

Mississippi History

NEWSLETTER

MDAH

Contents © 2009 Mississippi Department of Archives and History
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Mississippi History Newsletter
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Foundation for Mississippi History Sets Goals

South Mississippi Physician Named New President

The Foundation for Mississippi History has named a new president and announced a capital campaign of \$10 million toward construction of the Museum of Mississippi History. Dr. Lucius Marion Lampton, a longtime supporter of historical activities in the state, was named president at the foundation's June board meeting. He succeeds former governor William F. Winter, who had served as the foundation's president since its inception in 2005.

Lampton will help spearhead the five-year effort to raise \$10

million to add to public funds already in place. The 2009 Legislature approved \$2 million to create the building fund for the new Museum of Mississippi History. This, along with the \$2.2 million set aside in recent years for the planning process, is a commitment to the creation and completion of a state-of-the-art facility that will be a source of pride for all Mississippians.

"This is a big goal for us, but it is time to be bold," said Lampton. "It is time for those who love Mississippi's history to make history by committing to this long-overdue and very worthy project: creating a comprehensive and modern Museum of Mississippi History."

In 2017 Mississippi will celebrate the bicentennial of its statehood. MDAH hopes to open



Pictured from left are outgoing Foundation for Mississippi History president William F. Winter, new president Dr. Luke Lampton, and Trey Porter, director of community affairs for MDAH.

the new Museum of Mississippi History during this yearlong celebration. To learn how you can

be a part of this project, contact the Foundation of Mississippi History at 601-576-6850.

Archaeologists Excavating at Two MDAH Sites

Collaborations between MDAH and universities in Mississippi, Kentucky, and Missouri have led to new archaeological work at two sites administered by the department. The University of Southern Mississippi, Murray State University in Kentucky, and Washington University in St. Louis are conducting field schools this summer at Winterville Mounds and the Jaketown site.



This marks the fourth summer USM archaeology professor Ed Jackson has brought students to Winterville Mounds, a prehistoric ceremonial center north of Greenville built by a

Native American civilization that thrived from about AD 1000 to 1450. This year students have found an animal figurine made from fired clay, a bone needle, and pieces of pottery, said Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell. They have also found the original occupation level that shows when the site was first settled, revealing that mound builders moved large amounts of dirt to level the plaza.

"This has been a great partnership," said Howell, "Here at Winterville Mounds, we simply don't have the manpower to conduct the work necessary to find answers to these long-

neglected questions." Washington University professors Lee Arco and T.R. Kidder and Murray State University professor Tony Ortman decided to combine forces this summer to focus on the Jaketown site near Belzoni in Humphreys County. The group has dug pits seven feet deep, exposing very obvious layering that indicates previous occupation, said MDAH Historic Properties Division director James F. Barnett. The Jaketown Site is the remains of a large Native American complex and mound site dating circa 2000 BC–1500 AD.

Popular Preservation Grant Program Funded

Grants Can Be Used For Courthouses, Historic Schools

More than \$2 million in grants is available for preservation projects across the state. The 2009 Legislature has authorized the seventh round of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program, administered by the Department of Archives and History. Applications are available now through the department's Historic Preservation Division and may be downloaded from the Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us. Grant applications will be accepted through October 9, 2009.

The Community Heritage Preservation Grant program helps preserve, restore, rehabilitate, and interpret historic courthouses and schools. In

Certified Local Government (CLG) communities grant funds may also be used for projects involving public and private, nonprofit-owned historic buildings other than courthouses or schools. All buildings must have been designated Mississippi Landmarks prior to application to be eligible for the grants.

Only county or municipal governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations granted Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the IRS may submit applications. Those applications shall be in accordance with the provisions of grant procedures, criteria, and standards devel-

oped and publicized by MDAH. After evaluation by department staff, all complete applications will be presented to the MDAH Board of Trustees at a special meeting in December.

The grant

should be prepared to cover all project costs before receiving reimbursements. A cash match of at least 20 percent must be provided. All grant projects MUST be completed by December 1, 2012.

There are fifty-three CLG communities in Mississippi. To learn more about the CLG program, visit the department's

Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us. Application packets and further information are also available online, or by

contacting Mingo Tingle in the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH at 601-576-6952 or at P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571.



Above, an image of the Houka School in Chickasaw County showing how the building looked after a fire destroyed its third floor. At right is the restored school made possible by a \$335,000 Community Heritage Preservation grant.



awards will be paid to the grantee on a reimbursable basis upon the successful completion of the entire project. Applicants receiving grant awards

MDAH Gulf Coast Field Office Relocates

The MDAH Gulf Coast Field Office has moved to higher ground at 836 Howard St., near Reynoir St. and the historic Saenger Theatre in Biloxi's Vieux Marche Mall. The move provides more office space and a safer location from future storms.

Ken P'Pool, deputy state historic preservation officer, said "We'll greatly miss Preservation House, the circa-1920 bungalow on Rue Magnolia where our office has been since almost immediately after Katrina. It was the center for preservation efforts along the Coast, at times housing up to forty volunteer architects and engineers working with MDAH, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

ing in Biloxi's historic downtown area. The new location offers handicap access to patrons and approximately 300 grant recipients who are restoring Katrina-damaged historic buildings."

The MDAH Gulf Coast Office opened in 2005. It administers a \$27 million grant from the National Park Service to repair damage to both private residences and public properties suffered from Hurricane Katrina. The grant has made restoration competitive with demolition or modern remodeling and has saved more than 250 historic Mississippi

buildings. To contact the Gulf Coast Field Office, call 228-435-1180.



Gulf Coast Field Office staff members are (from left) preservation specialists Jeff Rosenberg and Peter Anderson, director Ron Miller, associate director Leesa Harris, and deputy director Trevor Brown. Not pictured is preservation specialist Christy James.

Rain Forest Topic Of Upcoming Video at GVNI

On Thursday, July 23, the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians will have the second installment of its free Summer Film Series.

Panama Wild: Rain Forest of Life shows researchers from around the world studying the rain forest's millions of complex animal and plant partnerships as they put together the puzzle of the very nature of life on earth.

The film will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Village Auditorium. Each showing is one hour long and a short group discussion on the subjects covered in the film will follow. Call 601-446-6502 for more information.

California College, MDAH Share History, Interest

Joyce Broussard, California State University–Northridge (CSUN) history professor and co-director of the Natchez Project, brought nineteen students and alumni to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building for two days this spring to research topics related to their seminar on southern history. After completing their work in Jackson, the group headed to Natchez.

“Our trips to Mississippi have always included MDAH because the holdings at the archives are so rich,” said Broussard. “It’s hard to do Mississippi history without MDAH.”

The California–Mississippi connection began seventeen years ago when CSUN history professor Ronald L.F. Davis was in the Natchez courthouse looking for court records used



California State University–Northridge students and alumni researching in the Winter Building’s archival reading room.

in previous research. The records were found in the basement in one of four rooms filled with

deteriorating legal manuscripts largely from the 1790s.

Out of that discovery Davis,

CSUN, and the Historic Natchez Foundation began a public records preservation and research program known as the Natchez Courthouse Records Project. “The Department of Archives and History came down during the initial conservation effort and showed our students how to do the work,” said Broussard. “MDAH has been incredibly supportive in preserving and maintaining these records.”

CSUN graduate students and alumni continue coming to Mississippi to work with the collection, which is now housed at the Historic Natchez Foundation.

“We’ve become great friends with them over the years,” said Anne Webster, head of MDAH reference services. “As the students move on to professional positions, it feels like we’ve been a part of helping them.”

Mississippi History Now Features Conservation Pioneer

Life’s Work Led To Creation of State’s Wildlife Agency

Fannye A. Cook (1889-1964), the conservationist responsible for the creation of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, is profiled in the current edition of *Mississippi History Now*.

In the early twentieth century the native of Crystal Springs campaigned tirelessly for a comprehensive state conservation program. Cook, in collaboration with the Works Progress Administration in the mid-1930s, collected many specimens of the state’s birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks, and other life forms, and in 1939, the State Wildlife Museum opened to hold the collection. Cook served twenty years as director of the museum, and in 1971 the museum was designated a

memorial to her by the Mississippi Legislature. The legacy of her lifelong work is today’s Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson.

Throughout her career, fish and birds were Cook’s primary interests. She never tired of watching them, studying them, collecting them, and preserving them. She was an amateur taxidermist, and some of her fish specimens are in the collections of the Field Museum in Chicago, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Libby Hartfield, current direc-

tor of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, condensed the online article from a piece written by Alan Huffman for *Mississippi Outdoors*. To read the article go to <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us>

Other articles posted during the online publication’s ninth season and archived on the site include “Paving the Trace” by Jack Elliott Jr., “Newton Knight and Legend of the Free State of Jones” by James Kelly Jr., “Mississippi’s Territorial Years” by Michael Bunn and Clay Williams, “Nuclear Blasts in Mississippi” by Stephen Cresswell, “The Political

Career of John Sharp Williams” by Thomas Boschert, and “Lucy Somerville Howorth: Lawyer, Politician, and Feminist” by Martha Swain.

Mississippi History Now, launched in 2000, is the online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society, a non-profit organization composed of people of all ages interested in the state’s history. Membership in the society is open to anyone. To join, go to <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/mississippi-historical-society> and click on the link to download the application.

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. To support Mississippi History Now, call 601-576-6849.



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- Archaeology field schools
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JULY MDAH CALENDAR

JACKSON

Old Capitol Museum
State Street at Capitol
601-576-6920
info@oldcapitolmuseum.com

July 1–3, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. *Stars, Stripes, Scissors, and Glue*. Creative activities for grades K-6 celebrating independence.

History Is Lunch Series
Noon–1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6998

Wednesday, July 1—Reagen Grimsley, “The Hub City of the Piney Woods: Early Growth and Development of Hattiesburg, 1886–1945.”

Wednesday, July 8—Meg Cooper, “The Mississippi Mound Trail.”

Wednesday, July 15—Woody Sistrunk, “The Story of Jack-

son’s Ace Records Company.”

Wednesday, July 22—Patricia K. Galloway, “Mississippi’s Colonial Period.”

Manship House Museum
420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724
info@manshiphouse.com

Wednesday, July 1, 10–11 a.m. *Fans Away!* Learn how children in the nineteenth century adapted to the heat of the summer and make your own fan. Free, for ages 5–12.

Monday, July 13, 10–11 a.m. *Model Manship*. Build and decorate your own model of the Manship House. Free, for ages 5–12.

Monday, July 20, 10–11 a.m. *Parlors Petit*. Learn about the parlor’s role in the nineteenth-century home and make a diorama of your own Victorian parlor. Free, for ages 5–12.

Monday, July 27, 10–11 a.m. *Wall Pocket Workshop*. Learn about the Victorian wall pocket, used to display letters, postcards, and other papers, and make a wall pocket to display your own treasures. Free, for ages 5–12.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College
Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@jeffersoncollege.com

July 8–10. *Civil War Adventure Camp*. Boys and girls drill, parade, and learn about the gear used during the Civil War. Reservations required.

Tuesday, July 14, noon. *Lunchtime Lecture Series: Wailes’ Whales*. Geologist David Dockery will present a lecture on B.L.C. Wailes—state geologist, fossil hunter, scientist, and Jefferson College teacher. Noon.

July 21–24. *Naturalist Camp*. This camp for ages 9–12 focuses on hands-on projects, and observation in the field. \$20, pre-registration is required.

Saturday, July 18. *EXPLORE! Slime Science*. Learn about the science behind slime in this messy class! Students will make several different types of slime from common, safe household products. For ages 6–8 (10–11:30 a.m.) and 9–12 (2–3:30 p.m.). \$10 fee; pre-payment required.

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds
Highway 1 North
662-334-4684
info@wintervillemounds.com

July 13–17, 10 a.m.–noon. *Winterville Adventures*. Ages 6 to 12 will spend the week exploring and learning about Winterville Mounds. Free.