

Mississippi History

NEWSLETTER

MDAH

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MHS Awards Prizes, Elects Officers

The Mississippi Historical Society named the best volume on Mississippi history of 2007, honored the history teacher of the year, and presented other awards at its annual meeting held at MSU in Starkville March 6–8.

“Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the Civil War in Mississippi” was the meeting’s theme, chosen by **president John F. Marszalek** as part of a national observance of the bicentennials of the two men’s births, Davis’s on June 3, 2008, and Lincoln’s on February 12, 2009. Presentations examined, among other things, the restoration of Beauvoir, U.S. Colored Troops and Civil War campaigns in the state, and similarities between post-WWII Japan and the South following the Civil War. **George Buss**, nationally renowned Lincoln impressionist, presented “So You Think You’re Coming South, Mr. Lincoln?” **Frank J. Williams**, chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, gave the banquet address,

“Abraham Lincoln’s Importance to the Twenty-First Century South.”



Governor and Mrs. William Winter enjoy performance by Lincoln impressionist George Buss.

In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution, by Emory University history professor **Joseph Crespino**, was awarded the **McLemore Prize** for the best Mississippi history book of 2007. The book examines how American politics has been influenced by white Mississippians’ reaction against modern liberalism.

Thomas Parrish Watts, Madison Middle School, received the **John K. Betterworth Award**, presented annually to an outstanding history teacher. Watts, an eighth-grade American history

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MDAH EVENTS

Jackson
Manship House Museum
420 East Fortification St.
601-961-4724

Saturday, April 5, 1 p.m. *A Saturday with Shakespeare.* All ages are invited to see the Mississippi College Tribal Players perform scenes from Shakespearean plays. Free of charge.

Wednesday-Friday, April 16–18, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. *Manships Unearthed.* Students can observe archaeology students from Millsaps College conducting an excavation on the grounds of the Manship House Museum to learn more about this unique family’s history. Free of charge, reservations required.

William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. “Local History Matters” workshop and annual meeting, Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies. For details, see story page three.

Tuesday, April 22, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. “Prepare, Prevent, Preserve” Emergency Preparedness Workshop. For details, see story page four.

***History Is Lunch* Brownbag Series**
601-576-6857

Wednesday, April 2, noon–1 p.m. *Tim Avalon and fellow musicians* will play “old-time” tunes played by **Mississippi**

fiddlers and talk about the **fiddling tradition** in the state.

Wednesday, April 16, noon–1 p.m. *Rebecca L. Miller*, doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina, will present “**Reporting Race and Resistance in Dixie: White Mississippi Press Coverage of Civil Rights.**”

Wednesday, April 30, noon–1 p.m. Photographer **Mary Rose Carter** and writer **Mary Carol Miller** will talk about and show images from their new book ***Must See Mississippi: 50 Favorite Places.***

History Is Lunch is partially funded by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Greenville

Winterville Mounds
2415 Highway 1 North
662-334-4684

Saturday, April 19, 1–7 p.m. ***Bark in the Park.*** Annual fund-raiser for the Greenville Humane Society. Admission fee to attend dog show.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College
601-442-2901

Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ***Annual Spring Flea Market and Plant Sale.***

Friday-Sunday, April 18–20. ***Jefferson Military College Foundation Reunion.*** Friends and alumni gather at the college.



“Hardtack and Coffee,” (Jim Woodrick and Tim Waltman) perform at Thursday’s welcoming reception.

MHS continued



Banquet speaker Frank J. Williams

teacher with twelve years in the classroom, used a \$15,000 grant from the National Geographic Society to study the Natchez Trace Parkway. He guided more than 450 students through several projects, including the production of a 48-page booklet, a video, a Web site, and a young person's map and guide to the parkway.

Christopher Alan Danielson received the 2008 **Franklin**

2007 *Journal of Mississippi History*, "Paving the Trace." **J. Michael Bunn** and **Clay Williams** won the *Mississippi History Now* award for their article "A Failed Enterprise: The French Colonial Period in Mississippi." Bunn, formerly MDAH museum staff member, is now curator at the Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia, and Williams is curator at the Museum of Mississippi History.



Thomas Watts receives *Bettersworth Prize* from *Bettersworth Committee* member Marty Friend.



Awards chair Thomas Velek presents *Halsell Prize* to Jack Elliott

L. Riley Prize for his University of Mississippi dissertation "The Voting Rights Act and the Creation of Black Politics in Mississippi, 1965–1986." **William Sturkey** won the **Glover Moore Prize** for best master's thesis (University of Wisconsin, Madison) in Mississippi history, "Houses of Liberty: The Impact of Freedom Schools During SNCC's 1964 Freedom Summer."

Jack D. Elliott, Jr., MDAH historical archaeologist, won the **Willie D. Halsell Prize** for the best article published in the

The **Tishomingo County Historical and Genealogical Society** received the **Frank E. Everett Jr. Award** for outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. The society spearheaded the preservation of the county's historic old courthouse and has opened the building as a museum housing historical artifacts and civil and



Elizabeth Payne (second from left) and students receive the *Hilliard Award* from Oral History Committee member Jeanne Luckett.



Former Mississippi Historical Society presidents were honored at the *President's Reception* on Friday evening.

circuit court case records dating back to the early 1900s.

The **Northeast Mississippi Women's History Project** was the winner of the **Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award**. It is the third year in a row a project produced at the

literature, history, and culture.

Newly elected officers of the Mississippi Historical Society are **Gail Tomlinson**, Senatobia, president; **Westley F. Busbee, Jr.**, Belhaven College, vice-president; and **Elbert R. Hilliard**, Madison, secretary-treasurer.

University of Mississippi has won the award.

Awards of Merit were presented to the **Mississippi Museum of Art** for the museum's outstanding exhibit *The Mississippi Story*; **Marcia Weaver**, for her work in coordinating the *Bach to Blues series* of monthly concerts featuring Mississippi musicians; and the **Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration** for its outstanding contributions to the study of



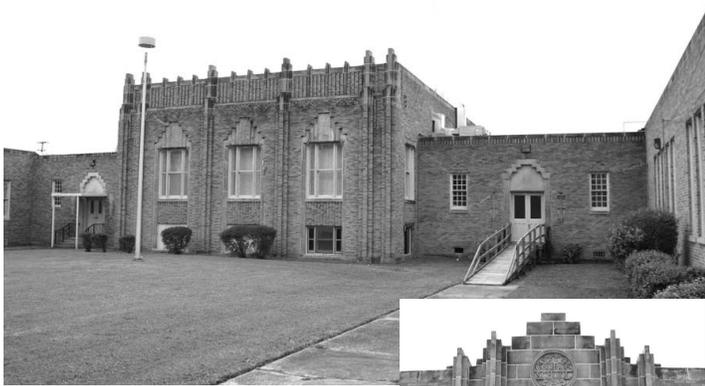
John Marszalek and incoming president Gail Tomlinson.

New members of the society's **board of directors** are **Robert G. Evans**, Raleigh; **Jennifer Ford**, University of Mississippi; **Billy Glasco**, MDAH; **Willis H. Lott**, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; **Deanne Nuwer**, University of Southern Mississippi; **Teri Tillman**, Natchez; and **Charles Weissinger**, Rolling Fork. **Jeanne Luckett**, Jackson, was elected as a new member of the board of publications, and **Dennis Mitchell**, Mississippi State University–Meridian, was

JACKSON SCHOOLS DESIGNATED MISSISSIPPI LANDMARKS

At its meeting on November 8, 2007, the Permit Committee of the MDAH Board of Trustees designated the following properties as "Mississippi Landmarks" in compliance with the provisions of the Antiquities Law of Mississippi. Designation protects these properties from being altered, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, restored, renovated, or excavated without a permit from the Board.

Lanier High School (833 Maple Street)
 Bradley Elementary School (2601 Ivanhoe Avenue)
 George Elementary School (1020 Hunter Street)
 Poindexter Elementary School (1017 Robinson Street)
 Walton Elementary School (3200 Bailey Avenue, Ext.)
 Watkins Elementary School (3915 Watkins Drive)



George Elementary School, just off Gallatin Street in Jackson, is a 1907 one-story, H-plan, Art Deco style building that retains its original design and has not been extensively altered. (Right, entrance on Winter Street features cast concrete surrounds and leaded glass transoms.)



Eudora Welty Visitor Center

The Eudora Welty House staff members have moved into offices in the new Education and Visitors Center, located next door (1109 Pinehurst) to the Welty House (1119 Pinehurst), Jackson. Welty House visitors can now view the orientation film in the Visitors Center rather than in the Welty House garage! Interpretive exhibits are in progress, to be installed after the Visitors Center renovation, which begins soon. During renovation, film showings will be shifted

back into the garage temporarily.

To make reservations to tour the Eudora Welty House, call 601-353-7762. For a virtual tour of the Welty House, visit mdah.state.ms.us/welty/index.html.



Destroyed Properties Formally De-Listed

The following Gulf Coast properties destroyed by Hurricane Katrina have been formally delisted from the National Register of Historic Places, administered in Mississippi by MDAH's Historic Preservation Division.

Glen Oaks/Kimbrough House, 806 N. Beach Avenue, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County
Taylor House, 808 N. Beach Avenue, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County
Taylor School, 116 Leonard Street, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County
Brielmaier House, 710 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Harrison County
Clare T. Clark House, 1709 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, Jackson County
Cottage by the Sea Tavern, 1205 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, Jackson County
R.A. Farnsworth Summer House, 901 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, Jackson County

Fisherman's Cottage, 138 Lameuse, Biloxi, Harrison County
Gillis House, 590 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Harrison County
Halstead Place, East Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, Jackson County
Finley B. Hewes House, 604 East Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Harrison County
Edgar W. Hull House, 2903 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, Jackson County
Georgia P. Kinne House, 1101 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, Jackson County
Milner House (Grass Lawn), 720 East Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Harrison County
Onward Oaks, 972 South Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis, Hancock County
Pleasant Reed House, 928 Elmer Street, Biloxi, Harrison County
House at 711 West Water Street, Biloxi, Harrison County
Toledano-Philbrick-Tullis House, 947 East Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Harrison County.

"Local History Matters" Workshop April 19

The annual Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies workshop and meeting will be held April 19 from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. "Local History Matters" features a roundtable discussion, an informational talk by MDAH director H. T. Holmes ("MDAH Resources"), annual business meeting, and lunch with speaker Mark McCrary, executive director of the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits. After lunch, participants can choose three twenty-minute sessions from the following topics: the Mississippi Antiquities Law, Local Government Records, Artifact

Care, Disaster Planning, and Auxiliary Groups. The "Local History Bookstore" will sell publications of local societies and other groups. There is no charge to participate in the Bookstore. To reserve a space, call 601-576-6901 by April 4.

Meeting registration is \$30 per person and includes lunch. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Historical Society earmarked "Federation Annual Meeting 2008" and mail to MHS, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571. For more information, call Cindy Gardner at 601-576-6901.

Annual memberships for the Federation are \$25 for any history-oriented, non-profit organization in the state.

Emergency Preparedness Workshops

“Prepare, Prevent, Preserve,” workshops in emergency preparedness for local government records officers, will be offered free at two locations: 1) Tuesday, April 22, 2008, in Jackson at the William F. Winter Archives Building, 200 North Street; and 2) Thursday, April 24, 2008, in Hattiesburg at the Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center, 220 W. Front Street. Space is limited.

Please register by April 10, 2008; call 601-576-6894. For more information, visit mdah.state.ms.us/recman/training. The workshops are sponsored by the Local Government Records Office, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and funded in part by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

McLemore Prizewinner
In Search of Another Country
by Joseph Crespino
(Princeton University Press)
Now Available from the
Mississippi History Store

William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street, Jackson
601-576-6921

Oxford Conference for the Book

April 3–5, 2008

focusing on writer **Zora Neale Hurston**

Lectures by noted scholars, films, readings by Russian writers and other internationally known writers and poets, book signings, and more

For a complete schedule, visit
oxfordconferenceforthebook.com
or call 662-915-5993.

Teacher, Student Resource: *Mississippi History Now*

The *Mississippi History Now* article “A Failed Enterprise: The French Colonial Period in Mississippi,” co-authored by former MDAH staff member J. Michael Bunn and current museum staff member Clay Williams, has been selected as the publication’s **best feature of 2007** by the *Mississippi History Now* Advisory Board. Read it at <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us>.

Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) is profiled as *Mississippi History Now*’s **April feature**. The profile, written by **Lynda Lasswell Crist**, notes that “Davis and Mississippi grew up together.” Crist covers his personal, military, and political life from the time he arrived as a small child at Rosemont Plantation before Mississippi became a state, until his last days at the Beauvoir estate. Representing Mississippi first as a congressman and a senator,

Davis also served as secretary of war and as president of the Confederate States of America. June 3, 2008, marks the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Crist, editor of the Jefferson Davis Papers at Rice University, previously wrote an article on Beauvoir for *Mississippi History Now*.

Mississippi History Now’s feature article for March was a profile of **Hazel Brannon Smith** written by Mark Newman, reader in history at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Smith, editor and publisher of the *Lexington Advertiser*, received a Pulitzer Prize in 1964 for “steadfast adherence to her editorial duties in the face of great pressure and opposition” from the Holmes County Citizens’ Council.

Mississippi History Now is funded entirely through donations from individuals, companies, foundations, and organizations such as the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Historical Society, and BlueCross & BlueShield of Mississippi. The editor of *Mississippi History Now* is Peggy Jeanes of Jackson.

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