

MDAH Awards \$67,000 in Preservation Grants

The Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling more than \$67,000 to fifteen preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across Mississippi. Amounts range from \$11,000 to replace the roof of the Strand Theater in Kosciusko to \$300 for a National Register plaque in Como.

"We are very pleased with the variety of projects and how they tie in with the growing heritage tourism across Mississippi," said Certified Local Government grants administrator Susan Tietz. "All of the communities put a lot of thought into their proposals."

The grants are as follows:

Aberdeen, \$8,000 for the exterior repair and painting of the M & O Depot, a Mississippi Landmark.

Biloxi, \$3,500 for the revision and publication of *Design Review Guidelines and the Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey*.

Brandon, \$1,700, for the survey of historic resources of downtown Brandon, the preparation of a National Register nomination for the downtown district, and the preparation of a National Register nomination for the Brandon Cemetery.

Canton, \$6,000, for a collaborative project with Hattiesburg through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to address the problem of demolition by neglect in both communities.

Como, \$300, for purchase of signage for the National Register designation for the downtown historic district.

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Powwow Draws Big Crowds



More than 3,000 people attended the 2009 Natchez Powwow March 28-29 at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. The powwow featured Native American dancing, crafts, and food. See more images from recent powwows at natchezgrandvillage.com.



Special Issue of *Journal* Dedicated to William Winter

The latest issue of the *Journal of Mississippi History* is dedicated to the career of William F. Winter, governor of Mississippi from 1980 to 1984. Charles C. Bolton, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, served as guest editor. A chapter from Bolton's forthcoming biography of Winter forms the first essay, "William F. Winter and the Politics of Racial

Moderation in Mississippi."

Other articles are "William Winter and His Campaigns for Governor: 1967, 1975, and 1979" by political commentators Jere Nash and Andy Taggart, "Governor William Winter," by former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Reuben V. Anderson, and "The Education Programs of Governor William Winter" by Andrew P. Mullins,

Jr., who served on Winter's staff when he was governor.

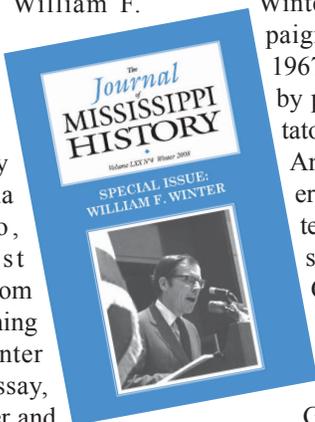
Historian David Sansing called the Education Reform Act of 1982, which Winter championed, "the most significant educational legislation enacted in Mississippi since the establishment of its public school system in 1870."

William Forrest Winter was born in 1923 in Grenada, Mississippi. Winter earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Mississippi before serving in the U.S. Infantry during WWII. He was

elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1947, then served as state tax collector, state treasurer, and lieutenant governor.

Governor Winter is a former president of the Mississippi Historical Society and was the longtime president of the Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History.

Individual issues of the *Journal of Mississippi History* are \$7.50 and may be purchased at the Mississippi History Store, 601-576-6921, or at better bookstores across the state.



Historian John Ray Skates, 1934–2009

The Department of Archives and History and the Mississippi Historical Society mourn the February 18 loss of a premier historian of Mississippi, John Ray Skates. The author of distinguished books on his native state, Skates was also a noted authority on World War II.

Born in Sharkey County, Ray Skates grew up in Greenville and graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1956. Skates received his master's and doctoral degrees in history from Mississippi State University. In 1966 he began a career at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he served as chair of the Department of History. While there, Skates began writing about Mississippi's history and published *A History of the Mississippi Supreme Court* (1973) and *Mississippi A History*, in the AASLH Bicentennial The States and the Nation series (1979). Skates became known as not only a skilled historian capable of keen analysis but also as a writer of engaging and

lively prose that made Mississippi's story compelling to both scholarly and lay readers. With fellow historian David Sansing, Skates wrote several popular textbooks for elementary and secondary school Mississippi history classes.

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial celebration of the completion of the Old Capitol in 1840, MDAH commissioned Skates to write a volume about the building. He titled it *Mississippi's Old Capitol: Biography of a Building* (1990). The book received wide acclaim, one reviewer noting that "Skates's text provides an interesting narrative not only of a building but of the capital city and the political life in which both were enmeshed" (William E. Parrish, *Public Historian*).

An active member of the Mississippi Historical Society throughout his career, Skates served on its board of directors and as president (1985). He was assistant editor of the *Journal of Mississippi History* 1971–86

and for many years was the chair of the Society's Publications Committee. Skates was also a driving force in establishing the Society's Heritage of Mississippi book series, serving as vice-chair and executive editor.

Skates had a lifelong interest in the impact of the Second World War as a catalyst for change in the South. "It seems to me," he stated, "that the American South in 1940 was pretty much institutionally like the South of 1840. If the term 'new' is to be applied to any period of southern history, it must be limited to the post-World War II South."

In 1984 Skates took leave from USM to serve on active duty as an Army Reserve colonel to help plan the U.S. Department of Defense's international fortieth observance of the D-Day invasion. He went on to serve as visiting professor in the Department of the Army Center for Military History and at the Air War College in Montgomery 1986–88, during which time he

completed ten years of research for a book commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima: *The Invasion of Japan: Alternatives to the Bomb* (1994). The book attracted international attention, and Skates was featured on the History Channel and was interviewed on Japanese and Australian radio as well as National Public Radio.

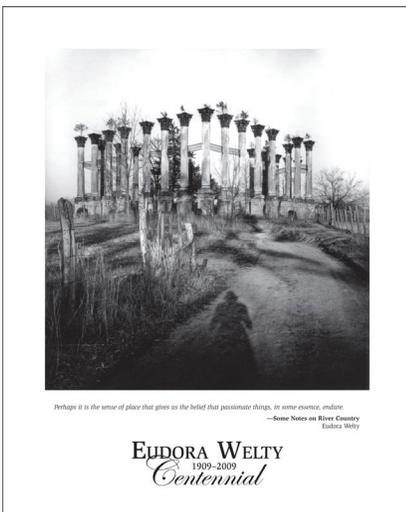
In 1999, in recognition of his many distinguished publications, his highly respected scholarship on World War II, his inspired dedication to the teaching of history, and his able leadership in the Mississippi Historical Society, Ray Skates was awarded the Dunbar Rowland Award for his lifelong dedication to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history.

History colleagues recall that Ray Skates brought not only scholarly precision and dedication to all of his projects but also a cooperative spirit and dry wit that made working with him a memorable pleasure.

Welty Centennial Poster Issued

A numbered, limited-edition poster featuring one of Eudora Welty's best-loved photographs has been issued by the Department of Archives and History in honor of the centennial of her birth. Welty took the picture of the towering Ruins of Windsor during a trip to Port Gibson with friends in 1942. The photograph is especially beloved because Welty's shadow falling ahead of her is visible in the lower half of the shot.

Each 16" x 20" poster in the run of 500 has been individually num-



Perhaps it is the sense of place that gives us the belief that passionate things, in some essence, endure.
—Some Notes on River Country
Eudora Welty

EUDORA WELTY
1909-2009
Centennial

bered. They are printed on heavy, recycled paper, and feature the quote, "Perhaps it is

passionate things, in some essence, endure," taken from Welty's essay "Some Notes on River Country."

The posters sell for \$25 and are available at the Eudora Welty House (601-353-7762), the Mississippi History Store (601-576-6921), and better bookstores across the state.

Other Eudora Welty merchandise available at the Welty House include photographs from the Home Places series, original woodcuts of Welty by Barry Moser, exclusive designs of Gail Pittman pottery,

and furniture and bookends made from the water oak tree from Welty's yard by Jackson mastercraftsman Fletcher Cox.

Battle of Champion Hill Program May 16

The Champion Heritage Foundation is planning an all-day event at Champion Hill on May 16 to commemorate the 146th anniversary of the Battle of Champion Hill. Most programs will take place on the grounds of the Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, the site of the original Champion House which was burned.

The day will feature a talk by Timothy B. Smith, author of *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg*, a historic marker dedication, "preservation stroll," book-signings, raffle, presentations, and more.

Cost is \$5 by donation with proceeds going to plan another battlefield event for 2010. For a complete schedule of events, go to <http://battleofchampionhill.org/trail/stroll.htm>

Journey Stories in Clinton

Journey Stories, the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit that tells how different groups came to America and the history of our country's transportation system, will open at the Natchez Trace Welcome Center in Clinton on May 30 and run through July 14.

Associated events include:

June 1—"History of the Natchez Trace," by Mike Hazlip. Natchez Trace Visitors Center, 7 p.m.

June 4—"Plant Migration," by Prentiss Cox, Clinton Nature Center, 7 p.m.

June 9—"The Story of Clinton," by Deanne Nuwer, Clinton Police Department Building, 7 p.m.

June 11—"Cemetery Histories," by Mary Landon, Baptist Healthplex, 7 p.m.

June 13—Historic Walking Tour by Jacque Tharp, Olde Town, 9:30 a.m.

June 16—Genealogy Workshop led by Dot Gore, Baptist Healthplex, 7 p.m.

June 20—Storytelling Picnic with Leah Sutterfield, Natchez Trace Visitors Center, 6 p.m.

June 23—"Native Americans," by Mary Landon, Baptist Healthplex, 7 p.m.

June 25—"African American Stories," by Senator Hillman Frazier, Baptist Healthplex, 7 p.m.

June 30—"The German POW Camp," by Mike Allard, Baptist Healthplex, 7 p.m.

Journey Stories is sponsored by the Jackson-Hinds Library System—Clinton Branch, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Natchez Trace Welcome Center at Clinton. For more information, call 601-924-5684.

Welty Centennial Celebrated



Governor Haley Barbour cut the ceremonial first slice of birthday cake at the Eudora Welty House on April 13, where more than 100 people gathered to celebrate the writer's life. Pictured above (from left) are niece Elizabeth Welty Thompson, Governor Barbour, First Lady Marsha Barbour, and niece Mary Alice Welty White.

GRANTS, continued from p. 1

Corinth, \$10,156 for a preservation master plan to repair and restore the Verandah House and site.

Grenada, \$5,000 for the restoration of electrical service to the National Register-listed Masonic Temple.

Hattiesburg, \$6,000 for a collaborative project with Canton through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to address the problem of demolition by neglect in both communities.

Hernando, \$2,500 for an architectural survey of an area along Elm Street for inclusion in the Commerce Street Historic District and for the creation of signage, a walking tour, and a brochure for the district.

Indianola, \$2,000 for the continuation of an architectural survey within a portion of the locally designated historic district.

Kosciusko, \$11,000 for the replacement of the roof of the Strand Theater.

Ocean Springs, \$3,000 for the update and revision of the design review guidelines.

Oxford, \$2,500 for two bro-

chures about locally designated historic districts, one geared toward homeowners and those living within a district and the other aimed at educating the general public.

Pascagoula, \$5,000 for the land survey, cleaning, and fencing of the historic Grant Cemetery.

Summit, \$1,300 for a survey of historical resources to help determine historic district boundaries and for the National Register nomination of the district.

The Certified Local Government program is a federal-state-local partnership designed to assist communities in dealing with diverse preservation needs through funding and technical assistance. CLG communities may apply for annual grants to undertake preservation projects of importance to the community. Grants may be

used for such diverse projects as the restoration of historic buildings; historical, architectural, or archaeological site inventory work; preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; educational programs; and staff support for new historic preservation commissions.

Funding for the grants comes from the Historic Preservation Fund, a federal grants program appropriated by the U.S. Congress and administered by the National Park Service, which provides financial support to State Historic Preservation Offices.

To become a CLG, a community must adopt a preservation ordinance establishing a preservation commission in accordance with federal and state guidelines, then apply for CLG status through the Department of Archives and History. MDAH

works closely with local government officials and citizens to help them create and manage a workable local historic preservation program. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Susan Tietz in the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH, 601-576-6578, or see the MDAH Web site, www.mdah.state.ms.us/hpres/clgprogram.html.

The fifty-three CLG communities in Mississippi are Aberdeen, Amory, Baldwin, Biloxi, Blue Mountain, Brandon, Canton, Carrollton, Centerville, Claiborne County, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Como, Corinth, Eupora, Friars Point, Greenwood, Grenada, Hattiesburg, Hernando, Holly Springs, Indianola, Jackson, Kosciusko, Laurel, Leland, Lexington, Louisville, Magnolia, McComb, Meridian, Mound Bayou, Natchez, Newton, Ocean Springs, Osyka, Oxford, Pascagoula, Philadelphia, Port Gibson, Raymond, Ripley, Tunica, Tupelo, Vaiden, Vicksburg, West, West Point, Winona, Woodville, and Yazoo City.



Kosciusko's historic Strand Theater.

May Events at MDAH Sites Across Mississippi

JACKSON

History Is Lunch Series

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

Wednesday, May 6—

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians tribal historian Ken Carleton will tell the story of the Choctaw.

Wednesday, May 13—Historian Vince Venturini will present “The History of Public Welfare in Mississippi.”

Wednesday, May 20—Alan Huffman talks about his new book, *Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History*.

Wednesday, May 27—Historian John Marszalek presents “Ulysses S. Grant Returns to Mississippi.”

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724

May 19–August 29. *Summer Dress.* The Manship House exhibits the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the

summer months.

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.

Into the Victorian Garden. Horticulturist Felder Rushing discusses plants and gardens common during the Victorian era. There will be a plant swap on the grounds from 11 a.m. to noon. *Sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.*

Old Capitol Museum

State Street at Capitol
601-576-6920

May 15–July 20. *Photograph Exhibit.* See images chronicling the three-year restoration of the historic Old Capitol.

Monday, May 18, 6 p.m.

North State Street Revisited. Join architectural historian Todd Sanders for a presentation featuring images from his new book, *Jackson's North State Street*.

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds

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

Sunday, May 3, 2–3:30 p.m. Archaeologist Samuel Brookes will discuss life in the Middle

Archaic Period (6000–3000 B.C.) in Mississippi.

Sunday, May 17, 2–3:30

p.m. *Music of the Delta.* Mark Howell, Winterville Mounds director, will explore the different kinds of music heard in the Delta from prehistoric times to the present using samples of audio and music instruments. For young and old alike.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901

Through May 15. *Tell Me a Story: Photographing the American South,* an exhibit from the Mississippi Museum of Art featuring works by Mississippi artists Eudora Welty, Birney Imes, and Maude Schuyler Clay, among others.

Tuesday, May 5, noon.

Lunchtime Lecture Series: The Moving of Vidalia. Corinne

Randazzo will discuss how the town of Vidalia, Louisiana, was moved in 1938 in response to Mississippi River flooding. Free, bring a lunch.

Saturday, May 9. EXPLORE!

Ssssnakes. They may be slithery, but they're never slimy! Discover fascinating facts about these much-maligned reptiles. For ages 6-8 (10–11:30 a.m.) and 9-12 (2–3:30 p.m.). \$10 fee; pre-payment required.

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.–5

p.m. *Big Yam Potatoes Old Time Music Festival.* Fiddlers ages 8 to 80 will compete for prizes in the historic West Wing Building, while bands and musicians will perform old time music on the grounds. At 7:30 p.m. there will be an Old Time Dance. Admission is free, but visitors are advised to bring their own chairs, blankets, and a good pair of dancing shoes.

Archaeological Preservation Brochure

A new brochure produced by MDAH and the Mississippi Development Authority tells how you can help identify and preserve our state's rich prehistoric and historic archaeological heritage. To request your free copy, email archaeology@mdah.state.ms.us or call 601-576-6940.