

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

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Groundbreaking Draws Broad Support



More than six hundred people, including civil rights leaders, school children, and four Mississippi governors, gathered on Thursday, October 24, to break ground on the landmark Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

“Mississippi has a rich history. Thanks to these two museums, generations to follow will see and hear those stories,” said Mississippi governor Phil Bryant, adding, “They will see that Mississippi is much more about the future than the past.”

Myrlie Evers, former chair of the NAACP and widow of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, said, “I could not help but think

about how far we have come to this point. And how proud I am of Mississippi and how proud I am that these two buildings are going to show the world—not only the state of Mississippi, not only other states, but the world—who we are, where we have been, where we are today and where we are going.”

The two museums, which will share public spaces and classrooms, are scheduled to open in the fall of 2017 as the centerpiece of the state’s bicentennial celebrations.

The legislation approving construction of the museums required MDAH to match private donations with public funding for exhibits. MDAH Trustee

Reuben Anderson announced that \$5 million in private money—half the \$10 million goal for private exhibit contributions—has been raised from two hundred donors, including major gifts by Entergy, Donna K. and James L. Barksdale, Trustmark, and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. The fundraising campaign will continue.

Thrash Commercial Contractors, Inc. in Brandon was awarded the construction contract for the 2 Mississippi Museums. Work is expected to begin in December. The eighteen-month construction of the building shell will impact visitors at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. When

construction begins, the Winter Building parking lot will be closed. Eleven spaces behind the War Memorial will be designated for patrons and marked Winter Building Visitor. Street parking will still be available.

In addition to thousands of artifacts, the museums will showcase the heroic stories of Mississippians—both the famous and the unsung. The Museum of Mississippi History will explore the sweep of the state’s history from earliest times to the present.

The adjacent Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the nation’s first state-operated civil rights museum, will examine

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Katrina Grant Program Winding Down

More than 260 Properties Saved Across Gulf Coast

Eight years after Hurricane Katrina decimated the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has disbursed the last of a \$26 million federal appropriation to rehabilitate historic buildings and sites and is wrapping up the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation.

“In the aftermath of the storm, many people desperately needed and wanted to save their historic buildings, and this grant program provided a way for them to do that,” said Kenneth H. P’Pool, who oversaw the program. “Even those who didn’t participate in the program told us that they were encouraged by the sight of historic buildings in their neighborhoods being restored instead of demolished.”

From small cottages to great mansions to prominent public buildings, the grant program aided the restoration of more than 260 historic properties over the seven years it was in place. Homeowners in the Turkey Creek Community of Gulfport

received aid to rehabilitate shotgun cottages, vernacular Victorian houses, and Craftsman bungalows. Founded by newly emancipated African Americans in 1866, the community was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

The grant-funded projects at Beauvoir included restoration work on both the main house and the property’s historic landscape. The centuries-old live oak trees that survived the storm were nurtured to prevent further losses to disease, and, following extensive research, Varina Howell Davis’s two-acre garden was restored, as was a portion of Jefferson Davis’s citrus grove. The Beauvoir estate is a National Historic Landmark.

The Randolph School in Pass Christian and the Art Deco Old Pascagoula High School in Pascagoula are two of the many prominent public buildings that received funding for rehabilitation through the program.

The grant program’s work was assisted by the contributions of many partners, including the City of Biloxi, who provided the historic Glenn Swetman House for use by MDAH as its headquarters on the Gulf Coast. Although the branch office will close its doors at the end of November, the staff is proud of



This circa 1915-1920 cottage in the Turkey Creek Historic District was owned by the Rev. Calvin H. Jackson, Sr., until his death earlier this year. After serving in the navy during WWII, Jackson studied carpentry at Tuskegee Institute and returned to Gulfport to work with his uncle Tom White, who built several houses in the area, including this one.

the role they played in saving an important part of Mississippi’s heritage that otherwise would likely have been lost.

“We helped communities preserve their unique Gulf Coast culture,” said P’Pool.

GROUNDBREAKING, continued from p. 1

the struggle for civil rights and equality that changed the course of the state and the nation.

The themes of both museums will resonate nationally in coming months as the country commemorates anniversaries of key events in the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil War.

A shovel line of more than fifty people including state officials, civil rights activists, Choctaw school children in traditional attire, and others broke ground at the site of the museum complex. The groundbreaking included a daylong festival celebrating Mississippi culture, music, and food. School

children from throughout Mississippi participated in activities and games.

Both museums will feature state-of-the-art audio and visual experiences. Visitors entering a jail cell theater in the Civil Rights Museum will hear stories of activists jailed during the movement. In another gallery they will experience the consequences of “crossing the line” in Jim Crow Mississippi.

Visitors to the Museum of Mississippi History will explore the natural disasters that devastated the state, from the 1927 Flood to Hurricane Katrina. Music lovers can revel in the sounds of B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Elvis Presley, Jimmy Buffett, and

Leontyne Price.

Artifacts to be exhibited in the museums include an ornate garnet necklace donated by descendants of a Union soldier who stole the jewels from a Jackson home during the Civil War; a miniature chess set molded from bread given to Freedom Riders at Parchman prison; a rare 1818 20-star U.S. flag; and an original Bowie knife.

MDAH curators are appealing to the public for additional artifacts and documents for the museums, particularly from the civil rights era.

Keep up with developments at www.2missippimuseums.com.

Christmas by Candlelight Tour Dec. 6

Traditional holiday decorations will be on display at the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Old Capitol Museum, Mississippi State Capitol, Eudora Welty House and Garden, and William F. Winter Archives and History Building on Friday, December 6 for the eighteenth annual Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. Free transportation will take visitors from site to site, with parking available at the Old Capitol, state capitol, and Winter Building. The tour begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until 8:30 p.m.

This year a giant Christmas tree returns to the Old Capitol, Jackson's oldest building, along with many of the ornaments visitors may remember from years past. Garlands will hang around the rotunda railing on the second floor and the stairwells, and wreaths will decorate the exterior of the building. Enjoy cookies and punch while listening to musical groups from across the city. Performing will be the East Rankin Choir, 4:40-5:10; the Mississippi Boychoir, 5:30-6; the Mississippi Girlchoir, 6:20-6:50; and Madison Ridgeland Young Singers, 7:10-7:40. The Hinds Community College



Brass Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. and between choir sets. Old Capitol holiday ornaments and gift bags will be for sale at the new Candlelight Marketplace.

At the Winter Building, the mid-century aluminum Christmas tree will be on display along with examples of Antebellum, Victorian, and Depression-era trees. The ever-popular model town of Possum Ridge and its trains will be on display on the first floor of the Winter Building. Characters from *A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge* will read from the children's book

inspired by the train exhibit.

The grand Mississippi State Capitol will be decorated with Mississippi-grown Leyland Cypress Christmas trees, garlands, and poinsettias, and the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, and Speaker of the House will be open to visitors. Musical entertainment will be the Christmas Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Bob Davidson, director of Senate Legislative Services, and refreshments will be served.

The circa-1841 Mississippi Governor's Mansion will be decorated with seasonal green-

ery. The East Garden will be open, and a very special guest from the North Pole will greet visitors in the garden's gazebo. Light refreshments will be served.

The Eudora Welty House and Garden will feature original holiday greeting cards and decorations, as well as enlarged photos of the Welty family during the holiday season. This year's collection of holiday cards includes a unique long, hand-painted greeting by artist Agnes Simms, whose modernist painting *Rome* hangs above the living room mantel. Cards from President and Mrs. Clinton, author Kathryn Anne Porter, poet laureate William Jay Smith, and others will be on display.

Guests may tour the first floor of the House and stop by the Visitors Center for hot cider and homemade white fruitcake baked by volunteers using Miss Welty's recipe, while listening to classical, jazz, and Brazilian music performed by guitarist Leonnardo Moreira and cellist Marcelo Vieira.

For more information about the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour call 601-576-6800.

Old Capitol to Host Smithsonian Youth Summit

On Wednesday, February 5, the Old Capitol Museum will host students from across the country in a virtual National Youth Summit on Freedom Summer and civic engagement. Civil rights activists and Freedom School interns will participate in a panel discussion about the 1964 youth-led effort to end the political disfranchisement of African Americans and race-based inequity in education in Mississippi.

Speakers will include Robert Moses, director of the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project and founder of the Algebra Project; Marshall Ganz, civil rights activist and senior lecturer in public policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Michelle Deardorff, professor

and department head of political science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and Hollis Watkins, Mississippi native and civil rights activist.

A live video link from the Old Capitol to eleven regional Summit sites will enable young people from California to Pennsylvania to participate via webcast, submitting questions for the panel through email, Facebook, and Twitter.

The summit is being organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Affiliations, a partnership

with more than 160 affiliate museums and educational and cultural institutions across the country. The Old Capitol Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

"We are honored to have an event like this at the Old Capitol," said director Clay Williams. "Our museum examines the role of government in the lives of Mississippians. It will be a powerful thing for students today to see the change that

was effected in Mississippi and the United States by the participants of Freedom Summer."



Smithsonian

Rare U.S. Flag to Be Conserved

A \$12,500 grant from the Billups-Garth Foundation will help fund the conservation and exhibition of one of the department's rarest and most significant artifacts. The nearly two-hundred-year-old 20-Star United States flag will be transported to specialists in West Virginia in January to undergo cleaning and stabilization that could take up to eighteen months.

The historic banner has been adopted as a symbol of Mississippi's bicentennial celebration in 2017. Acquired by the department in 2001, the gauze flag's fragile condition was evidence that it had flown aboard a ship. Its frayed edges and numerous holes throughout the blue canton and red-and-white striped field prevented its public display.

Textile Preservation Associates, experts who recently conserved the 11th Mississippi Cavalry Civil War flag for MDAH, will humidify the six-by-ten-foot banner to release dirt from the fabric and meticulously vacuum it. Finally, the flag will be flattened and mounted into a frame to protect the nearly two-century-old textile and allow it to be displayed upright.

Once the work is completed, the restored flag will travel the state in anticipation of Mississippi's bicentennial celebration and the opening of the Museum of Mississippi History, where it will be on permanent display.

"The flag is in such fragile condition that every time it is touched pieces break away," said MDAH curator of collections Cindy Gardner. "We are grateful to the Billups-Garth Foundation and our other donors for helping preserve this wonderful piece."

There have been twenty-seven official flags of the United States of America. The 20-star flag used after Mississippi became



In this photograph from 2001, then-director of the Department of Archives and History Elbert R. Hilliard discusses the recently acquired 20-Star United States flag with Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History director Donna Bailey Dye.

a state was the third. The first flag featured thirteen stripes and thirteen stars in a circle to represent the original colonies. It flew for eighteen years, from 1777 until 1795. When Vermont and Kentucky became states, two stars and two stripes were added to the flag. This design was the first to be known as the "Star Spangled Banner," and it flew from 1795 until 1818. With the inclusion of

Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi to the Union, five stars were added to the flag, but the number of stripes was dropped to thirteen, where it has stayed ever since. The 20-star flag became the official United States Flag on April 13, 1818, and remained such until July 4, 1819, when a 21-star flag was introduced to mark the statehood of Illinois.

Mississippi Museums Focus of Conference

The 2014 Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) annual meeting will be held March 6-8 in Jackson. The meeting will highlight the state's art, history, and music museums, its driving trails, and local history projects.

"We are excited to bring together representatives from cultural institutions in every

part of the state," said 2013-14 MHS president Charles Sullivan. "This conference will offer something of interest to every Mississippian."

On Friday, March 6, Bertram Hayes-Davis, executive director, Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum, will deliver the banquet address.

The 2 Mississippi Museums will be the topic of the Friday luncheon. 2MM project director Lucy Allen, Museum of Mississippi History project manager Cindy Gardner, and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum project manager Jacqueline Dace will discuss the museums and their exhibits and artifacts.

The winner of the

McLemore Prize for best Mississippi history book will be announced at the Friday banquet. The Bettersworth Award for outstanding history teacher and other awards will be presented Saturday, March 8, at the awards luncheon.

For more information call 601-576-6849 or email mhs@mdah.state.ms.us.

Welty Garden to Mark Decade of Operation

Join the Eudora Welty House and Garden on Saturday, March 29, for a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the opening of the garden. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. visitors may tour the grounds, which will feature new and updated interpretive signs. A plant sale featuring camellias and other heirloom plant varieties grown in the Welty Garden will begin at 10 a.m. and last until the plants are sold out.

“We are excited about the new signage being developed for the grounds,” said Bridget Edwards, director, Eudora Welty House and Garden. “This will be an important addition that will strengthen a visitor’s understanding of how the garden helped shape and inspire Eudora Welty’s life and work.”

On Thursday, March 27, at 11 a.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Art the Eudora Welty Foundation will sponsor a luncheon

to celebrate the anniversary. Mississippi-born writer and humorist Julia Reed will be the guest speaker. For tickets and more details, call 601-353-7762.

Opened in April 2004, the restored garden reflects the forty years of collaboration between Eudora Welty and her mother, Chestina, who designed the garden in 1925. Welty helped her mother lay out and plant the garden before leaving that same year for college. She returned home in 1931 following her father’s death and worked side by side with her mother in the garden until her mother’s death in 1966.

Garden restoration consultant Susan

Haltom used extensive documentation by Welty and her mother to return the garden to its original state. Chestina Welty kept garden diaries noting the layout of beds and bloom schedules, while Eudora took photographs of the garden from the roof of the family’s house.

Tours of the Eudora Welty House are by reservation at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and begin at the Education and Visitors Center next door to the museum. The center features permanent as well as special exhibits about Welty and is open free of charge from

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Author Julia Reed will speak at a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Welty garden.

MDAH Evers Exhibit Closes, to Travel State

Thousands of people from as far away as Australia, Japan, and Scotland viewed the exhibit “*This Is Home*”: Medgar Evers, Mississippi, and the Movement during its six-month run at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson this year.

“*This Is Home*” examined the life and death of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, who served as Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP from 1954 until his assassination in the driveway of his home on June 11, 1963. The original exhibit created by MDAH staff is available at no cost to educational and cultural institutions across the state through the department’s Traveling Exhibits program.

The Evers exhibit will be displayed in February at the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg, where it will be part of the museum’s grand reopening celebration. Following its run in Hatties-

burg, the exhibit will travel to the J.D. Boyd Library at Alcorn State University and the Medgar Evers Library in Jackson.

MDAH offers seven additional traveling exhibits focusing on topics as varied as Hernando de Soto’s sixteenth century exploration of Mississippi, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty’s writings and photographs, and truck farming in Copiah County. For more information or to book an exhibit call 601-576-6997.

For the last three summers MDAH has mounted original exhibits commemorating significant anniversaries of events from the Civil War and civil rights movement. On June 1, 2014, the department will debut “*Stand Up!*”: Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, which will examine the courage, violence, and promise of the “long, hot summer.” It will run through October and then travel the state.

MISSISSIPPI
TERRITORY

Mississippi Statehood Day

Statehood Day
December 10, noon
Old Capitol Museum

Mississippi statehood
bicentennial celebration

Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves
Speaker Philip Gunn

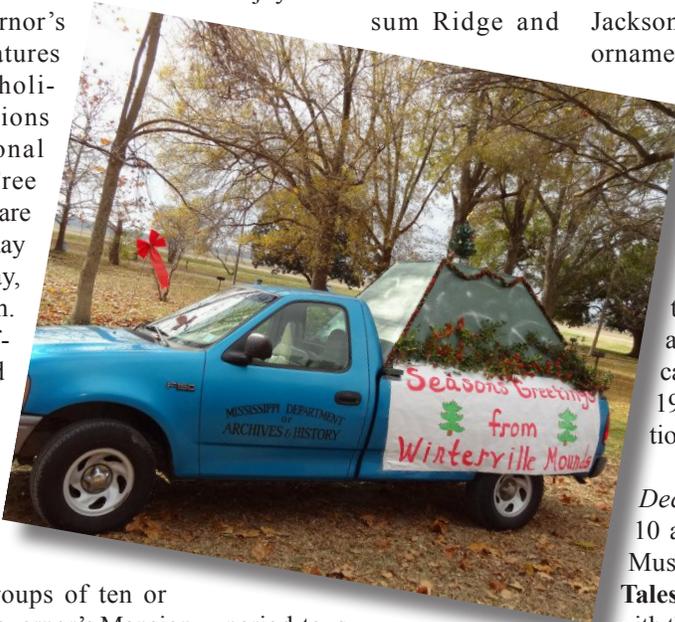
Reception to follow.

State Street at Capitol • 601-576-6920

MDAH Holiday Calendar of Events

December 3–20 at the Governor’s Mansion. **Christmas at the Governor’s Mansion.**

The historic section of the Governor’s Mansion features traditional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. (Closed weekends and Mondays.) Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more. The Governor’s Mansion will be closed for tours from Tuesday, December 24, through Friday, January 3, 2014. The Mansion may be closed at other times during the month for official state functions. To confirm the availability of the Mansion for tours or for information, call 601-359-6421.



December 3–20 at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. **Winter Holidays.**

Enjoy the model trains of Possum Ridge and

period toys and Christmas trees. Exhibit open Mondays, noon–4:30; Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Reservations required for groups of ten or more. For more information or to make a reservation, call 601-576-6800.

December 3–31 at the Old Capitol Museum, Jackson. **Years of Yuletide: Christmas in Jackson.**

From the 1950 Jackson Christmas Parade to ornaments and toys, this exhibit offer a glimpse of how Jackson has celebrated, and still celebrates, one of its most beloved holidays. Included in the exhibit are photos from the 1940s to the present and artifacts including a camera given as a gift in 1917. For more information call 601-576-6800.

December 5, 12, and 19, 10 a.m. at the Old Capitol Museum, Jackson. **Telling Tales.** Join us for story time with the Cat in the Hat on December 5; Stephanie Maxwell of WAPT on December 12, and First Lady Deborah Bryant on December 19. For more information call 601-576-6920 or email info@oldcapitolmuseum.com.

December 6, 13, and 14, noon

at the Old Capitol Museum. **Sounds of the Season.** Enjoy local choirs in the Old Capitol Museum’s rotunda on selected Fridays and Saturdays. For more information call 601-576-6920 or email info@oldcapitolmuseum.com.

December 10–31 at Historic Jefferson College, Washington. **Celebration of Christmas Trees.** Local school groups and home educators adopt Christmas trees and decorate them for class projects. For more information call 601-442-2901 or email info@historicjeffersoncollege.com.

December 14, 2 p.m. at Winterville Mounds, Greenville. **Holiday Open House.** There will be singing, food, punch, good cheer, and Christmas presents for the children. The public is encouraged to donate Christmas lights and/or outdoor extension cords, which can be dropped off at any time. Free. For more information call 662-334-4684 or email info@wintervillemounds.com.

Black Codes to Brown v. Board at OCM in Feb.

Using the tumultuous history of the building as a starting point, the Old Capitol Museum will present *The Black Codes to Brown vs. Board of Education* on Thursday, February 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Authors Jere Nash and Michael Williams will discuss the struggle for civil and voting rights from 1865 to 1955 in the House Chamber where legislators enacted the 1865 Black Codes to limit the rights of the newly freed slaves, where those same newly freed slaves served in the Legislature during Reconstruction, and where the 1890 Constitution was adopted to disfranchise black Mississippians.

“One can’t fully understand the modern civil rights movement without a firm grasp of the issues and events that occurred right after the Civil War to the 1950s,” said Clay Williams, director, Old Capitol Museum.

“I hope this will become an annual event where we can examine key issues like the Black Codes, Constitution of 1890, and Jim Crow that led to the need for the Civil Rights Movement.”

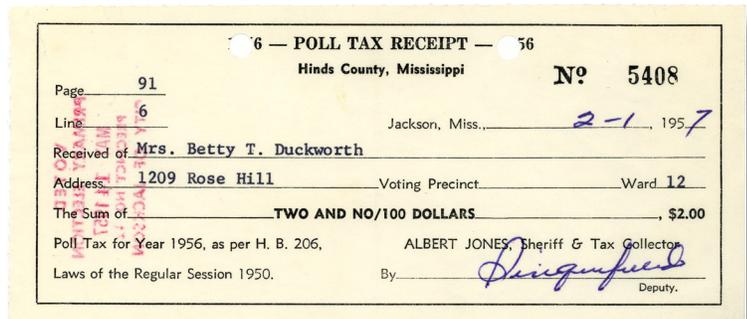
Jere Nash is a political consultant and has served as director of Common Cause in Mississippi, executive director of Mississippi First, deputy state auditor, and director of policy and chief of staff for former Gov. Ray Mabus.

Michael Williams is the dean of social

sciences at Tougaloo College and an adjunct professor of history and African American studies at Mississippi State University. He

is also the author of the biography *Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr*.

For more information about the program, call 601-576-6920.



Mystery Theater at Old Capitol

The Old Capitol is many things to many people: Mississippi's most historic space, an architectural gem, and one of the state's premier history museums. But after hours on January 23, 2014, the building will transform into a crime scene—complete with an outrageous heist, red herrings, and screwball fun—with *Mystery Happened Here: An Evening of Intrigue at the Old Capitol*.

The event will feature an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres, the opportunity to view one-night-only "artifacts," and a program by our dinner theater performers, The Detectives. Tickets are \$40 apiece at 601-576-6920 or by email at info@oldcapitolmuseum.com.

Native American Days



Members of the Southern Pines Drum Group from Choctaw, Mississippi, participated in this year's Native American Days festival at Winterville Mounds, which drew more than 2,000 people.

Conference Examines Civil Rights Movement

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will mark a quarter century of arts programming with its 2014 conference *60 Years and Counting: Voices of the Civil Rights Movement*. The theme will be explored in lectures, films, concerts, and tours February 20-23 at the Natchez Convention Center and other local sites.

"The conference will take place sixty years after *Brown v. Board of Education* made segregation in public schools unconstitutional and fifty years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination in public places," said NLCC founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith. "These decisions caused sweeping changes that continue to permeate our country's daily life."

Mississippi Civil Rights Museum project director Jacqueline Dace will present "The Development of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum: The Story Will Be Told" on Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez.

University of Mississippi professor emeritus David G. Sansing will deliver the keynote address "Fulfilling the Dream" at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 21. Lectures, film screenings, and tours will follow.

Other presentations include:

- "Duncan M. Gray Jr. at Ole Miss, 1962," by Araminta Stone Johnston, author of *And One Was a Priest: The Life and Times of Duncan M. Gray Jr.*, with remarks by Duncan M. Gray Jr., retired Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, and Duncan M.

Gray III, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi

- "The Importance of the Humanities," by United States Senator Thad Cochran

- "Southern Literature: A Powerful Force," by Clifton Taulbert, author of *The Invitation*

- *Why Not Let the Past Rest?: The Necessity of Confronting the Darkest Chapters of America's Past*, by Stanley Nelson, Jerry Mitchell, and Greg Iles

- "The Help—Fact, Fiction and Appeal" by Gene Dattel, author of *Cotton and Race in the Making of America*

- "The Storied South and the Civil Rights Movement," by William Ferris, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- "Nothing Beats a Made-Up Mind: How Optimism and Education Changed My Life," by David L. Jordan, author of

From the Mississippi Cotton Fields to the State Senate: The Journey of David L. Jordan

- "Overcoming: The Role of Tougaloo College during the Civil Rights Movement," by Ed King, former chaplain at Tougaloo College

Information and tickets are available at 866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289. A complete program listing can be found online at www.colin.edu/nlcc.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Adams County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Natchez, and is made possible through a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.

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Mississippi History Newsletter
Chris Goodwin, editor

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H.T. Holmes, director

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JAN-MAR HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

Programs in the History Is Lunch lecture series are held at noon on Wednesdays in the Old Capitol Museum unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge. For information call 601-576-6998 or email cwilson@mdah.state.ms.us.

January 15—Author and historian Mary Carol Miller will discuss the restoration of Cotesworth, the home of J.Z. George, United States Senator from Mississippi, 1881–1897.

January 22—Author and civil rights activist Rosalie Turner will discuss her book *March with Me*.

January 29—Mississippi writer John Pritchard will discuss and sign copies of his new novel, *Sailing to Alluvium*.

February 5—Author Grace Sweet will discuss and sign copies of her book *Church Street: The Sugar Hill of Jackson, Mississippi*. **This program will be held at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.**

February 12—Freedom Summer participant Jim Kates will discuss his book *Letters from Mississippi*, which documents the experiences of some visiting civil rights workers.

February 19—Civil War historian Jim Woodrick will discuss the Battle of Okolona.

February 26—Author Meredith Magee will discuss her book about her uncle, *James Meredith: Warrior, and the America that Created Him*.

March 5—Historian Timothy B. Smith, author of the forthcoming *The Mississippi Secession Convention: Delegates and Deliverations in Politics and War, 1861-1865*, will discuss Mississippi's Secession Convention.

March 12—Old Capitol Museum historian Mike Stoll and Old Capitol Museum director Clay Williams will present *Old Capitol: The Famous and the Infamous*.

March 19—Millsaps assistant professor of history Stephanie Rolph will discuss civil and voting rights during the Old Capitol's history.

March 26—MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen will discuss the museum history of the Old Capitol.

The MDAH Historic Preservation Division is developing priorities and objectives for Fiscal Year 2015 Historic Preservation Fund-assisted programs. Suggestions and comments from the public in regard to proposed priorities, objectives, and projects are invited. Annual grants-in-aid are made available through a competitive application process to Certified Local Governments. Historic preservation projects benefiting minorities and the disabled are encouraged. Please address comments or questions to Jim Woodrick, director, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.