MDAH is making it easier than ever to learn about your family’s history by extending its hours in October to celebrate Archives Month. On Tuesday, October 2, and Tuesday, October 23, the Winter Building will remain open until 8 p.m. Not only does MDAH have the world’s most extensive collection of materials relating to the state, but the department’s historians and librarians can provide one-on-one assistance to patrons who are new to genealogy.

“Our visitors can narrow down their searches before they ever come to the building by using our online catalog,” said reference librarian De’Niecechsi Layton. “It’s a great way to get familiar with the collection from the comfort of their own homes.”

There is no cost to use the archives. Each year thousands of people visit the state archives to research their family history using federal census data, marriage and death records, wills, deeds, county histories, church records, newspapers, and genealogical materials from surrounding states.

“If you are beginning a family search, start with who and what you know in the present and work back,” Layton said. “It’s easier to follow the line and see the relationships.”

If you are not able to visit the Winter Building, reference staff are able to answer many basic questions by telephone, 601-576-6876, or email, refdesk@mdah.state.ms.us. Regular library hours are Monday 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday–Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History collects, preserves, and provides access to the historical resources of the state. The William F. Winter Archives and History Building is located at 200 North Street in Jackson.

First-time visitors should bring a photo ID for their researcher card, which also serves as a debit card for the photocopy machines. Standard photocopies can be made for 20 cents per copy.

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**MDAH Board to Meet on MSU Campus**

**Tours Planned of Historic Neighborhoods, Music Museum, Grant Library**

The board of trustees of the Department of Archives and History will hold its regular quarterly meeting on Friday, October 19, in Starkville on the Mississippi State University campus.

President and Mrs. Mark Keenum will host a reception honoring the board of trustees at the president’s home on Thursday, October 18. Kane Ditto, president of the board of trustees, will present resolutions of commendation to local organizations and citizens for contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history.

The MDAH board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Mitchell Memorial Library and is open to the public. A tour for board members and MDAH staff will include the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Charles H. Templeton Music Museum, Congressional & Political Research Center, and historic buildings, including recent rehabilitations and an examination of modern architecture on the campus. The board will also tour Starkville’s historic neighborhoods and downtown.

Members of the board of trustees are Kane Ditto, president; E. Jackson Garner, vice president; Reuben V. Anderson, Jackson; Nancy Carpenter, Columbus; Valencia Hall, Natchez; Web Heidelberg, Hattiesburg; Hilda Cope Povall, Cleveland; and Roland Weeks, Biloxi.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the United States. The department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers museums and historic sites across Mississippi, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, state and local government records management, and publications.
The Mississippi Historical Society will hold its annual meeting February 28–March 2, 2013, in Vicksburg. Every year the society meets in a different city around the state to hear original papers delivered by distinguished speakers, tour local historic sites, and award prizes for outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi history. The 2013 meeting will focus on the Vicksburg Campaign of the Civil War. Registration is $35 for members and $60 for non-members. The program sessions will take place at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 3330 Clay Street, and a limited number of rooms have been reserved for February 28 and March 1. When making reservations (601-636-6100 or 1-800-HAMPTON), be sure to specify the MHS rate of $102 plus tax per night.

All prize winners will be invited to the society’s 2013 meeting to receive their awards. Nominations are being accepted for the following:

The McLemore Prize, which carries with it a $700 stipend, is given for the best book on a subject related to Mississippi history or biography published the previous year.

The John K. Bettersworth Award is given annually to an outstanding teacher of middle or high school history in Mississippi. The winning teacher receives a $300 cash award.

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, which carries with it a $300 cash award, recognizes oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collection, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral history.

The James T. Dawson Award is presented as merited to a local government in Mississippi with an exemplary records management program. A local government eligible for the award may be a municipality, a county, or a school district.

The Dunbar Rowland Award, given in recognition of lifelong contributions to the study, interpretation, and preservation of Mississippi History, and the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history are presented as merited.

The Riley Prize and the Glover Moore Prize are awarded biennially for a doctoral dissertation and master’s thesis, respectively, on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed within the previous two years.

Awards of Merit are presented annually to individuals or organizations for their outstanding archival, museum, or media interpretation work.

Submission guidelines are available on the MDAH Web site. For more information or to submit a nomination, email info@mshistoricalsociety.com or call 601-576-6545.
Monica C. Miller, a doctoral candidate at Louisiana State University, is the recipient of the second annual Eudora Welty Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides $1,000 for expenses related to use of the Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. In August Miller traveled to Jackson to work on her dissertation “Petrifying Women: The Figure of the Ugly Woman.”

While at MDAH, Miller discussed her area of focus at a program with Welty scholars and archives staff. “In the work of Eudora Welty, I am intrigued by the variety of female characters, who run the gamut from the outrageously grotesque to the more mundanely ugly; those who lack the physical beauty so often connected to traditional ideals of southern womanhood,” said Miller.

“I looked at the manuscripts for A Curtain of Green, The Wide Net, and The Golden Apples, and, at the suggestion of several people after my talk, the unpublished story ‘The Alterations.’”

In addition to comparing early and later drafts in the collection, Miller examined Welty’s correspondence with authors Katherine Anne Porter, Reynolds Price, and Kenneth Millar (who wrote under the pen name Ross MacDonald). The correspondence collection contains letters Eudora Welty wrote as well as letters written to Welty by more than eight hundred people, including family, friends, fellow authors, scholars, journalists, and editors.

Established by the Eudora Welty Foundation and MDAH, the Eudora Welty Research Fellowship seeks to encourage and support use of the Eudora Welty Collection by graduate students. Supporting ongoing and high quality research is part of the Eudora Welty Foundation’s mission.

The Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the premier collection of Eudora Welty materials in the world and one of the most varied literary collections in the United States. The collection includes manuscripts, letters, photographs, drawings, essays, and film and video footage that spans Welty’s entire life. Beginning in 1957, and over the course of more than forty years, Welty donated materials to the department, primarily literary manuscripts and photographs. At her death the remainder of her papers, which included unpublished manuscripts and 14,000 items of correspondence with family, friends, scholars, young writers, and noted writers, was bequeathed to MDAH.

The collection is housed at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. For more information on the collection or the fellowship, call 601-576-6850.
For the first time in more than thirty years a comprehensive exhibition of artist William R. Hollingsworth’s work will be shown at the Mississippi Museum of Art. The exhibit To Paint and Pray: The Art and Life of William R. Hollingsworth, Jr. brings together nearly one hundred fifty works of art from MMA’s collection and regional museums and private collections, including four works from the collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The pieces from the MDAH collection were created between 1937 and 1942. They include a watercolor portrait of Baptist preacher Henry Lewiss titled “Uncle Henry,” an oil on canvas showing three children in a rainy landscape, and two designs for a Works Progress Act mural competition.

In addition to the paintings, sketches and photos from MDAH’s collection are featured in the exhibition book of the same name. The archives’ extensive holdings include the William Hollingsworth Photograph Collection, which contains thirty-nine sketches and drawings, and the William Hollingsworth Press Books Collection, which includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and mementos related to Hollingsworth’s career as an artist.

“We’re very grateful to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for allowing us to reproduce archival images, sketches, and illustrations by William Hollingsworth, and other pieces of material culture from his life for use in the exhibition,” said Betsy Bradley, director of the Mississippi Museum of Art. “These additions help tell a more complete story of Hollingsworth’s life and work as a Mississippian and an artist.”

The Jackson native was known for his paintings of Mississippi landscapes and people. His reputation was growing at the time of his death in 1944.

William Robert Hollingsworth, Jr., was born in Jackson on February 17, 1910. His mother Willie Belle Hollingsworth died ten months after his birth. He attended the University of Mississippi from 1928 to 1929, and then transferred to the Art Institute of Chicago to pursue a career in art. While there he married fellow art student Celia Jane Oakley in 1932. After graduating in 1934, the Hollingsworths moved to Jackson where they lived with William R. Hollingsworth, Sr.

In Jackson, Hollingsworth worked for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and painted at night and on weekends. Hollingsworth was known for his oil and watercolor paintings of Mississippi landscapes and people. He received numerous awards for his artwork, including a gold medal from the Mississippi Art Association in 1936 and the William Tuthill Prize from an international watercolor exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1937.

After a life-long struggle with depression Hollingsworth committed suicide in 1944.

The Mississippi Museum of Art is located at 380 South Lamar Street in Jackson. For more information call 601-960-1515.

The twenty-eighth annual MDAH Social Studies Teachers Workshop is set for Friday, November 2, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson. This year’s theme will be “Mississippi Civil War at Home.” Presentations will examine slavery and emancipation, the free state of Jones, soldiers’ lives during the Civil War, women in the Civil War, National History Day, and the state’s Common Core Curriculum.

Registration is $40 and includes lunch. A .5 CEU credit is available through Mississippi College. To register, go to www.mdad.state.ms.us or call 601-576-6800 by Friday, October 26.

The Social Studies Teachers Workshop is sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi College School of Continuing Education, Mississippi Historical Society, Mississippi Junior Historical Society, Mississippi History Now, and the Mississippi Humanities Council.
More than 3,700 photographs highlighting the state’s rural and agricultural heritage have been added to the department’s Web site. The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Collection and C.W. Witbeck Collection can now be viewed online through the MDAH Digital Archives. These photographs offer glimpses into everyday small-town life as well as special occasions such as pageants and famous visitors.

The Farm Bureau Collection provides a unique overview of Mississippi farm practices and land use from the late nineteenth through the early twenty-first centuries, as well as the effects of natural disasters on agriculture; health and safety issues (the polio vaccine, lifesaving and fire prevention techniques); visiting politicians, including several United States presidents; and the evolving roles of women in society. The collection is organized into two series. Series I consists of cap-boards, county agents, crops, conventions, farmers, meetings (county, state, local), natural disasters, politicians, staff, social functions, talent shows, women’s activities within the organization, and Southern Farm Bureau in its formative years.

Series II consists of more than two thousand mostly black-and-white photographs generated by the Farm Bureau’s public affairs office during the 1950s and early 1960s, arranged by county. The images are of farms, farmers, farming activities, 4-H club activities, local MFBF directors and staff, and sponsored social events such as barbecues, beauty- and talent contests, and festivals. Of special interest are images of the Mississippi Farmers Market in Jackson, William Faulkner making a rare public speaking appearance, and elected officials such as Governor J.P. Coleman, Senator John Stennis, and Representative Sonny Montgomery.

In addition to the photographs, the collection contains color slides, negatives, film, audio recordings, and newspapers. Many of the images were taken for MFBF’s publications Mississippi Farm Bureau News, Mississippi Farm Bureau Country, and Mississippi Farm Bureau Producer. In 2010 the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation donated the collection to MDAH, where it was processed and digitized.

“It made perfect sense for the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation to donate our archives to MDAH,” said Greg Gibson, MFBF public relations coordinator. “Their professional staff and resources will allow them to properly preserve these photographs and make them accessible to the public. Farm Bureau wanted to make these images available to all Mississippians.”

The Witbeck Collection depicts people and places in towns and cities throughout Mississippi dating from 1911 through 1955. The 333 black-and-white photographs focus on Brookhaven, Gulfport, Jackson, and Vicksburg, with additional shots of Crystal Springs, Meadville, and Monticello. Images in the collection include Governor Hugh White’s 1952 inauguration, the United States Naval Training School in Gulfport, Senator Pat Harrison’s funeral, the Mississippi Highway Patrol General Assembly, a 1951 Masonic Building fire in Brookhaven, a Wesson Lions Club event, the Whitworth College Coronation Pageant, and African American Little Leaguers in Brookhaven.

“The Witbeck Collection documents a Mississippi approaching massive change,” said Elaine Owens, director of the MDAH Image and Sound section. “The photographs of the town cafe, segregated Little League teams, and federal agents destroying bootleg whiskey depict a culture before the advent of fast food, the Civil Rights Movement, and the legalization of liquor.”

Campbell William Witbeck was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on December 27, 1916. He became a well-known railroad photographer and railroad image historian. Witbeck moved to Jackson in 1938 as a photographer for the Works Progress Administration. In 1948 he opened a studio in Brookhaven, and then in 1955 relocated that studio to Hammond, Louisiana.

Prints of most images in the MDAH collection can be ordered for a nominal fee. See the Web site for ordering and payment details, mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/photoreproduction.php.
A new research tool on the MDAH Web site makes it easy to search and view scanned maps of Mississippi. Maps from repositories around the world were surveyed for the Inventory of Historical Maps of Mississippi (IHMM), the most complete collection of pre–twentieth century maps of the state to date. Users can search more than one thousand maps by keyword or through fifteen descriptive categories, which include title, author, publication date, features, geographic coverage, links to scanned images, and more.

Thanks to the work of Paul Davis, who carried out the survey, the database can be searched not just for information about the maps, but also for information contained in the maps. In the 1980s, Davis, a map aficionado and former director of the Mississippi Automated Resource Information System (MARIS), began locating historical Mississippi maps to help fellow researchers. “I and other researchers became frustrated trying to identify historic maps that met specific criteria such as date, place, and special natural or cultural features,” Davis said. “Most indexes itemized only major map features, but a closer look at most maps revealed many additional features.”

To create the IHMM, Davis examined each map in minute detail. The project was enormous and time-consuming, but in the end yielded a rich database of physical features, large and small, man-made and naturally occurring, that users can now search—information like town and county names, but also roads, forts, marshes, gardens, and residents’ names. “Sometimes patrons doing genealogy have tunnel vision about a family’s location and need to look outside modern county lines,” said MDAH reference librarian Joyce Dixon-Lawson. “Historical maps can be very useful for this, and the inventory database is a much faster and easier way for people to find maps related to their research.”

Davis spent much of his spare time searching at the Library of Congress and the National Archives in Washington, D.C., as well as at the state archives in Jackson. Davis considered publishing his inventory as a book but decided instead to make it available as a free electronic finding aid on the MDAH Web site. “Paul Davis’s generosity has made it much simpler for people to work with maps online,” said MDAH Electronic Archives section head David Pilcher. “Some donors give things like photographs or family papers, but Mr. Davis donated thirty years of his research about Mississippi maps.”

The IHMM includes maps from forty repositories, including MDAH, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the French Archives Nationales, and Davis continues to add maps and other information. See the Inventory of Historical Maps of Mississippi online at http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/mapindex/.

MDAH Adds Digital Images to Flickr

More than eight hundred photographs and maps from MDAH’s archival collection can now be viewed on Flickr, the online photo sharing Web site. MDAH’s photostream contains images from seventeen Digital Archives collections, including the Cooper Postcard Collection, 1927 Mississippi River Flood Photograph Collection, Moncrief Photograph Collection, Historic Maps Collection, and many more. Flickr is an online photo storage service with millions of users from around the world who post, organize, and share images. The department hopes to increase awareness of and access to its growing Digital Archives by reaching out to this global audience with an interest in photography and historical images.

Since the Library of Congress began posting its historical materials to Flickr in 2008, the platform has proven an excellent venue for showcasing scanned images with a wider audience that is interested in photography, history, and culture. MDAH has an immense store of archival photographic material, a growing portion of which is being digitized and made available online.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History Flickr page can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/mississippi-dept-of-archives-and-history. Please contact us at flickr@mdah.state.ms.us if you have any questions or suggestions for future postings.
Black and Blue Encampment Oct. 13

The fifth annual Black and Blue Civil War Living History Encampment will take place on Saturday, October 13, at Historic Jefferson College. Reenactors tell the story of the African American experience during the Civil War in Adams County. This year’s keynote presentation at 1 p.m. commemorates enslaved and non-enslaved black women who served as freedom-fighting nurses for the Union and six runaway enslaved Adams County men who joined the Union Navy in 1862.

“We are pleased to provide a venue for this important historical living history event,” said Historic Jefferson College director Robin Person. “Too often the lives of African American participants in the Civil War have been overlooked in favor of battle histories and general politics. Black and Blue gives a voice to some of the unsung heroes of this time.”

Senegalese musician Morikeba Kouyate will kick off the program at 11 a.m. with a discussion of the African roots of the banjo, violin, and guitar in American music and a performance with the kora, a twenty-one-string African instrument. At 3 p.m. actor and living history interpreter Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux will portray abolitionist and humanitarian Harriet Tubman.

The living history event will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. A soldiers camp for children will begin at 10:30 a.m., and a games activity camp will begin at noon and run throughout the remainder of the program. There is no charge for any of the events. The Black and Blue Civil War Living History Encampment is sponsored by MDAH and the Friends of Forks of the Roads Society, Inc. For more information contact Ser Boxley at 601-442-4719 or email forksyaroads@aol.com.

Native American Days at Winterville

Native American Days, the annual program celebrating American Indian culture at Winterville Mounds, will be held October 31–November 3. The event features traditional dances, stories, and games, and crafts and foods will be for sale. Last year more than 2,000 students and adults attended the festival.

Performers this year include traditional Houma dancer Cocoa Creppel and Cherokee Historical Association storytellers and dancers. Other activities will include face-painting and bead-stringing for children, archery demonstrations, and Native American games of stickball and chunky, which will be open to all. Project S.O.A.R. (Save Our American Raptors) and the USDA Wildlife will be on hand with live animal demonstrations.

Special guests on Friday, November 2, will be the Choctaw Elderly Social Dancers from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The four-day celebration of Native American culture will conclude on Saturday, November 3, with a day of games and arts and crafts. From 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. families can learn to shoot a bow and arrow, play the traditional Native American games of stickball and chunky, compete in relay races, make beaded headbands, and more. Fry bread, Indian tacos, buffalo burgers, and smoked turkey legs will be on sale throughout the day.

Native American Days is free of charge. The event begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday. Performances will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The Saturday program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. School groups should call ahead for a complete schedule of events when booking a field trip.

Archaeology Talk at Grand Village Oct. 25

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, Daniel LaDu will present an illustrated program on “Coles Creek and Plaquemine Settlement at the Mazique Site.”

The Mazique site is an important mound center in the Natchez Bluffs region, an area with a rich prehistory and history. The event will be held in the GVNI auditorium, and admission is free. Call 601-446-6502 for more information.
The department’s History Is Lunch programs are held at noon most Wednesdays in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. There is no admission charge. For more information call 601-576-6998 or email cwilson@mdah.state.ms.us.

October 3—Henry T. Gallagher will talk about his new book *James Meredith and the Ole Miss Riot: A Soldier’s Story*.

October 10—author Susan Haltom will present “Reading and Writing: The Progressive Welty Women.”

October 17—reenactors will present a preview of Present Meets Past: Voices from Mississippi History. *To be held in the Old Capitol Museum.*

October 24—archaeologist Brad Lieb will talk about the Battle of Ackia between the French and Chickasaw in 1736.

October 31—MDAH archaeologist Patty Miller Beech will discuss Nazi POWs at Camp Shelby.

November 7—MDAH historians Will Morgan and Amanda Lyons will talk about the Dutch fliers stationed in Jackson during WWII.

November 14—Mississippi Museum of Art curator of exhibitions Robin Dietrick will talk about the art of William Hollingsworth.

November 28—Mike Stoll, education historian at the Old Capitol Museum, will present Presidential Elections in Mississippi. *To be held in the Old Capitol Museum.*