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**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY**

**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**

Two Mississippi Museums Host Passover Freedom Summer

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) hosted the Mississippi Freedom Seder, where hundreds of people of all backgrounds gathered to explore and celebrate freedom in the context of the Civil Rights Movement. This communal event invites participants to the Passover table for an evening of commemoration, stories, and community.

“We are pleased to co-host this Freedom Seder with our community partners,” said Katie Blount, MDAH director. “In doing so, we remember the courage of visiting Jewish Freedom Summer volunteers in 1964 and Jewish Mississippians who advocate for racial equality in the Civil Rights Movement.”

Passover is an eight-day Jewish holiday, referred to as the “festival of freedom.”

Passover celebrates the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. The traditional meal, where the story of Passover is shared along with rituals, readings, songs, and food, is called a Seder. Seders celebrate freedom from bondage and freedom from oppression, providing a shared communal celebration of freedom and friendship for all.

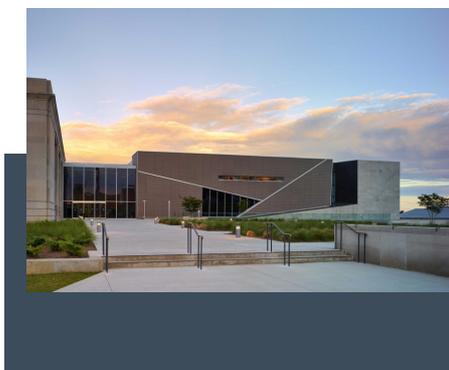
At the first Freedom Seder, held on April 4, 1969, more than 800 people gathered in a church in Washington, DC, to commemorate the first anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s death. Using the words of the traditional Passover Seder, calling for justice, peace, and liberation, the 1969 Freedom Seder strengthened Black and Jewish community relations and established a touchstone for contemporary Seders.

Eudora Welty Digital Archive Launches Online

MDAH is pleased to announce that The Eudora Welty Digital Archives is now available to the public on the MDAH website. This digitization project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities with a matching contribution from the Eudora Welty Foundation.

The Eudora Welty Digital Archives represents only a sample of Welty-related material housed at MDAH and features selections of corresponds, manuscripts, photographs, and other media related to Eudora Welty (1909-2001), master of the short story and one of America’s greatest authors.

Eudora Welty had a long relationship with the MDAH, making her first donation of manuscripts, papers, and photographs in 1957, and continuing to donate throughout her life. The complete collection is accessible at the MDAH.



MDAH Strengthen Religion Programs with Support \$2.5 Million Lilly Endowment Grant

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded a \$2.5 million grant to the Foundation for Mississippi History to help the MDAH support and promote programs, activities, and projects focused on the understanding and interpretation of the role of religion Mississippi history, and culture. Through the grant, the Two Mississippi Museums will begin offering free group tours to faith-affiliated communities in Mississippi—groups who attend churches, mosques, synagogues, house churches, and more.

The Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum treat comprehensively the history of religion—from the spiritual beliefs of Native Americans to the conflicting religious convictions of slaveholders and enslaved people, to the leadership of people of faith during the Civil Rights Movement. MDAH is one of sixteen organizations from across the United States receiving grants through the latest round of the initiative.

A Mother’s Bravery. Her Son’s Legacy. Hear Their Story—The True Story of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley

The family-oriented traveling exhibit *Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See* opened on April 1st, at the Two Mississippi Museums and ran until May 14th of 2023. Developed by the Till family, Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley Institute, Emmett Till Interpretive Center, and The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, the exhibit shares how a mother’s bravery and fight for justice more than six decades ago fueled the Civil Rights Movement in America.

“Through this exhibition, we invite people to bear witness to the painful history of racial violence in the United States, and to explore the transformative actions of a grieving mother,” said Pamela D.C. Junior, former director of the Two Mississippi Museums.

“Learning more about Emmett Till’s story is difficult, but I believe it’s crucial for families to understand what happened during the cruel and senseless tragedy to help people heal from prejudice and discrimination and to prevent senseless acts of violence today,” said Jennifer Pace Robinson, president, and CEO, The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

This project was made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom, the Maddox Foundation in Hernando, the Institute for Museum and Library Services [MH-249226-OMS-21], and the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior [15.904].

Two Mississippi Museums Summer Camps Continue with \$30K Award from Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation

This summer the MDAH’s summer camp continued at the Two Mississippi Museums. Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation, the Two Mississippi Museums added an additional camp session and kept registration fees affordable for families at \$75 per student.

“Having campers in summer 2022 brought incredible energy to the Two Mississippi Museums, and we look forward to expanding the upcoming 2023 sessions thanks to the Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation,” said director Katie Blount. “Last year students enjoyed fun and engaging activities while encountering important stories from Mississippi’s history.”

History Exploration Camp is for students heading into fourth and fifth grades. Campers will explore themes such as archaeology, architecture, transportation, civil rights, and music. In addition to exhibits at the Two Mississippi Museums, students will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, special guest speakers, and visits to other historic sites in Jackson.

Freedom School Camp is for students heading into sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, where campers will deepen their understanding of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and its impact on the world through stories of local heroes in their communities. The grant from the McMillan-Stewart Foundation will cover costs for additional technology to support camper research projects.



Drew Gardner working with summer youth groups

2023 Eudora Welty Research Fellow Chosen

Haley Crigger, a doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati, has been named the Eudora Welty Research Fellow for 2023. Haley will use archival holdings in the Eudora Welty Collection housed at the MDAH to research the life and works of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty. “My hope for my time at MDAH is to obtain a more robust understanding of Eudora Welty’s aesthetic and metaphysical relationship with the Southern literary imagination, the landscape Flannery O’Connor referred to as ‘hardly Christ-centered,’ but ‘most certainly Christ-haunted,’” said Crigger.

After receiving a BA in English from Centre College in 2013, Crigger pursued an MFA in creative writing at Johns Hopkins University, graduating in 2018. She is currently working towards her PhD in creative writing and literature at the University of Cincinnati and will use the \$5,000 fellowship award to cover her travel, housing, and other expenses incurred while doing her primary Welty research at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.

2023 Evers Research Fellow Chosen

Kymara Sneed, a doctoral candidate in history at Mississippi State University, has been named the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Fellow for 2023. Sneed will research archival holdings in the Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers and The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Collections (MFBF) housed at the MDAH in Jackson. By examining the MFBF collection and the records and correspondence of Medgar Evers during his time as Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP, Sneed hopes to gain insight into the various hierarchies and perspectives—Mississippi’s Cooperative Extension Service agents, the MFBF, civil rights activists, and Black farmers—operating during the Jim Crow era.

“Because my topic covers this intersection of race and civil rights as it pertains to Mississippi State University’s Cooperative Extension Service and its relationship with Black farmers, the Evers Papers are integral to this project,” said Sneed. “This specific collection will be helpful in illustrating what civil rights activism looked like from a local perspective, how it might have clashed with the regimented duties of cooperative extension agents and its reception within Mississippi’s Black farming community.”

Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People’s Campaign, A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

In July, the Two Mississippi Museums opened *Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People’s Campaign* a Smithsonian Affiliate. This Smithsonian traveling exhibit explored a pivotal grassroots movement of the civil rights era: the Poor People’s Campaign of 1968. Based on the original exhibition created by the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, this exhibit explored the six-week protest community in Washington D.C. that called the nation’s attention to the effects of poverty on millions of Americans. Visitors experienced photographs, artifacts, documentaries, ambient audio, and graphics in addition to an interactive video with interviews of campaign participants, a 3D-printed model of Resurrection City, and a map of the nationwide caravan routes.

The exhibition title is a reference to the Solidarity Day Rally, which was held on June 19, 1968. The rally at the Lincoln Memorial featured speeches by organizers and influencers as a continuation of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The multiethnic movement drew people from across the nation, including African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, Asian Americans, and poor whites from Appalachia and rural communities. With newly found photographs and video content, the exhibit encouraged visitors to discover this little-known chapter of the civil rights era.



Megan Bankston (right) with Drew Gardner speaking in the Solidarity Now exhibit

Pamela D.C. Junior, director of Two Mississippi Museums, Announces Retirement

In July, Pamela D.C. Junior, director of Two Mississippi Museums retired. In 2017, Junior was named the inaugural director of the first state-sponsored civil rights museum in the nation, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. She came to the role after serving as director of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center for seventeen years. In 2019, she was promoted to director of the Two Mississippi Museums, where she continued the work of sharing the stories of Mississippi.

MDAH director Katie Blount said, “Pam Junior came to MDAH with deep roots and credibility to the community, many years of experience in the museum field, and a commitment to excellence that she modeled for younger staff. She personally led many thousand of visitors through the museums, enriching their experience through her passion for history and her boundless charisma. In our first years, Pam Junior lifted up the Two Mississippi Museums and shared them with the world. We are grateful.

Highlights during Junior’s service include participating in the retirement of the 1894 Mississippi state flag at the official retirement ceremony in 2020 and guiding the late Congressman John Lewis through the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum—events she counts as major personal milestones. In 2018, she spearheaded MLK Jr. Day programming with fellow museum staff and added the MLK Night of Culture in 2019, just two of the highly attended annual events at the museums.

“Pamela is a woman who knows that she did not travel her road alone, but on the shoulders of those who came before her,” said civil rights leader Myrlie Evers. “Pamela is imbued with the fortitude, wisdom, and faith of her grandmother, mother, mentors, and civil rights veterans. Her leadership reflects her commitment to Mississippi and the honest telling of our history.”

After graduating from Jackson State University, where Junior received a BS in education, with a minor in special education, she joined the National Park Service in 1990 as a ranger in Washington, DC. Nearly a decade later, she returned to Jackson to work for the city’s Parks and Recreation Department.



Pamela Junior



Pamela Junior with Dennis Dahmer

In 1999, Junior was hired as the manager of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center, where she became co-coordinator of the National Arts Program and acquired on permanent loan the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Field to Factory: The Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940*.

Junior has been honored over the years for both her professional and community work and received numerous awards, such as the Freedom Rider Award from the Mississippi Freedom 50th Foundation, the For My People Award from the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, the Hometown Hero Award from the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Museum Leadership Award by the Association of African American Museums. She was inducted into the Mississippi Tourism Hall of Fame.

Junior will continue to serve as a board member for Visit Jackson and an advisory board member for the Mississippi Book Festival. She is also a member of the International Women’s Forum.

Foundation for Mississippi History Board Changes Leadership

Justice Fred Banks announced that he is stepping down as chair of the board of directors of the Foundation for Mississippi History (FMH), a post he has held since 2020. The board elected P. Ryan Beckett as chair and Jonathan Lee as vice-chair at its March meeting.

Banks is a senior partner in the general litigation group in the Jackson office of Phelps Dunbar. He served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1976 until 1985, when he was appointed as a circuit court judge and later as a justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court. He has also served on the National Board of Directors of the NAACP for more than four decades.

Banks graduated from Lanier High School in Jackson in 1960. He earned a BBA from Howard University followed by a JD in 1968 from the Howard University School of Law, where he graduated second in his class. Banks began his law practice during the Civil Rights Movement when there were few African American attorneys in the state.

Banks was a leader in securing funding and public support for the Two Mississippi Museums, which opened in 2017. He served as a valued advisor on the exhibits, particularly those related to the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. Beckett said, "We are grateful to Justice Banks for his leadership of the board. His wise stewardship and commitment to our state helped create and strengthen the Two Mississippi Museums."

Foundation for Mississippi History Receives \$250K from Entergy Mississippi for Historic Jefferson College

In September, Entergy Mississippi awarded a grant of \$250,000 to the Foundation for Mississippi History. The grant will support the restoration of Raymond Hall as part of MDAH's new initiative on the campus of Historic Jefferson College (HJC) in Washington.

MDAH is developing the Natchez Center for American History (NCAH) at HJC. The \$20 million project will include two components: a preservation field school and an interpretive center.

Raymond Hall will be restored and equipped with modern building systems to provide classroom space and housing for what will become the region's first preservation field school. MDAH preservation professional and faculty from regional universities will provide hands-on, in-the-field learning to develop the next generation of the preservation workforce.

"The restoration project at Historic Jefferson College is a prime example of Mississippians working to better our communities and create opportunities for the next generation," said Haley Fisackerly, president and CEO, of Entergy Mississippi. "We're thrilled to partner with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to develop an institution that will prepare Mississippians for employment in a sector that is woefully short of meeting demand. Not only is it a beautiful site that will play an important role in southwest Mississippi's tourism, but this effort will also cultivate a strong workforce with diverse skills critical to helping Mississippi's economy thrive."

The campus is an 80-acre site with eight main buildings and is listed on the National Register of Historic Place for its architectural significance. The first building at the college was completed in 1820 as the cotton economy built on slavery was expanding and generating vast wealth. HJC was Mississippi's first institution of higher learning and the birthplace of statehood, where delegates gathered to write the state's first constitution. Jefferson College operated for many years as a preparatory school and later as Jefferson Military College. It served briefly as a Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War.

In addition to the grant from Entergy Mississippi, MDAH has secured state and federal funds to support the project. The Foundation of Mississippi History will continue to seek private support.



Left to Right: Pat Biglane, John Horhn, Dan Gibson, Carter Burns, Katie Blount, Haley Fisackerly, Valencia Hall, and Spence Flatgard

MDAH Announces New Director of the Two Mississippi Museums

Michael Morris began his term as the new director of the Two Mississippi Museums in July. He steps into the role after Pamela D.C. Junior, who retired in June. The museums are administered by MDAH and have attracted more than 500,000 visitors since opening in downtown Jackson in December 2017.

“I am thrilled to know Michael will continue the work we have begun,” Junior said. “He is well-known and respected in both the public history community and the civil rights community.”

“Since joining MDAH, Michael has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to preserving and promoting our state’s rich cultural heritage,” said Cindy Gardner, division director, MDAH Museum Division. “I have no doubt that the Two Mississippi Museums will continue to thrive under Michael’s capable leadership.”

Morris, a Jackson native, earned his bachelor’s degree in history and master’s degree in political science from Jackson State University, where he worked at the Margaret Walker Center and Fannie Lou Hamer Institute on Citizenship and Democracy. He earned his supervisory management from the Mississippi State Personal Board and is currently completing its Certified Public Manager Program. Morris also completed the Stennis Institute’s State Executive Development Institute program at Mississippi State University.

He began his career at MDAH in the public relations office in 2016, and most recently served as director of public engagement. He was responsible for co-leading the MDAH strategic plan process, coordinating community meetings, leading department research projects, planning major events, and supporting the department director and deputy director during legislative sessions.

Morris is active in the community. He was a member of the commission tasked with commemorating the city of Jackson’s bicentennial in 2022, has written markers for the Mississippi Freedom Trail, and has moderated panels for the Mississippi Book Festival. Morris was the Mississippi archivist for the *Our Story, Our Terms* civil rights project at Duke University.

“I feel incredibly honored to take on this role, following in the footsteps of Pam Junior, who did an exceptional job,” said Morris. “These museums are a tremendous asset for the state and the city of Jackson.”



Michael Morris

MDAH Awarded \$187,059 by National Endowment for the Humanities for 2024 Teacher Workshops on Civil Rights Movement

MDAH has been awarded \$187,059 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to present two workshops on teaching civil rights history. This MDAH project was awarded as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of History and Culture Grant program, and it will mark the 60th anniversary of a pivotal event in American history, 1964's Freedom Summer. MDAH will partner with National History Day to coordinate and lead the program.

Seventy teachers from across the nation will have the opportunity to attend one of two weeklong workshops starting at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson, and then traveling to specific locations in the state that were central to the historic events of Freedom Summer. “This grant is an incredible opportunity for us to show how this landmark event goes beyond Mississippi history; it’s truly a national event,” said Al Wheat, MDAH director of education. “Bringing teachers from across the country to Mississippi to see our sites, analyze our primary sources, and visit locations where the history actually happened will make a positive impact not just on workshop attendees, but on their students.”

Teachers will learn about the civil rights events in 1964 that changed Mississippi and the nation. The workshops, which will run from July 8-12, and July 22-26, 2024, will consist of two different groups of K-12 teachers, with 35 per group, who will gather at the Two Mississippi Museums and the MDAH archives to interact with historians, Civil Rights Movement veterans, educators, and museum professionals. Teachers will collaborate to develop inquiry-based classroom activities and lessons about Freedom Summer using primary sources found in MDAH’s archives and experiential, site-based learning at the Two Mississippi Museums and key civil rights sites across Mississippi.

The Landmarks of American History and Culture program supports a series of one-week residential, virtual, and combined format workshops across the nation that enhance and strengthen how K-12 educators, higher education faculty, and humanities professionals study sites, areas, or regions of historic and cultural significance and incorporate place-based teaching and learning in the humanities.

MDAH Receives SEMC Award for *The World of Marty Stuart* Exhibit

The Two Mississippi Museums' 2022 exhibit *The World of Marty Stuart* won the 2023 Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) Exhibition Competition's Bronze Award in the 'Over \$100,000 Budget' category. Awards in this category are given to museums that demonstrate a commitment to best practices and professional standards in museum exhibition design. The Exhibition Competition received twenty-nine entries from twenty-seven institutions.

"We are very proud of the staff who worked creatively and diligently to produce this beautiful exhibit that showcased a significant part of the amazing country music collection of musician and artist Marty Stuart," said Katie Blunt, director of the MDAH, which administers the Two Mississippi Museums. "MDAH is honored to be celebrated for sharing stories of the region's culture and history."

The World of Marty Stuart exhibit featured Stuart's personal memorabilia collection, while he started collecting during childhood and



Back row starting from the left- Katie Etre, John Gardner, Shane Keil, Sam Butz.
Front row from left- Megan Bankston, Hong Li, Ivette Ray, Nan Prince



has continued cultivating through his journey as a professional musician working with music legends like Johnny Cash and Lester Flatt. Stuart's dedication to preserving the legacy of American music through his personal photography was also explored in the exhibit.

SEMC presented the award to the staff of the Two Mississippi Museums at its annual awards luncheon on November 15, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky. Award winners will be announced in the Fall 2023 edition of *INSIDE SEMC*, a digital publication of the Southern Museums Conference.

SEMC is a nonprofit membership organization, an association of museums, museum staff, independent professionals, and corporate partners focused on the southeastern United States including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands.

Exhibit Honoring Slain Civil Rights Leader Medgar Evers to Open Permanent View at the Eudora Welty House & Garden

In June, the Eudora Welty House & Garden (EWHG) unveiled a new permanent exhibit honoring slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers in response to the sixtieth anniversary of his assassination on June 12, 1963, outside his Jackson, Mississippi, home.

Immediately after the news broke in Jackson, renowned Mississippi author Eudora Welty wrote “Where Is the Voice Coming From?”, a short story about the attack, which *The New Yorker* published on July 6, 1963—just 25 days after the crime. The new EWHG exhibit, titled *Out of Outrage: Processing the Murder of Medgar Evers*, follows the making of Welty’s piece.

Through this work of fiction, written before the crime was solved, Welty painted a startlingly accurate picture of Ever’s assassin, his motives, and his movements. In fact, before *The New Yorker* would publish this story, Welty said, “The fiction’s outward details had to be changed where, by chance, they had resembled those of actuality, for the story must not be found prejudicial to the case of a person who might be on trial for his life.”

This exhibit compares Welty’s original draft with the final version, highlighting changes. The story quotes pair with actual crime scene photographs, seemingly as captions, though Welty’s words predate the images. A photograph of Evers at work as Mississippi’s first field secretary for the NAACP opens the exhibit, along with an overview of his accomplishments.

“In Jackson, Mississippi, the legacy of Medgar Evers is felt strongly to this day,” said Eudora Welty House & Garden director Jessica Russell. “This small but impactful exhibit shares his story with our visitors and illustrates how some of the most powerful tools we will ever have—whether processing personal grief or fighting publicly for justice—are imagination, creativity, and the written word.”

In addition to the exhibit at EWHG, MDAH holds in its collection the Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers, including papers of Medgar Evers as Mississippi field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAAP), and records relating to the case, *State of Mississippi v. Bryon de la Beckwith*.

FBI Returns 19th Century Mississippi Rifle to MDAH

A ceremony was held at the Two Mississippi Museums on Friday, July 21st, for the return of a stolen rifle used in the Mexican-American War and the Civil War. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and their law enforcement partners exchanged custody of the 19th-century rifle with staff to the MDAH.

The .54 caliber Eli Whitney rifle was initially donated to MDAH in 1903, along with a bullet-marred cartridge box and belt, by the daughter of Private Charles H. Gibbs of Raymond. More than 40 years ago, the rifle was stolen while on loan to Beauvoir, the home of Jefferson Davis in Biloxi.

Nan Prince, director of collections at MDAH, formally accepted custody of the rifle from the FBI. “MDAH is grateful to the FBI Art Crime Team, the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and everyone who was involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case,” said Prince. “We are thrilled to have this important piece of Mississippi history back in the collection.”

Gibbs carried the rifle while serving in the Raymond Fencibles of the 1st Regiment of the Mississippi Rifle Volunteers, commanded by Captain R.N. Downing, under Jefferson Davis in the Mexican-American War. Gibbs fought at the Battle of Monterrey and the Battle of Buena Vista.

Gibbs was injured on February 22, 1847, at the Battle of Buena Vista, survived his injuries, and lived in Raymond with his wife, Ellen Elder Gibbs, until his untimely death by yellow fever in the 1850s. His name remains engraved on a plate on the stock of the rifle, along with inscribed dates of the battles he fought in Mexico. Various news articles of the era state that following Gibb’s discharge in 1947, the rifle was reissued to another, unknown member of the Raymond Fencibles. The rifle was later confiscated by the Union during the Civil War. The weapon disappeared for several decades until it was returned to Ellen Gibbs, after the discovery of her late husband’s name marking the weapon.

In December 2021, a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania indicted Michael Corbett of Newark, Delaware, for possession of stolen firearms and other items stolen from museums in the 1970s.



Old Capitol Museum Repairs

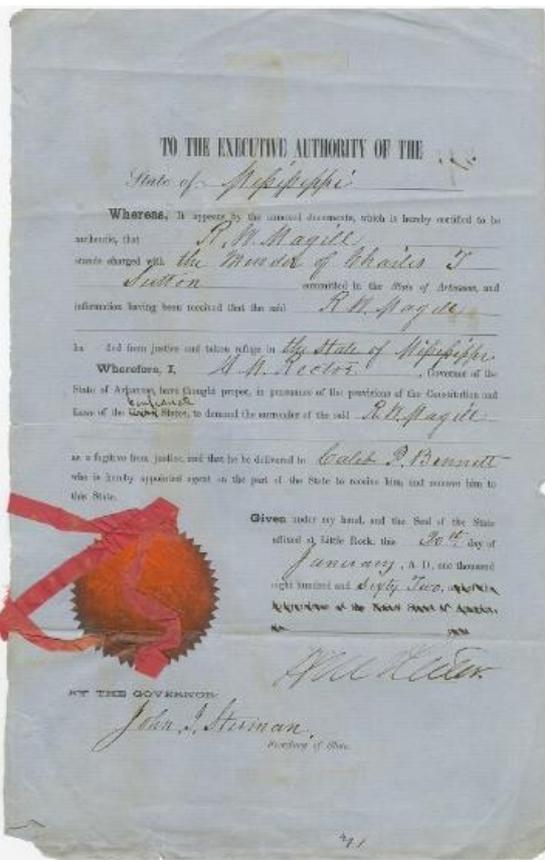
The Old Capitol Museum window repair project has been completed. Interior windows have been repainted; all damaged exterior window panes were replaced and windows re-caulked and painted. Scaffolding was installed in several areas inside the building to provide access to areas that have been completed. Scaffolding was also erected on the Old Capitol roof to allow repair and reroofing of the dome lantern and dome. The copper lantern roof and decorative top element were removed and replaced. The uppermost scaffolding was then removed to access the dome roof. The old copper dome roof has been removed, and weather-proof material installed. New copper panels will be fabricated off-site. The dome lantern windows were inspected, caulked, and painted. Interior plaster repairs and painting from the first list have been completed. An additional list of interior repairs was approved with work now underway. Exhibits and collections staff members provided assistance in removing additional portraits and reproduction draperies, and moving and covering objects. Lastly, the Old Capitol's historic marker was damaged by workmen, repaired, and reinstalled.



MDAH Digitizing Projects

Electronic Archives section staff completed the initial backup of core archival data to Dell's Mississippi Hybrid Cloud storage for redundancy, bringing the total transfer to approximately 20 terabytes. Section staff provided digital access to over 650 files, including enrolled bills of the 2021 legislative session transferred by the Secretary of State. Additionally, the staff identified current ANSI/AIIM/ISO reformatting standards for archival materials and drafted revisions to the MDAH reformatting standards document.

The Archival Reformatting section digitized 6,744 items, including negatives from the Woodrow W. Ogden photograph collection; MDOT bridge and railroad crossing negatives; photographic negatives from the Eudora Welty Collection and the Florence Mars Collection; correspondence, papers, and executive journals of Mississippi Governors John J. Pettus, Charles Clark, Benjamin Humphreys, William Sharkey, and John M. Stone; posters for the upcoming 2MM exhibit *The World of Marty Stuart*; and State Auditor Series 2327: Capitol Repairs and Expenses. The section continued work on the inspection and preliminary processing of U-Matic tapes received from Jackson television station WLBT, including working with vendor Specs Brothers to conserve and digitize select highly used tapes.



Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Project

Archives and Record Services continued to work on the Civil War and Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi (CWRGM) project, a collaboration between MDAH, the Mississippi Digital Library, and the University of Southern Mississippi. The project seeks to create and facilitate an open-access digitization effort to help researchers better understand the Civil War and Reconstruction era of Mississippi history. Staff created over 4,000 digital images of governors' papers from MDAH collections for the project during the reporting period, bringing the total to over 47,000. Project staff at USM and the Mississippi Digital Library placed additional sample images and educator resources, including lesson plans, on the project website and continued directing the creation of metadata by students.

Preservation Grants

At a regular meeting on January 22nd, the Board of Trustees of the MDAH awarded nearly \$3 million on behalf of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program to eighteen preservation and restoration projects from across the state. The Community Heritage Preservation Grant program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools in Certified Local Government communities and other historic properties.

"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:

House on Ellicott's Hill, Natchez, Adams County—\$210,400

For restoration of the front gallery of the building.

Natchez City Hall, Natchez, Adams County—\$157,056

For replacement of the roof.

Corinth Coliseum Theater, Corinth, Alcorn County—\$236,234

For replacement of the roof and ADA upgrades.

Chickasaw County Courthouse, Huston, Chickasaw County—\$226,677

For repairs to the roof and other interior repairs.

G.L. Hawkins Elementary, Hattiesburg, Forrest County—\$35,200

For roof repairs.

Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville, Franklin County—\$144,388

For window and masonry restoration, and reroofing of the jail.

Wechsler School, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$277,154

For interior and exterior rehabilitation.

(Old) Monticello Elementary, Monticello, Lawrence County—\$40,000

For structures repairs and asbestos report and abatement.

Stephen D. Lee House, Columbus, Lowndes County—\$25,600

For front porch roof replacement.

Tennessee Williams House, Columbus, Lowndes County—\$35,000

For rebuild of the front porch.

Old Madison County Jail, Canton, Madison County—\$250,250

For rear wall repair and roofing.

Marion County Courthouse, Columbia, Marion County—\$225,940

For window restoration.

Isaac Chapel (Rosenwald School), Byhalia, Marshall County—\$268,744

For interior and exterior restoration.

Noxubee County Library, Macon, Noxubee County—\$200,044

For clay tile roof replacement and exterior restoration.

Pontotoc County Courthouse, Pontotoc, Pontotoc County—\$239,753
For window and masonry restoration.

Quitman County Courthouse, Marks, Quitman County—\$184,792
For exterior and interior rehabilitation.

(Old) Vicksburg Library, Vicksburg, Warren County—\$103,370
For electrical upgrades, window and door restoration, and boiler removal.

Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, Vicksburg, Warren County—\$89,056
For repair to the auditorium's south wall.

MDAH Volunteers

During 2021, MDAH volunteers served a total of **3,352** total hours. The labor value of this service is **\$95,666.08**, based upon the Independent Sector's current value placed on a volunteer hour of \$28.54. There were a total of **74** individual volunteers and **1** Service Group. MDAH's volunteer service is still recovering from the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

Volunteers served within two divisions of the department:

Historic Preservation: 160 hours

Museum: 3, 192 hours

MDAH Division Statistics

Archives and Record Services Division

Onsite patrons: 1,425

Offsite inquiries answered: 12,175

Attendees at public programs: 652

Items digitized: 31,625

Electronic assets processed (gigabytes): 123,593

Museum Division

Eudora Welty House & Garden: 3,459

Governor's Mansion: 280

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians: 12,817

Historic Jefferson College: 0

Manship House Museum: 0

Old Capitol Museum: 219

Two Mississippi Museum: 35,701

Winterville Mounds: 0