

## News

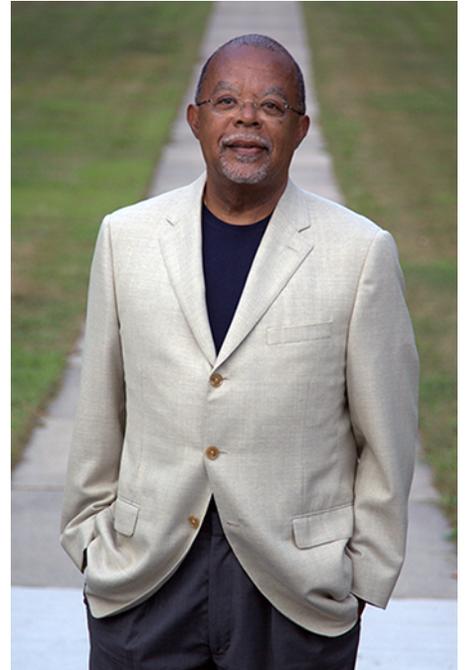
### **Henry Louis Gates Jr. as Evers Lecture Speaker**

Henry Louis Gates Jr., one of America's most preeminent scholars of African American studies and an Emmy Award–winning filmmaker, was the 2015 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series speaker on October 13 at historic Galloway Church.

“Henry Louis Gates is one of America's most distinguished historians and has an extraordinary reach thanks to his leadership at the Hutchins Center at Harvard University, and his books, films, and TV series,” said Reuben Anderson, former Mississippi Supreme Court justice and member of the MDAH Board of Trustees. “We are honored and excited to welcome him to Mississippi to deliver the 2015 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture.”

The series is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In 2014 the Kellogg Foundation awarded \$2.3 million to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to support programming for the 2 Mississippi Museums project and fund a partnership between MDAH, the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

“This generous funding from the Kellogg Foundation has allowed us to launch exciting new initiatives leading up to the opening of the 2 Museums—and to expand and enhance such signature MDAH programs as the Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series,” said MDAH director Katie Blount



### **Constitution, Flag in Traveling Exhibit**

On December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the nation's twentieth state. In 2016 a new traveling exhibit featuring the first US flag to include the new state and Mississippi's first constitution will tour the state to celebrate the approaching bicentennial.

“Thousands of Mississippians will see these treasures in their courthouses, libraries, and other community spaces,” said Mississippi Department of Archives and History director Katie Blount. “We are excited to partner with local groups in commemorating two hundred years of statehood by taking these incredibly significant artifacts directly to the people.” The state of Mississippi was founded upon the 1817 constitution. “It’s amazing to look at the actual paper with the signatures of those early Mississippians,” said MDAH Archives and Records Services director Julia Marks Young. “There is no substitute for the firsthand connection to history that original documents like this can give us.”

The rare 20-star flag is one of only a handful known to exist. It was acquired by MDAH in 2001 after having been discovered in an antique shop in Massachusetts. An extensive conservation was completed earlier this year on the large banner, funded by a grant from the Billups-Garth Foundation in Columbus and private donations. The flag has been mounted inside a frame to protect it and allow it to be displayed upright. “There were only two United States flags used before this one,”



said MDAH director of collections Cindy Gardner. “The first had thirteen stars and stripes to represent the original colonies and flew from 1777 until 1795. The second flag added two stars and two stripes and flew until ours became the official United States Flag on April 13, 1818.”

### **Donation Strengthens Gulf Coast Photo Holdings**

Long-time postcard collector and Biloxi native Randy Randazzo has donated more than 5,000 postcards and negatives of south Mississippi to the Mississippi Department of Archives and history. This new collection provides a rare look at life at the turn of the twentieth century through 1960 with 4,322 color and black and white postcards of shipbuilding, hotels, hurricanes, agriculture, seafood factories, Camp Shelby, Keesler Air Base, and Ship Island. Back Bay factories, regatta races, the annual blessing of the fleet, and other moments largely lost to time are the subject of the 751 negatives from 1920s and 30s Biloxi and Gulf Coast.

“For many years we had heard about this premier collection of postcards documenting Mississippi’s Gulf Coast,” said MDAH Archives and Records Services director Julia Marks Young. “The Randazzo Collection is a very generous donation and will be a superb addition to



the department's holdings." A ninth generation Biloxian, Randazzo credits his interest in history and collecting to an uncle. After an army career, graduate school in Texas, and a move to Atlanta, he began collecting postcards in 1992 when he came across a set of antique postcards of Biloxi and Pass Christian while Christmas shopping. "I started seriously collecting in 1993 and for many years would arrange my travel schedule around postcard conventions," said Randazzo. "After twenty years and over 4,000 cards it was hard to find something I didn't have, and

I was ready to donate them. I was very impressed with the level of professionalism at the state archives and that they will be put online so people can access them but the cards will be safe from hurricanes."

The collection is currently being cataloged and will then be scanned. When complete, the Randazzo Collection will join the forty collections currently featured in MDAH's Digital Archives.

### **BankPlus Gives \$300,000 to 2MM Project**

BankPlus has made a \$300,000 donation to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. The gift will sponsor the front porch of the 2 Mississippi Museums.

"As a bank that was founded in the Mississippi Delta, we felt the Museum Porch to be the perfect naming opportunity for BankPlus," said Bill Ray, President and CEO, BankPlus. "In Mississippi, the front porch has always been a place where families gather, people entertain friends and you enjoy life. We hope the BankPlus Porch carries on that tradition for the 2 Mississippi Museums project." Founded in 1909 as Citizens Bank & Trust Company in Belzoni, Mississippi, today BankPlus has more than sixty offices in thirty-four Mississippi communities. "We are very grateful for BankPlus' generous support of the 2 Mississippi Museums project and we are excited about the potential uses for the BankPlus Porch," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "It will be a wonderful place for special events and programs, and we expect it to be a popular spot in the museums complex."

The Legislature has invested \$74 million to date in funds for construction and exhibits for the 2 Mississippi Museums. The Legislature required a dollar-for-dollar match for the exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History has raised \$13.4 million so far toward the \$17 million campaign goal. Construction of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum began in December 2013. The first phase, including the building exterior and public parking garage, was completed in fall 2015. Phase two, interior construction, is underway and will last 16 months.

### **AT&T Makes Donation to 2MM Project**

AT&T has made a \$250,000 contribution to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the 2 Mississippi Museums project. The gift will sponsor the Black Empowerment Gallery in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

“We are excited about the opportunity to support the 2 Mississippi Museums project and honor Judge Reuben Anderson with the naming of the Black Empowerment Gallery,” said Mayo Flynt, president of AT&T Mississippi. “It is a fitting tribute to Judge Anderson, a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, a trailblazer of many firsts in Mississippi, and a living example of this gallery’s story. As we remember the sacrifices of those who worked for racial progress in Mississippi, it is also important to celebrate their hard won achievements and encourage the message of racial reconciliation in each succeeding generation.”

“Tougaloo College is pleased to support the 2 Mississippi Museums project as well as honor one of our distinguished and most celebrated alumni, Judge Reuben Anderson, with the naming of the Black Empowerment Gallery,” said Tougaloo College president Dr. Beverly Hogan. “The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History are expected to generate over \$17 million in annual economic impact but will have an even greater impact on education in Mississippi,” said MDAH board of trustees president Kane Ditto. “Our success is assured thanks to dedicated corporate leaders such as AT&T. We are especially grateful to them for honoring Judge Reuben Anderson, who is not only a hero of the Civil Rights Movement, but also one of the earliest, strongest, and most effective advocates for the 2 Mississippi Museums.”

The Legislature has invested \$90 million to date in funds for construction and exhibits for the 2 Mississippi Museums. The Legislature required a dollar-for-dollar match for the exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History has raised \$15.2 million so far toward the \$17 million campaign goal.

### **Hancock Bank Donates to 2MM Project**

Hancock Bank has made a \$50,000 contribution to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the 2 Mississippi Museums project. The gift will sponsor the “Sitting In” section of the “Tremor in the Iceberg” gallery of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

The gallery documents the escalation of civil rights activities in the early 1960s that led to national and international media attention being focused on Mississippi. In the “Sitting In” section, visitors will learn of the courage, daring, and tactical brilliance of early sit-ins and other protests, which provoked violent responses while shining a bright light on injustice.

“We are grateful for the very generous support from Hancock Bank,” said Foundation for Mississippi History board member William F. Winter. “They have played a historic role in the development of both the Gulf Coast and the state of Mississippi, and it is no surprise they are supporting a project as important as these two museums.”

The presentation was made as part of a public ceremony honoring the civil rights protestors who in 1959, 1960, and 1963 through “wade-ins” challenged racial segregation of the Biloxi Beach. “As a Mississippi-born and -based company, Hancock Bank is proud to support the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum,” said Hancock Holding Company

president and CEO John M. Hairston. “These landmarks will help people appreciate the talent, tradition, struggle, and resilience that are so much a part of our state’s history. Hancock Bank was founded to create opportunities, so we’re especially honored and humbled to earmark this donation to commemorate the Mississippi Coast wade-ins and other public protests and pay tribute to the commitment and sacrifice that led to a new era of equal opportunity across America.”

## Sites

### **Black and Blue Civil War Living History Program at Historic Jefferson College**

The eighth annual Black and Blue Civil War Living History Program was held at Historic Jefferson College October 24. The day-long program commemorated the civil rights gained by the formerly enslaved people during Reconstruction and the culminating struggle of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Movement veteran and Hattiesburg native Dorie Ladner spoke. Ladner came to Natchez in 1964 to organize voter registration drives during Freedom Summer. In 1965 she became the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee’s project director in Natchez. The living history presentation featured portrayals of black Union nurses, sailors, soldiers, cavalymen, and civilians.

In May 1802 Jefferson College became the first institution of higher learning chartered in the Mississippi Territory. The school was placed in the



capital city of Washington, six miles northeast of Natchez, and opened its doors in 1811. With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 enrollment dropped dramatically and the school closed in 1863. By June 1865 a Freedmen’s Bureau school was operating at Jefferson College to educate recently freed slaves. In November of that year, the school was returned to the Jefferson College Board of Trustees and the Freedmen’s Bureau closed.

### **Living History at Old Capitol Museum**

History came to life after hours with the seventh annual Present Meets Past at the Old Capitol Museum on October 29. Guests walked the halls of the historic building and learned about life and politics as living history performers portrayed interesting Mississippians from the past.

“This was a great opportunity for visitors to have fun while learning about important events in Mississippi history— as told by the individuals who experienced them,” said Old Capitol Museum director Lauren Miller.

A World War II scrap collector greeted visitors in the foyer and encourage them to leave their scrap metal and rubber by the wall near the front gate. Ten other historical figures were stationed throughout the building, ready to discuss the events of their times. The performers remained in character all evening; visitors were invited to ask questions and interact with them.

## **Outreach**

### **Teachers Benefit from Summer Teachers School**

Seventeen teachers from eleven counties across the state attended the Mississippi Department of Archives and History’s inaugural Summer Teachers School in June. The week-long workshop was the first of several innovative programs that MDAH is developing for teachers and students, as well as the general public, in preparation for the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History in December 2017.

During the week teachers identified topics ranging from Black Codes and Jim Crow laws to the Great Migration to Freedom Summer and spent more than twenty hours researching and identifying primary source materials in the state archives to create original lesson plans for their classrooms. Finished lessons and resource packets will be posted on the MDAH website for use by teachers across the state. Located in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, the state archives is the repository for an extensive collection of the state’s government documents, bound volumes, maps and drawings, photographs, oral histories, and video and audio tapes.

“We are thrilled to have such a dedicated group of teachers participate in our first Summer Teachers School,” said Stacey Everett, MDAH director of education. “We want to connect the department’s extraordinary collections with the people of Mississippi, and working with educators to develop tools for teaching Mississippi’s complex history is one of the many ways we do that. We’re already looking forward to next summer.”

### **MDAH Creates Evers Scholar Program**

A new program at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will facilitate increased use of the department’s holdings and the publication of original research findings. The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholars Program, a collaboration between MDAH and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, encourages work in the history of civil and human rights at the state archives in Jackson.

A stipend of \$4,000 will be awarded to the Evers Scholar. The funds may be used to cover travel, housing, and other expenses, including costs of research. “The intent is to allow young university faculty and upper-level graduate students to settle in and complete a substantial project,” said Archives and Records Services director Julia Young. “You really need several weeks to take full advantage of the world-class civil rights holdings of MDAH.”

Candidates will submit a CV along with a detailed project description, sample of their work, breakdown of proposed expenses, and references.

### **Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting**

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting March 3–5 in Jackson to honor its award winners and offer presentations on preserving and interpreting Mississippi history from the points of view of representatives of two professions—archivists and historians. Topics included the Civil War and civil rights, twentieth century Mississippi, and research in the digital age. 19.



### **Grants**

#### **Preservation Projects Receive \$3M**

At a special meeting on December 4 the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History awarded more than \$3 million on behalf of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program to twenty-two preservation and restoration projects from across the state. The Community Heritage Preservation Grant program, authorized and funded through the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic properties. Over the life of the program the department has awarded more than \$35 million to 225 projects. "The Legislature has saved hundreds of significant Mississippi properties through this program," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "The Department of Archives and History is grateful for the Legislature's support and pleased to be able to help preserve these local treasures." The grant awards are as follows:

**Auburn House, Natchez, Adams County—\$103,455.** For repair of balconies, columns, gutter system, re-glazing of windows, and new paint.

**Magnolia Hall, Natchez, Adams County—\$209,707.** For restoration of exterior millwork, masonry, stucco, and plaster.

**Mary Ricks Thornton Cultural Center, Kosciusko, Attala County—\$26,400.** For construction of new ADA-compliant restroom and exterior and interior ramps.

**Bolivar County Courthouse, Cleveland, Bolivar County—\$128,000.** For restoration of the terracotta front entrance.

**I.T. Montgomery Home, Mound Bayou, Bolivar County—\$20,000.** For stabilization of the structure.

**J.M. Ewing Administration Building, Wesson, Copiah County—\$100,000.** For roof repair and replacement.

**Millsaps Hotel, Hazlehurst, Copiah County—\$110,160.** For termite treatment, interior stabilization, and exterior masonry restoration.

**Eaton School, Hattiesburg, Forrest County—\$200,000.** For exterior bracing.

**South Forrest Attendance Center Auditorium, Brooklyn, Forrest County—\$217,248.** For roof and classroom remediation, and drainage and exterior work.

**J.Z. George Elementary School, Jackson, Hinds County—\$120,428.** For window restoration.

**LaPointe-Krebs House, Pascagoula, Jackson County—\$150,000.** For roof replacement and chimney repair.

**Lauderdale County Courthouse, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$94,056.** For roof replacement.

**Former Meridian Police Station Headquarters, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$300,000.** For new roofing system.

**Leake County Courthouse, Carthage, Leake County—\$160,000.** For window restoration.

**Elizabeth Cottage, Brookhaven, Lincoln County—\$77,720.** For restoration of second-floor bedrooms, bathroom, and hallway.

**Hugh Craft Cottage, Holly Springs, Marshall County—\$61,000.** For exterior restoration.

**Monroe County Archives and Elections Annex, Aberdeen, Monroe County—\$147,549.** For site work, roof replacement, and interior rehabilitation.

**Marks Rosenwald School, Marks, Quitman County—\$260,000.** For reconstruction of the masonry, foundation, and roof frame, and new floors and roof.

**Senatobia High School, Senatobia, Tate County—\$288,500.** For restoration of masonry and doors and new roof.

**Tunica County Courthouse, Tunica, Tunica County—\$67,710.** For HVAC system boiler.

**Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, Vicksburg, Warren County—\$145,200.** For roof replacement.

**Oakes African American Cultural Center, Yazoo City, Yazoo County—\$125,000.** For roof replacement and exterior repairs.

### **Nearly \$75K in Preservation Grants Awarded**

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History awarded grants totaling more than \$74,000 to twelve preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state. "We are delighted to be able to assist local communities through the CLG grant program," said MDAH Historic Preservation division director Jim Woodrick.

“These projects mean so much to the citizens of our Certified Local Government communities and go a long way toward promoting historic preservation at the local level.” The 2016 CLG grants are as follows:

**Aberdeen, \$2,500**, to design guidelines for Aberdeen local historic districts.

**Aberdeen, \$1,900**, to complete a historic resources survey and a National Register district nomination for Mattubba Street from Commerce Street to Highway 45.

**Biloxi, \$1,750**, to complete a historic resources survey of approximately twenty-two African American historic resources in East Biloxi.

**Biloxi, \$3,500**, to develop a comprehensive professional assessment of Biloxi’s Saenger Theatre to identify and plan a multi-phased exterior and interior rehabilitation with cost projections.

**Booneville, \$1,750**, to complete a historic resources resurvey of approximately fifty-five structures originally surveyed, nominated, and placed on the National Register as the Downtown Booneville District in 1998.

**Como, \$10,000**, to rehabilitate Como City Hall windows and doors to match original type and materials.

**Jackson, \$10,000**, to rehabilitate windows at Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center.

**Jackson, \$7,789.84**, to complete a historic resources survey and National Register nomination of the Mount Olive Cemetery and to restore the Jim Hill and Ida Revels Redmond statue in the cemetery.

**Leland, \$11,600**, to purchase and install six historically accurate lamp posts for Leland Main Street as part of phase two of the Main Street Bridge rehabilitation project.

**Natchez, \$8,617.76**, to rehabilitate the water-damaged c. 1926 Triangle Service Station for use as an African American history visitor center.

**Starkville, \$5,000**, to complete a historic resources survey and National Register nomination for the mid-twentieth century residential neighborhood Oktibbeha Gardens.

**Tupelo, \$10,000**, to rehabilitate the exterior of the Spain House, including removal of vinyl siding and repair of exterior wood. The board awarded the grants at its regular quarterly meeting on April 29.

### **Volunteers**

During 2016, MDAH volunteers served a total of 18,746.05 hours. The labor value of this service is \$441,656.94 based upon Independent Sector’s current value placed on a volunteer

hour. Independent Sector's most current value placed on a volunteer hour is \$23.56.<sup>1</sup> There were 268 individual volunteers serving MDAH in 2016, many of the volunteers served in multiple placements. Also, eleven service groups that have 269 individuals served within the groups (e.g. Reenactment groups, dancing group, gardeners, music groups) served MDAH in 2016.

**Volunteers served within all four of the current divisions of the agency:**

<b>Administration:</b>	<b>2,137.40 hours</b>
<b>Archives and Records Services:</b>	<b>1,264.25 hours</b>
<b>Historic Preservation:</b>	<b>5,439.25 hours</b>
<b>Museum:</b>	<b>9,905.15 hours</b>

Volunteers continue to serve vital roles at MDAH, furthering the mission and enhancing the work of the department. MDAH volunteers served over 18,700 hours in calendar year 2016. A total of 268 individual volunteers and 11 service group volunteers served within every division. Volunteers serving between 100 and 2,000 hours received Awards of Merit from Governor Phil Bryant. Five volunteers received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award (500+ hours for individuals and 1,000+ hours for groups).

**Additional Statistics**

**Archives and Records Services Division**

Onsite patrons	5,006
Offsite inquiries answered	11,389
Attendees at public programs	2,120
Items digitized	10,350
Electronic assets processed (gigabytes)	56,388

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Sector is the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good. Their nonpartisan coalition's networks collectively represent tens of thousands of organizations and individuals locally, nationally, and globally. To learn more about Independent Sector, please visit: [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org).

## **Museum Division**

### **Visitation numbers by site**

Eudora Welty House & Garden	5,576
Governor's Mansion	9,220
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians	25,232
Historic Jefferson College	11,143
Manship House Museum	1,217
Old Capitol Museum	22,476
Winterville Mounds	13,898