World War I, the celebration never took place. This piece of property is known today as the Centennial Plaza, but for many years the property was used as a:

A) Military Training Academy  
B) Veterans Medical Center  
C) Construction Company  
D) Shopping Center

2) This Gulfport native moved to Chicago and became a pilot after graduating from the Tuskegee Institute in the early 1920s at a time when discrimination was an obstacle to blacks entering the field of aviation. He did this by taking a job as a janitor for the Curtis Wright Flight School and earning the respect of one of the instructors. After graduating, this pilot stayed on as an instructor and helped other African-Americans enter the field and later convinced his alma mater to open a flight school—thus paving the way for the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. The name of this extraordinary pilot is:

A) Charles Lindbergh  
B) Eugene Bullard  
C) John C. Robinson  
D) Charles Anderson

3) When speaking of his home, a Mississippi author once said, “I discovered that my own little postage stamp of native soil was worth writing about and that I would never live long enough to exhaust it.” The name of this author is:

A) Richard Wright  
B) John Grisham  
C) Willie Morris  
D) William Faulkner

Answers are on the last page.

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It is really happening! Follow the link below to watch a video about the Two Mississippi Museums...this is so exciting! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugf9udZv_9g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugf9udZv_9g)
### MDAH Thanks All Volunteers for Their Service

Our volunteers have made an enormous commitment to MDAH and to our community. Because of our volunteers, we can provide guided tours, visitor information, research assistance, and special events (demonstrators, reenactors, workshop presentations, etc.) to our patrons when our sites are open to the public. The service of our volunteers has also helped MDAH provide research tools and services so that the public will have better access to our historic resources and the Mississippi story. Examples of their activities include the creation of finding aides, cataloging in collections, archival processing, survey report maintenance, plotting of archaeological sites of paper maps, data entry, gardening/outdoor maintenance support, filmmaking, research, and script writing.

MDAH volunteers and employees bring our Mississippi story to the people—a truly wonderful service to our great state.

* * * * *

### President’s Volunteer Service Gold Awards

**2017 Recipients:** Mike Daly, Paul Hamel, Amanda Hoogestraat, Cindy Lyons, and Larry Parker

### Governor’s Awards of Merit

**100 hours or more:** Lee Adams, Pauline Akers, Sandye Blalock, Charles “Chuck” Borum, Dorothea Brock, Carol Busbee, Jean Clarkson, Pat Fleming, Glen Graves, Greenville Garden Club, William Harris, Elizabeth “Betty” Henry, Virginia Hughson, Joyce Huskey, Carolyn Jones, Judy Lacy, Bernie Lieb, Kellie Little, Linda Livingston, Master Gardeners of Natchez, Nikki Mattson, Marti Parker, Hannah Pentz, Jane Phillips, Noreen Prouty, Janis Roberts, Hayley Smith, Freda Spell, Ferrell Tadlock, Alec Valentine, and Tom Watts

**200 hours or more:** Mike Daly, Nan Harvey, Cindy Lyons, Jeri Reiff, and Jean Simonton

**300 hours or more:** Luran Buchanan, Lynn Cox, Amanda Hoogestraat, Faye Hudgins, and Jackie Roman

**400 hours or more:** Paul Hamel and Sue Newman

**500 hours or more:** Steve Kelly and Mary Lohrenz

**600 hours or more:** Paul Davis

**800 hours or more:** Kermit Baumgartner

**1000 hours or more:** Wirt Adams Civil War Reenactors

**2000 hours or more:** Elbert Hilliard

* * * *

### Previous President’s Volunteer Service Awards


**2012 President’s Lifetime Achievement Award:** Elbert Hilliard
Highly Skilled Volunteers Serve within Archives and Records Services

News and image from Laura Heller

Bob Rhoads is volunteering in Manuscript and Image Collections at the Archives and Records Services Division. He is helping bring greater access to the Photographs series of the United Press International (Jackson) Records by entering the cut line for each photograph. The photographs, along with extensive subject files, were removed from the office of the Jackson, Mississippi, affiliate of United Press International and donated to the Department in 1990. They document athletics, civil rights, crime, disasters, education, finance, government, industry, medicine, politics, religion, and a host of other Mississippi-related topics. The product of this project will be a detailed description of the Photographs series attached to the catalog record that enables research for specific subjects.

Mr. Rhoads has excellent computer skills and has made great progress with this project. He is a delight to greet on Tuesdays!

Bob Rhoads, a retiree from the Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi, has become an avid volunteer at MDAH and other organizations within our community. His talents for organization and efficiency have been a terrific boon to MDAH. Thank you, Bob!!!

Dr. Marco Giardino of Bay St. Louis was recruited by MDAH volunteer Elbert Hilliard to translate the letters of the Caselli family in the Manuscript Collection. Adding to this story, Mr. Hilliard secured the Caselli Family Papers for MDAH. Mr. Hilliard knew the Caselli family, as he grew up in Nitta Yuma, site of the Caselli Plantation.

Long-time employee, Dr. Betty Uzman, facilitates this project and said that Giardino’s service has added more than just mere translation work. Uzman tells of the expressions that are used within the letters and how Giardino was able to shed light on their meanings. For instance, there is a section mentioning “getting past the black butterflies…” meaning getting out of a dark mood.

Giardino received an Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society for his brilliant translations. Giardino retired from NASA as a Remote Sensing Scientist. In his retirement, he still conducts scientific research, writes, blogs, speaks, and travels internationally.

Thank you so much, Dr. Giardino!!!

Image courtesy of Marco Giardino
Eudora Welty House Intern Kristin Holloway

News and image from Isabel Gray

The Eudora Welty House and Garden is thrilled to have a new intern joining them for the spring semester! Kristin Holloway is originally from Florence, Mississippi and is a senior history major at Millsaps College. She will be working with Isabel Gray, the Education and Outreach Specialist, on school group tours and programs. Kristin’s primary responsibility, and what she says she is most looking forward to, is completing the research for the next installation of the *Dear Miss Welty: A Rotating Selection of Correspondence* exhibit that is currently on display in the Education and Visitors Center. After graduation in May, Kristin plans to attend the M.A. program in Southern Studies at Ole Miss in the fall.

Our Spring Issue will have more coverage of the MDAH Interns...
Great projects and awesome students!

Archaeology and Historic Sites: Grady Parrott

News from Patty Miller-Beech

Grady Parrott is currently a student at Belhaven University with plans to graduate in the Spring of 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He has worked at the Warren A. Hood Library on campus for the past four years as a technical assistant. He has remained on the Dean’s list for four semesters, the President’s list for one semester, and is a member of Sigma Tau Delta. Parrott is a prolific video game hobbyist, but is also a gifted writer.

In his role at MDAH, Parrott has been serving within the Archaeology and Historic Sites area updating library entries. He has been performing data entry to update our log books, our resource book listing, and also assisting in keeping the search room files up-to-date. MDAH archaeologist Patty Miller-Beech said that Grady has completely caught them up with their survey report log, and they are thrilled! Thank you, Grady!!!
Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park Volunteers

It is always a treat to visit our volunteers who serve the Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park in Greenville. This is one incredible group of people, and we are amazed at what they are able to do as a team! First row, from left: Winterville Mounds Volunteer Coordinator Susie Smith, Lisa Bruce-Robinson, and Lynn Cox; Second row, from left: Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell, Paul Hamel, and Lee Adams.

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

Jean Simonton (left) is a Master Gardener in Natchez. In cooperation with the Adams County Extension Office, Simonton coordinates volunteers for the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Historic Jefferson College. Pictured with Simonton is Grand Village site director Lance Harris (right).
Governor’s Mansion Docent Luncheon 2016

News and images from Megan Bankston

It was a rainy day in Jackson, but that didn’t stop many of our wonderful Mansion docents from joining us for the annual docent appreciation luncheon hosted by First Lady Bryant on Monday, December 5, 2016. Three beloved docents retired—Clytice Gardner, who has been with us since 1998; Mary Louise Nosser, who has been with us since 1992; and Sylvia Walker, who has been with us since 2003. We miss them already!

The Mansion docents volunteered for a total of 1,902 hours in 2016. Joyce Huskey and Steve Kelly tied for the most hours with 135, Faye Hudgins was second with 123 hours, Luran Buchanan was third with 122 hours, and Tom Watts was fourth with 102 hours. No matter how many hours they served, we are most grateful for everyone’s service and support of the Governor’s Mansion!

Please check out our upcoming events including the very popular History is Lunch series.

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/
More about Governor’s Mansion Docents

News and images from Megan Bankston

Docents who worked the most hours (L to R): Luran Buchanan, Steve Kelly, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Joyce Huskey, Faye Hudgins, and Tom Watts

A Red Governor’s Mansion?

If you happened to be downtown any night of February 2-8, you might have noticed that our usually white Governor’s Mansion was red. First Lady Deborah Bryant and the American Heart Association lit the Mansion red to promote a national movement called “Go Red for Women” to raise awareness of heart disease as the #1 killer of women. As long as it’s just lights and not paint!

Retiring docents, from left: Sylvia Walker, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Clytice Gardner; Not pictured: Mary Louise Nosser
Scenes from Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Manship House

News and images from Volunteer Jane Phillips

Fun times at the Manship House Museum were had during the Christmas by Candlelight Tour held on Friday, December 2, 2016. Musicians and dancers in period dress brought the site to life by showcasing a country dance from the 1800s.

Special thanks to volunteer Jane Phillips for coordinating these fantastic volunteers and professional performers. Dancers who participated include Jason Griggs, Alana Bowman, Fred Weaver, Jane Phillips, Regina Brown, George Mason, Kacy Hellings, Olivia Hellings, Alex McCord, Harvey Kimble, Robert Gray, Lacey McLaughlin, and Virginia Monsour.

From left: John Applegate on banjo, Kacy Hellings, Harvey Kimble, Regina Brown (standing), Robert Gray, Alex McCord, Lacey McLaughlin in red dress, Fred Weaver, and Jane Phillips.

From left: Lacey McLaughlin, Alex McCord, Harvey Kimble and Kacy Hellings with the Jackson Irish Dancers doing a polka set.

From left: Susan Farley, Sandra Melsheimer, Jan Bullock, Joyce Applegate, and John Applegate with the Bonnie Blue Band, members of the Mississippi Old Time Music Society.

From left: George Mason and Jane Phillips.
Mississippi State Capitol: A Grand Place to Visit

...especially during Christmas by Candlelight

News from Kathy Broom, images courtesy of Adrian Powell, Mississippi Senate and Clancy Smith, Mississippi House of Representatives

Of the 25,310 people served by Visitor Services at the Mississippi State Capitol in 2016, the MDAH volunteers welcomed and greeted 8,193, and the MDAH staff, along with Joint Legislative Operations staff, conducted scheduled group tours for 17,117. Thanks to our volunteers, tourists were provided with warm hospitality; helpful information regarding Jackson and our state; and fun, knowledgeable tours of the Capitol.

After two years of the Capitol not being a part of the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour due to restoration projects, the 2016 event was welcomed back to the Capitol by approximately 1,000 guests. We’re delighted to share a few images that captured some of the evening’s festive spirit.

Special Note: Volunteers who worked at the Capitol during Candlelight but not featured in the photos: Gail Helms Steve Kelly, and Bernie Lieb. Please see following pages for more coverage of this event.
Mississippi State Capitol: A Grand Place to Visit

…especially during Christmas by Candlelight

News from Kathy Broom, images courtesy of Adrian Powell, Mississippi Senate and Clancy Smith, Mississippi House of Representatives
Mississippi State Capitol: A Grand Place to Visit

...especially during Christmas by Candlelight

News from Kathy Broom, images courtesy of Adrian Powell, Mississippi Senate and Clancy Smith, Mississippi House of Representatives
Mr. Elbert Hilliard is an amazing role model for us all. He is faithful about his volunteer projects, serving as the department’s liaison to the volunteer-based Mississippi Historical Society. Additionally, he helps MDAH by sharing his editorial expertise to ensure that our publications maintain a high level of excellence.

Hilliard has received much recognition and numerous awards over the years, but 2017 has been very special. Hilliard recently received two very prominent distinctions—he is the recipient of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration’s Thad Cochran Award for Achievement in the Humanities. Also, Hilliard was awarded the very prestigious Dunbar Rowland Award at the Mississippi Historical Society meeting in Gulfport. This award is given in recognition of lifelong contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history.

It is a joy to interact with Mr. Hilliard each and every day of work at MDAH. I learn something each time. He has instilled in me the importance of documenting and preserving our history for future generations. Mr. Hilliard celebrated a very important birthday this year, and we look forward to celebrating many more with him as he inspires us to enhance our knowledge and preserve our 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.

The new Mississippi History Store opens in approximately nine months! The excitement is building as the new store continues to take shape. The front of the store will feature a special glass entrance. The interior will be outfitted with beautiful wooden shelving and fixtures to display the fine books, pottery and unique gift items that the store will carry. We hope that you will continue to follow our progress in the upcoming months as we look forward to a grand new shopping experience in Jackson – the Mississippi History Store.

We are pleased to announce several new items being offered at the Old Capitol Museum. There’s a handsome grey t-shirt featuring the Old Capitol dome within an outline of the state of Mississippi. The newly produced Old Capitol Museum magnet features an image painted in 1905 of the Old Capitol from the MDAH collections. Come visit the Old Capitol Museum, read our Mississippi history and check out these great items.

Remember that your 15% volunteer discount can be used at the Old Capitol Museum and the Eudora Welty House & Gardens. We appreciate your support for these beloved historic sites with your time and your purchases. Thanks! If you have questions regarding the new Mississippi History Store, I would love to hear from you. Please contact Rebecca Jones at storemanager@mdah.ms.gov or leave a message at 601-576-6921.

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 Volunteer Newsletter
Elizabeth Coleman, editor

Contents © 2017
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Katie Blount, director

Answers
Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi
1. B) Veterans Medical Center
2. C) John C. Robinson
3. D) William Faulkner