

News

Grant, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights (2/5/19)



On Tuesday, February 26, former Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Williams presented “Ulysses S. Grant, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights” at the Old Capitol Museum.

“For many Americans, Reconstruction is remembered as a period of racial anarchy, political failure, and the ‘humiliation’ of the defeated South,” said Williams. “Reconstruction should not be seen as bad policy doomed by corruption and incompetence but as a profoundly forward-looking program that was subverted by violence and an inept administration.”

Williams is the longtime president of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and was instrumental in the creation of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University. In 2017, Williams and his wife Virginia donated to the library their collection of documents, books, artifacts, paintings, statuary, and ephemera related to the life of Abraham Lincoln.

“Grant was running a race against time—not only in regard to white Southerners who had been displaced from power, but also the flash flood of his cronies whom he had trusted,” said Williams. “Yet Grant did yeoman’s service to Lincoln’s dream in suggesting justice in an open society.”

The program was organized in association with the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University and co-sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Seven Properties Added to National Register (2/22/19)



The Shaw Homestead in Pearl River County.

A multi-family antebellum slave dwelling in Natchez, an African American school and church, two residences, a farm, and a bus station have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On the recommendation of the Mississippi National Register Review Board, the United States Department of the Interior approved the addition of Concord Quarters, Adams County; Carver Central High School, Covington County; Jefferson Chapel A.M.E. Church and Cemetery, Jefferson County; Shaw Homestead, Pearl River County; Georgianna, Sharkey County; Dr. Tandy and Sarah Harrison House, Tallahatchie County; and Tri-State Motor Coach Station, Warren County. A boundary increase of Spengler's Corner Historic District in Hinds County was also approved.

The National Register of Historic Places was established by Congress in 1966 to help identify and protect historically significant properties. National Register properties enrich our understanding of local, state, and national history by representing significant events and developments, the contributions of notable people, and important types of buildings and architectural styles. National Register listing can also help preserve these important properties through tax benefits, grant assistance, and protection from demolition or development.

“Spirits of the Passage” Explores Slave Trade (1/23/19)

Spirits of the Passage: The Story of the Transatlantic Slave Trade—a traveling exhibit of the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum—was on display in the FedEx and Medgar and Myrlie Evers Exhibition Halls at the Two Mississippi Museums.

Spirits of the Passage explores the forced migration of millions of Africans through the wreckage of the *Henrietta Marie*, an English slave ship that capsized off the coast of Florida in 1700. Along with more than 125 rarely seen artifacts from West Africa, Europe, and the Americas, the exhibit includes a replica of the once-crowded hull of the *Henrietta Marie*. Spirits of the Passage takes the story of the slave trade through Emancipation and into the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Built in France as a privateer, the *Henrietta Marie* was captured by England during a military skirmish and repurposed as a merchant slaver. The ship made two voyages across the Atlantic Ocean, first for Barbados where it arrived on July 9, 1698, with 250 Africans aboard. The ship sank heading home from Jamaica in 1700.

The *Henrietta Marie* was rediscovered by Mel Fisher and his team of divers in 1972. During a series of excavations in the 1980s and 1990s, marine archaeologists found pewter objects, silverware, and other personal items. The wreck also contained shackles, beads, tusks, and a large bell—evidence of its use as a slave ship. Artifacts found during the excavations are the basis of the Spirits of the Passage exhibit.

This exhibit was made possible with the support of StateStreet Group, LLC and Visit Jackson.

Guyton, Hardy Portraits to be Unveiled (11/28/18)



The portraits of two giants of Mississippi medicine were presented for dedication into the Hall of Fame of the State of Mississippi on Tuesday, December 11. In the historic House of Representatives Chamber of the Old Capitol Museum, paintings of Dr. Arthur C. Guyton and Dr. James D. Hardy were unveiled in a public ceremony.

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor and dean of the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine, offered remarks, as well as Dr. John E. Hall, the Arthur C. Guyton Professor and chair of the UMMC Department of Physiology and Dr. Christopher D. Anderson, chair of the UMMC Department of Surgery.

Arthur Clifton Guyton was born September 8, 1919, in Oxford, Mississippi. He attended medical school at Harvard University to pursue a surgical career. During his residency Guyton was diagnosed with polio, and the residual paralysis forced him to turn from surgery to medical research. His rehabilitation inspired him to design special crutches and braces, hoists for lifting patients, and the motorized wheelchair with joystick; a presidential citation followed in 1956 for these inventions.

That same year Guyton published the first edition of *Textbook of Medical Physiology*. The book, now in its thirteenth edition, is still the best-selling physiology textbook in the world. Guyton's groundbreaking work on cardiovascular physiology influenced the way physicians treat hypertension, congestive heart failure, and edema today. The National Institutes of Health grant that he was awarded in 1968 is still ongoing and is among the longest-running grants in NIH history. Dr. Arthur C. Guyton died in 2003.

James Daniel Hardy was born May 14, 1918, in Newala, Alabama. He graduated in 1942 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, then served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II. In 1955, Hardy became the founding chairman of surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. In 1963, he led the team that performed the world's first lung transplant. The following year Hardy and his team transplanted the heart of a chimpanzee into a dying man, predating the first human-to-human heart transplant by three years.

Hardy served as president of the Society of University Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Chairmen, the Southern Surgical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, and the International Society of Surgery. Over the course of his career he authored 24 books and 466 papers, while also producing more than 200 medical films. Dr. James D. Hardy retired in 1987 from UMMC and died in 2003.

Both portraits were painted by Steve Moppert, a past best in show winner of the National Portrait Competition. His paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Louisiana State University Medical Center Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Mississippi College, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Sites

Eudora Welty House Director Chosen (5/14/19)

Lauren Rhoades has been named the new director of the Eudora Welty House and Garden. She previously served as public assistance specialist at the Welty House.



Rhoades worked for two years as a FoodCorps service member in Jackson and led nutrition and garden education programs at Magnolia Speech School and Raines Elementary School. In 2015, she was named the FoodCorps Mississippi State Fellow. Her food writing has been featured in the *Jackson Free Press* and *Cookinglight.com*.

Previously, Rhoades worked with school groups, developed public programming, and managed the Education and Visitors Center gift shop.

"The Eudora Welty House and Garden is a special place for our state," said Rhoades. "I am honored to take on a leadership role in preserving Welty's legacy and encouraging a love of literature, alongside MDAH and our partners at the Eudora Welty Foundation."

Rhoades earned BA degrees in English literature, Spanish, and political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is currently working on her MFA in creative writing at Mississippi University for Women.

Museums Plan Veterans Day Program

The Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum partnered with the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mississippi Veterans Affairs, and the Mississippi War Veterans Memorial Commission to honor Mississippians who serve and have served in the United States Armed Forces. The event was held on Friday, November 9, in the Nancy and Ray Neilsen Hall of History at the Two Mississippi Museums.

"Mississippi's extraordinary record of military service is one of the most inspiring stories that we share in the Two Mississippi Museums," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "We were pleased to join with our military service organizations to pay special tribute to all the many Mississippians who have served our country."

The event also commemorated Armistice Day, the signing of the agreement on November 11, 1918, to mark the end of World War I. This year marks 100 years since the end of the Great War,

in which 56,740 Mississippians served. In 1954, Armistice Day was replaced with Veterans Day to honor all military veterans.

The program included a performance by the 41st Army Band, a moment of silence, recognition of the veterans in attendance, memorial volley, wreath laying, and a keynote speech delivered by Major General Janson D. Boyles, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. Afterwards, the museums offered special tours to military veterans and their families.

Present Meets Past at Old Capitol (10/10/18)



Mississippians know Evelyn Gandy became the first woman elected to statewide constitutional office when she won the race for state treasurer in 1959. She went on to hold the offices of assistant attorney general, commissioner of public welfare, and in 1976 lieutenant governor. Gandy is one of many influential Mississippians who was portrayed by reenactors at the Old Capitol Museum's Present Meets Past program on Thursday, October 25.

“Present Meets Past is one our site’s most popular programs,” said Old Capitol Museum director Lauren Miller. “It is a tribute to our state’s history that both children and adults can enjoy.”

Nine historical figures were stationed throughout the building, ready to discuss the events of their times: Adelbert Ames, military and civilian governor in Reconstruction-era Mississippi; Adelbert Ames’s wife, Blanche Butler Ames; State Librarian Helen Bell; Major General Fox Conner, a mentor to Dwight Eisenhower and George Marshall; Evelyn Gandy, the first woman to hold the office of lieutenant governor in Mississippi; architect Theodore Link; ceramic artist George Ohr; anti-lynching activist and writer Ida B. Wells, and playwright Tennessee Williams.

Projects

Old Capitol Closed for Repairs (4/16/19)

Repair work began in mid-April on the Old Capitol Museum to repair long-standing problems with the building's roof and dome. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History temporarily closed the building for a month to allow the contractors easier access to get started on the work. The project is expected to last eight months and finish in early 2020.

Outreach

Free Holiday Admission to New Museums (1/16/19)

FedEx Corporation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supported free admission to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum from Saturday, January 19, through Tuesday, January 22, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the third annual National Day of Racial Healing.

“We are grateful to FedEx Corporation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for enabling hundreds to visit these museums and reflect on King’s contribution to Mississippi and the nation,” said Katie Blount, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

“FedEx is honored to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through our continued support of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History,” said Shannon A. Brown, senior vice president of Air Ground and Freight Services and Chief Diversity Officer at FedEx Express. “It is a privilege for us to offer more museum-goers the opportunity to reflect on his extraordinary legacy.”

“The Two Mississippi museums honor the deep and painful stories of the state’s past and offer a space for all of Mississippians in search of racial healing a place to begin that journey,” said Rhea Williams Bishop, director of programming for Mississippi and New Orleans for the Kellogg Foundation.

Museums to Host Fall Teachers Workshop (8/21/18)



**33RD SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHERS WORKSHOP**

The thirty-third MDAH Social Studies Teachers Workshop was held on Friday, November 2 at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson.

This year's workshop was themed "Challenge and Change" and presentations covered using primary sources in the State Archives, professional development opportunities with National History Day, the new Mississippi social studies curriculum, the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam War. Two Mississippi Museums education curators introduced brand-new educational materials recently developed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Grants

\$78K in Preservation Grants Awarded (4/25/19)

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling more than \$78,000 to nine preservation projects in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities across the state. Amounts range from \$1,743.75 for the completion of a survey report and National Register nomination for downtown Brandon to \$15,083.35 to rehabilitate Aberdeen City Hall.

"We are pleased to be partnering with nine communities this year," said CLG grants administrator Meredith Massey. "The projects will heavily focus on the rehabilitation of historic structures, professional assessments, and surveys. We look forward to assisting these communities in their preservation efforts as the year progresses."

The 2019 grants are as follows:

Aberdeen, \$15,083.75, for the exterior rehabilitation of Aberdeen City Hall.

Brandon, \$1,743.75, to complete a survey report and National Register nomination for the Downtown Brandon Residential Historic District.

Carrollton, \$10,000, to stabilize the chimney, install a new HVAC system, and replace broken window panes at the Carrollton Community House.

Corinth, \$13,090, to install new sections of the roof membrane at the Corinth Coliseum.

Greenwood, \$10,000, to repair the roof of the bell tower at Wesley United Methodist Church and conduct an assessment of the building's education wing.

Hattiesburg, \$5,000, to survey approximately 300 structures in the Arledge Subdivision and Katie-John-Dabbs Neighborhood.

Laurel, \$10,000, to survey and complete a National Register nomination for an African American neighborhood southeast of downtown.

Starkville, \$8,500, to develop a comprehensive survey plan and a listing of all eligible historic properties within the city limits.

West, \$5,000, to conduct a structural assessment of the Masonic Lodge/West Grammar School and continue rehabilitation of the building.

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—in Mississippi the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH.

NEH Grant Will Preserve Welty Collection (4/8/19)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a \$217,982 implementation grant to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to support the preservation, digitization, and enhancement of access to the papers of Eudora Welty.

The two-year project aims to professionally conserve sixty items and compile metadata for more than 19,800 scans of items in the Eudora Welty Collection. Selected manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and sound recordings in the collection will be digitized, and an online catalog will be created to facilitate discovery of the materials.

The Eudora Welty Foundation is matching MDAH's contribution to the grant. "The generosity of NEH and the Welty Foundation will make it possible for people from around the globe to access Welty's literary work and her photographs," said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Record Services Division. "We are also grateful to the Mississippi Humanities Council for their support on this project and so many others."

"These new NEH-supported projects will help shore up the nation's most valuable assets: its history, literature, historic sites, regional traditions, and cultural institutions," said NEH chairman Jon Parrish Peede. "NEH is proud to support the advancement of learning and sharing of knowledge nationwide."

NEH is an independent federal agency that is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. The Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant program supports projects that are essential for scholarship, education and public programming. About 200 applications are submitted for this NEH grant each year, and only forty awards are made.

Volunteers

During 2019, MDAH Volunteers served a total of **22,043** hours. The labor value of this service is **\$560,570.53**, based upon the Independent Sector's current value placed on a volunteer hour (\$25.43). There were a total of **289 individual volunteers** in 2019, **and 9 service groups**.

Volunteers served within all five divisions of the department:

Administration:	503.25 hours
Archives and Records Services:	1,523 hours
Historic Preservation:	166 hours
Museum:	17,174.17 hours
Programs and Communication Division:	1,181.75 hours

Additional Statistics

Archives and Records Services Division

<u>Onsite patrons</u>	4,141
<u>Offsite inquiries answered</u>	13,235
<u>Attendees at public programs</u>	1,002
<u>Items digitized</u>	21,442
<u>Electronic assets processed (gigabytes)</u>	121,537
<u>Grants received</u>	\$290,582 (<i>Sharing the Literary and Photographic Legacy of Eudora Welty</i> , \$217,982 from the National Endowment for the Humanities with a \$72,600 match from the Eudora Welty Foundation)

Museum Division

Visitation numbers by site

<u>Eudora Welty House & Garden</u>	4,485
<u>Governor's Mansion</u>	7,427
<u>Grand Village of the Natchez Indians</u>	22,231
<u>Historic Jefferson College</u>	7,418
<u>Manship House Museum</u>	977
<u>Old Capitol Museum</u>	13,546
<u>Two Mississippi Museum</u>	136,625
<u>Winterville Mounds</u>	7,745

Programs and Communication Division

During the spring quarter the Two Mississippi Museums welcomed influencers and international travel familiarization tours. Social media influencer Bonnie Hoellein and her family visited the Two Mississippi Museums in April, and her video, titled “Southern Comfort” and featuring the museums, has had more than 77,000 views to date. Hoellein’s YouTube channel has 1.2 million subscribers. In June, nationally recognized long form journalist Deborah Douglas visited to gather material for civil rights travel guide slated for publication by Moon, an imprint of Hachette Publishing.

The department is now running commercials for the special exhibit *Spirits of Passage* and general visitation for the Two Mississippi Museums on Comcast’s television and streaming platforms, and WLBT is also running a general visitation commercial for the Two Mississippi Museums.

WBLT’s commercial resulted in a story that engaged the department’s social media followers. Anjuan Brown, a LeFlore County supervisor, saw the ad and noticed a photo of his great-great-great grandfather in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. He reached out to the museum for more information and then shared his story with the media.

The soul of the State breakout gallery in the Museum of Mississippi History received an updated exhibit case in June. With the department’s strong dedication to the site, Windsor Ruins made an excellent topic for an exploration of how architecture inspires art. The exhibit case includes rubble and column pieces from the antebellum mansion, as well as examples of the art pieces visitors to the site have created. Elizabeth Taylor makes an appearance through a production still from the film *Raintree County*, which was shot at Windsor in the 1950s.

History Is Lunch is a speaker series that occurs every Wednesday at noon in the Carig H. Nielsen Auditorium in the Two Mississippi Museums. This flagship program is also live-streamed on Facebook each Wednesday. In 2019, there have been over 38 speakers and more than 4,460 in attendance.