

2014 Annual Report



Mississippi Department
of
Archives and History

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



This year the Department of Archives and History continued to promote the mission of the department and expand services to the public. On October 24, 2013, over six hundred people attended the groundbreaking of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Since work began in December 2013, more than 100,000 cubic yards of dirt have been excavated from the 2 Mississippi Museums site.

Conservation of artifacts slated for the museums continued, notably with a Billups-Garth Foundation grant to begin restoration of the nearly two-hundred-year-old 20-Star United States flag that will be included in the bicentennial celebration of Mississippi and the opening of the Museum of Mississippi History.

MDAH continued popular events like Native American Days at Winterville Mounds and offered new ones, such as programming that marked the fiftieth anniversary of Freedom Summer.

I have announced my intention to retire in early 2015, and the Board of Trustees will soon begin a national search for the next director.

This report presents highlights of our work in FY 2014. As always, thank you for your support of the work of this department.

*—H.T. Holmes
Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History*

Ground Breaking Draws Broad Support

More than six hundred people, including civil rights leaders, school children, and four Mississippi governors, gathered on October 24, 2013, 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 do-

nors, 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.

In addition to thousands of artifacts, the museums will showcase the heroic stories of Mississippians—both the famous and the unsung. The Muse-

um 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 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.

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

2MM Construction Underway

By spring 2014, more than 100,000 cubic yards of dirt had been excavated from the site of the 2 Mississippi Museums since work began in December, with another 20,000 to go. The east side, along Jefferson Street, has been graded and smoothed. Workers continue to excavate the west side while installing a wall of auger-cast piles that will support the hill and protect the underground parking lot. Seventy-foot-long augers have begun drilling holes for the 1,700 steel-reinforced concrete piers that will support the buildings' foundations.

Two tower cranes, each with a 244-foot reach, will be assembled and used to move materials across the entire site as the buildings grow.

Phase one, the shell of the two museums, is expected to be com-



pleted in summer 2015. Phase two, interior construction, will last sixteen months. The Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will open in 2017.

MDAH Director To Retire

H.T. Holmes, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History since 2005, has announced his plan to retire early next year. “Hank Holmes will leave a remarkable legacy of innovation and growth,” said MDAH Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto. “Under his leadership the department developed its electronic records section into a national model, greatly expanded the state’s commitment to preserve and honor the Mississippi American Indian history, oversaw a \$26 million historic preservation grant program in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, opened the Eudora Welty House and Garden, and is now in the midst of its largest and most significant construction project of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.”

Holmes began his association with MDAH in 1969 as a college intern. He went on to serve as oral historian, archivist, records analyst, manuscript curator, map curator, head of the special collections section, and director of the

department's Archives and Library division from 1988 through 2004. A native of Winona, Holmes earned his B.A. in English from Millsaps College in 1973 and a master's de-



gree in library science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1982.

"I am proud of the work done daily by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. MDAH administers programs and operates museums and his-

toric sites that in most other states are the responsibility of four, five, six, or more agencies," said Holmes. "The department's next director will find a true treasure with the dedicated staff in place here."

The board will begin a national search for the next director in June 2014.

Freedom Summer Exhibit at MDAH

In the summer of 1964 hundreds of northern college students, most of them white, joined with local African Americans in communities across Mississippi to register voters, conduct Freedom Schools, and promote civil rights. Beginning in June 2014, MDAH marked the fiftieth anniversary of Freedom Summer with an original exhibit at the Winter Building, diverse programming at its sites, and an address at the Old Capitol by an icon of the Civil Rights Movement.

At noon on June 2, Dr. Robert P. Moses gave the keynote address for the 2014 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series before three hundred people. A leader in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations, Moses became a principal organizer of the Freedom Summer Project. He was also instrumental in establishing the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that would challenge Mississippi's all-white delegation at the Dem-

ocratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in August of 1964.

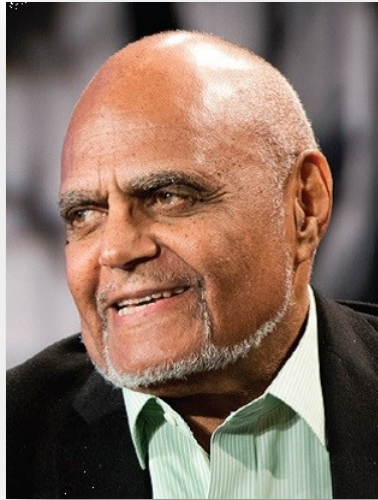
Moses went on to work for the Ministry of Education in Tanzania, East Africa, and returned to the U.S. to pursue a doctoral degree

in philosophy at Harvard University. In 1982 he received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship that he used to develop the Algebra Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving student achievement through mathematics. He serves as director of the project's materials development program.

"Bob Moses is a hero for our state and our nation," said Congressman Bennie G. Thompson,



“a man who has shed blood, sweat, and tears to ensure the rights guaranteed every American. Long after Freedom Summer Dr. Moses continued to work with the

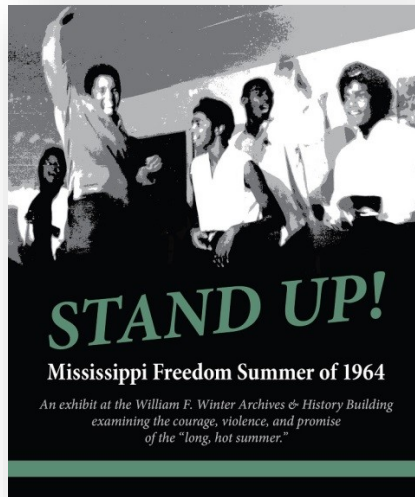


children of Mississippi to give them the tools they need to succeed in our modern world. It is a high honor to welcome him back to deliver the 2014 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture.”

The 2014 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series is made possible by the Mississippi Humanities Council through its Cora Norman Lecture Fund. The June 2 talk officially opened the new exhibit “Stand Up!”: *Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964*. Drawing on photographs, artifacts, documents, and film footage from the MDAH collection, the exhibit will examine the courage, violence, and promise of the “long, hot summer.” A replica school room modeled from photographs of Freedom Schools gives visitors an idea of the conditions volunteers and

students worked under. An original short documentary film commissioned by MDAH for the exhibit explores the aims of the Freedom Summer project and tells the story of the murdered civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner and the creation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

“Stand Up!” will run through October 31, 2014, at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson. The free exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



At noon on June 18 in the Old Capitol, as part of the History Is Lunch Series, former Secretary of State and Philadelphia native Dick Molpus recounted his

experience of the 44-day search during Freedom Summer for the three missing civil rights workers in Neshoba County and the murder trials that followed.

Freedom Summer workers focused on extending the franchise to all qualified Mississippians, and the Old Capitol Museum program “Black Mississippians: Road to the Vote” highlighted the nineteenth-century history of voting efforts that laid a foundation for the modern Civil Rights Movement. Topics covered include slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the 1868 and 1890 state constitutions, both of which were crafted by law-

makers in that building while it served as Mississippi's seat of government 1839–1903.

MDAH was a co-sponsor of the Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary Conference in Jackson organized by the Mississippi Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, Inc.; Mississippi State Conference NAACP; and Tougaloo College. The June 25–29 conference highlighted the legacy of Freedom Summer, recognized the accomplishments of those who changed Mississippi for the better, and examined ways to continue that progress for all of its citizens.

Welty Garden Marks Decade of Operation



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

In March 2014, nearly three hundred guests gathered to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the garden at the Eudora Welty House and Garden. Visitors toured the grounds, which featured new and updated interpretive signs. A plant sale featured camellias and other heirloom plant varieties grown in the Welty Garden.

“We are excited about the new signage being developed for the grounds,” said Bridget Ed-

wards, 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.”

The Eudora Welty Foundation sponsored a luncheon at the Mississippi Museum of Art to celebrate the anniversary. Mississippi-born writer and humorist Julia Reed was the guest speaker.

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.

MDAH Resources Aid UMMC Graves ID

Records from a state mental hospital dating to the 1850s are helping archaeologists identify graves found earlier this year in Jackson. Sixty-six coffins were uncovered during road construction in the spring at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Officials immediately suspected the burials were associated with the State Insane Asylum, which was operated on the site from 1855 to 1935. But the unmarked graves offered almost no information to determine who the people were.

When he heard news of the graves, MDAH state government records archivist Ashley Koostra thought of a multi-volume set of registers that had been transferred years ago to the state archives.

The thirteen books listed the gender, race, age, diagnosis, and dates of admission and discharge or parole for patients at the asylum over its eighty years in Jackson. Koostra had worked extensively with the volumes, protecting torn or ragged pages and developing a detailed description of the contents of the fragile record books for researchers.

Nicholas Herrmann, an associate professor of anthropology at Mississippi State University, is the lead archaeologist on the UMMC project. “I thought the registers could be very helpful to the project, and I wanted to make sure Professor Herrmann knew about them,” said Koostra.

Herrmann oversaw the removal of the coffins and transportation of the remains to Starkville, where he and other scientists will analyze the skeletons in the hope of establishing identity. “I had no idea those registers existed until I talked to Ashley. We will be able to cross-reference our data from the remains with the patient information,” said Herrmann. “The registers will be equally important to the project as the bones and will give an incredible picture of life at the asylum. “The oversize books are accessible in the archival reading room of the state library, but digitization of the first volume has begun and is projected to be available through MDAH’s online catalog in the spring of 2014.

Entergy Pledges \$1 Million toward 2MM



Mississippi governor Phil Bryant and other state officials were joined by representatives from Entergy Corporation to announce a \$1 million donation for the 2 Mississippi Museums project on May 1, 2014.

The funds will be used by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for exhibits in the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Welty House Gets Little Free Library

Belhaven’s inaugural Little Free Library is now in place in the Eudora Welty Education and Visitor Center’s front yard on Pinehurst Street. Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures that contain a changing collection of books donated and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds.



The Tudor-style box echoes the architecture of Eudora Welty’s house and can hold more than twenty books. In the spirit of Welty’s love of reading, the library is available to anyone willing to share a book.

“The Little Free Library is a nationwide movement that encourages reading,” said Chase Wynn, education outreach specialist at the Eudora Welty House and Garden. “I feel certain Miss Welty would have liked that.”

Two other Little Free Libraries are located in Jackson neighborhood Fondren. The Little Free Library’s mission is to promote a sense of community, reading for children, literacy for adults, and libraries around the world.

Belhaven neighborhood architect Arthur Jones designed the structure and Jeff Becker of Quality Carpentry built it. The library was sponsored by the Belhaven Improvement Association.

Welty Fellow Named

The 2014 Eudora Welty Research Fellowship has been awarded to Jacob Agner, a doctoral candidate in English at the University of Mis-

issippi. Agner used the \$2,000 fellowship to cover expenses incurred while working with the Eudora Welty Collection at MDAH, where he explored the

influence of film noir on Welty’s short stories, particularly “The Demonstrators.”

“I am interested in ‘rural noir,’ the crime fiction and potboilers of southern writers like Welty,” said Agner. “She seems like the

least likely noirish writer, but in some of her stories there’s a strain of sudden violence and an anxiety that can’t be quite placed.”



“Jacob Agner’s distinctive research interest promises to add to the high caliber of scholarship of previous Welty Fellows,” said Julia Marks Young, director of the MDAH Archives and Record Services Division.

Established by the Eudora Welty Foundation and MDAH, the fellowship seeks to encourage and support research use of the Eudora Welty Collection by graduate students.

Rare U.S. Flag to Be Conserved



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 \$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, 2015 to undergo cleaning and stabilization that could take up to eighteen months.

The historic banner has been adopted as a symbol of Mississip-

pi’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.”

MDAH PROJECTS

Katrina Grant Program Winding Down

—More than 260 Properties Saved Across Gulf Coast



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.

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

MDAH PROJECTS

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 closed its doors at the end of November, the staff is proud of 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.

Newspaper Holdings To Be Digitized

MDAH has received a \$274,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize 100,000 pages of Mississippi newspapers published between 1836 and 1922, as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). The department will partner with Louisiana State Uni-

versity Libraries Special Collections on the project.

With newspaper holdings from 1801 to the present comprising more than 13,000 rolls, the microfilmed newspapers are some of the most frequently used holdings at MDAH. Genealogists, local officials, journalists, documentary producers, attorneys, students, and other researchers rely on Mississippi's newspapers for information on local and national events; birth, death, and marriage notices; and city and county information.

MDAH holds approximately 2,700 rolls of microfilmed newspapers containing 782 newspaper titles that span the 1836–1922 project dates. Twenty-five are antebellum newspapers from eleven counties, including ones from the older counties in the southwest such as Adams, Amite, and Wilkinson, and the newer counties that were being settled in the north, such as Panola, Tippah, and Yalobusha. Civil War newspapers from southwest, central, and northern counties are also included.

Eleven newspaper runs in the department's collections dating 1866–1922 from Natchez, Liberty, Jackson, Raymond, Lexington, Macon, Sardis, Vicksburg, and Woodville appear to be complete. MDAH also holds scattered issues of African American publications (Jackson's *Messenger*, 1894; Vicksburg's *Light*, 1900, and *Golden Rule*, 1900; and Brandon's *Free State*, 1900) as well as runs of the agrarian press (Corinth's *Sub-soiler* and *Democrat*, 1882–1892; Kosciusko's *Mississippi Farmer*, 1896–1900; and Columbus's *Patron of Husbandry*, 1875–1882).

The NDNP is a joint project of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to develop an online searchable database of historical U.S. newspapers.

Learn more at the Chronicling America website: chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

Landmark Coast Structure Restored

A nationally significant property on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina has been restored through the efforts of MDAH, the federal government, and many volunteer groups and individuals. The nineteenth-century Charnley-Norwood House is associated with two of the United States' most influential architects, Chicago's Louis Sullivan—"the father of the skyscraper"—and his then-draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright—the self-styled "greatest architect of all time."

In 1890 the firm of Adler and Sullivan designed two vacation cottages in Ocean Springs for Sullivan and Chicago timber magnate James Charnley.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed the Sullivan house. Next door the Charnley-Norwood House was washed off its foundations. Floodwaters toppled two chimneys and lifted the guest cottage, also washing away its foundation piers.

Architectural and engineering professionals from across the state and nation recognized the significance of the cottage and rallied to save it. Volunteers salvaged much of the debris from the wreckage and cataloged the pieces for reinstallation in the house. Teams managed to stabilize the house, but much work remained to be done.

A federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant allowed the property to be purchased by the State of Mississippi in 2011, and funds from the federal Hurricane Relief Grant Pro-

gram for Historic Preservation made possible the restoration.

"A house of this pedigree is rare enough anywhere, but to have this house that is a precursor to Modern American domestic architecture, and associated with both Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, is a treasure beyond measure," said Oxford architect Tom Howorth.

"Although overseen by MDAH, the saving of the Charnley-Norwood House would not have been possible without the generous assistance of several groups, including the Association for Preservation Technology, National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Mississippi Heritage Trust, and Savannah College of Art and Design," said P'Pool.

The Department of Marine Resources, MDAH, the College of Architecture, Art, and Design at Mississippi State University, and the City of Ocean Springs are planning ways to utilize the site for education and heritage tourism.

Armory Project Not Derailed by Fire

Work has resumed on the historic Hinds County Armory on the Mississippi Fairgrounds in Jackson. The armory caught fire on the evening of July 2, 2013. Damage was limited to the south end of the building and included warping of the newly installed steel beams and columns and the destruction of the newly installed tower roof and original wood framed bleachers that acted as wall support.



“The fire was so intense that I expected there to be massive structural failure,” said Kenneth H. P’Pool, deputy state historic preservation officer. “However, there was very little. The armory was well constructed, and its historic building materials are superior to many modern materials. It’s true, they really don’t build them like they used to.”

The structural engineering assessment of the fire found the building’s original steel was largely undamaged but that the new steel’s strength was compromised by the heat. Replacement beams, columns, brackets, and other pieces were immediately ordered and have been delivered.

Reinforcement of the front wall will be required to replace the bleacher framing lost in the fire. Similar reinforcement for the sidewalls was included in the original project.

In July 2012 the State Fair Commission received a \$600,000 federal grant from MDAH for a new roof, interior clean-up, and stabilization of walls. This included the addition of new steel beams and braces for the roof and walls.



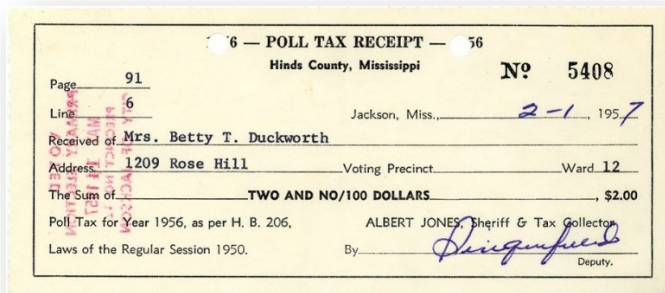
Native American Days



Members of the Southern Pines Drum Group from Choctaw, Mississippi, participated in the 2013 Native American Days festival at Winterville Mounds, which drew more than 2,000 people.

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 presented “The Black Codes to Brown vs. Board of Education” on February 20, 2014. Authors Jere Nash and Michael Williams discussed 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.”

Christmas by Candlelight Tour Dec. 6

Traditional holiday decorations were 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 December 6, 2013, for the eighteenth annual Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. Free transportation took nearly 1,000 visitors from site to site.

A giant Christmas tree returned to the Old Capitol, Jackson’s oldest building, along with many of the ornaments visitors may have remembered from years past. Garlands hung around the rotunda railing

MDAH SITES

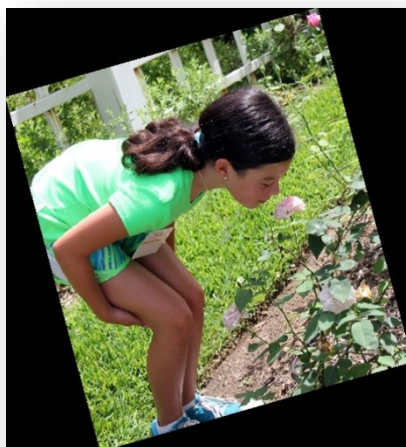
MDAH SITES

on the second floor and the stairwells, and wreaths decorated the exterior of the building.



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

The grand Mississippi State Capitol was decorated with Mississippi-grown Leyland Cypress Christmas trees, garlands, and poinsettias and the offices of the governor, lieu-



tenant governor, and Speaker of the House were open to visitors. Musical entertainment was the Christmas Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Bob Davidson, director of Senate

Legislative Services, and refreshments were served.

The circa-1841 Mississippi Governor's Mansion was decorated with seasonal greenery. The East Garden was open, and a very special guest from the North Pole greeted visitors in the garden's gazebo.

The Eudora Welty House and Garden featured original holiday greeting cards and decorations, as well as enlarged photos of the Welty family during the holiday season.

tos of the Welty family during the holiday season.

Summer Fun for Kids at MDAH Camps

The Department of Archives and History's museums and historic sites across the state offered summer camps for a variety of ages, with focuses ranging from architecture to pioneer skills to Native American culture.

GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NATCHEZ INDIANS, NATCHEZ

- **Discovery Week**

HISTORIC JEFFERSON COLLEGE, WASHINGTON

- **Naturalist Camp**
- **Frontier Survival Camp**

- **Civil War Adventure Camp**
- **Junior Naturalist Camp**

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM, JACKSON

- **Mississippi Inspectors: Building Mississippi**

WINTERVILLE MOUNDS, GREENVILLE

- **Summer Fun Days: Native Americans**
- **Summer Fun Days: Drum-Making**
- **Summer Fun Days: Native Americans**

Natchez Powwow March 29–30 at Grand Village

Traditional Native American dancing, singing, and fun were had at the Grand Village of the



Natchez Indians for the twenty-sixth annual Natchez Powwow on March 29 and 30, 2014. “The Grand Village offers a truly unique setting for a powwow,” said Jim Barnett, director of the Grand Village. “We are proud to play a role in honoring the state’s Native American heritage.”

There was gourd dancing, grand entry, and intertribal dancing both days. Tribes represented included the Choctaw, Comanche, Natchez, Osage, and Tonka. Dance groups include Gulf Coast Tiapih (Texas), White Star (Indiana), and Wounded Warrior (Louisiana).

Steve Kinder of Gladstone, Missouri, served as master of ceremonies, and Darsh DeSilva of Round Rock, Texas, was arena director. Head Singer Kevin Dawes from Baxter Springs, Kansas, handled the Southern Drum. Pete Littlecook of Ponca City Oklahoma was Head Gourd Dancer, and Tara Bryant from Goode, Virginia, was Head Lady Dancer.

Old-Time Music Festival May 17

The Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest returned for its seventh year to Historic Jefferson College on May 17, 2014. Visitors enjoyed performances by some of Mississippi’s best old-time musicians on the outdoor stage, watched talented fiddlers young and old vying for the prize in the fiddle contest, or joined a jam session in the shade of the majestic live oaks.

“This is one of my favorite events all year,” said Robin Person, Historic Jefferson College director. “The sound of the banjos and fiddles takes you back to

the early days of the college when it opened in 1811.”

This free festival celebrates Mississippi’s long tradition of fiddle and string band music. Performers included old-time swing band the Canegrinders; gourd banjo player Jason Smith; clawhammer banjo player and multi-instrumentalist Johnny Rawls; early Americana duo Hal and Connie Jeannes; finger-picking blues guitarist Reeves Jones; and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Patton.

The Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest was presented by the Mississippi Fiddlers Association.

Welty Garden Long-Range Plan Developed

In the early 1990s Susan Haltom began using the Eudora Welty Collection at MDAH to plan the restoration of the almost-one-acre garden to its original 1925 design. The collection contains extensive documentation of the garden kept by Welty and her mother, Chestina, including garden diaries and journals, photographs of the garden, and voluminous letters mentioning the garden and its importance in the fiction Welty produced.

“The garden is always changing,” said Haltom, co-author of *One Writer’s Garden: Eudora Welty’s*

Home Place. “How do you decide what to keep and what to change? Preserving it requires a long-term plan so that it will go on even after we’re gone.”

To that end, faculty members of Mississippi State University’s Department of Landscape Architecture have been working with the Eudora Welty House and Garden staff, Haltom, and garden volunteers to develop a landscape management plan that will help secure the garden as an important site of national culture and history.

“Things are looking great for the future of the garden,” said Bridget Edwards, Welty House director. “In addition to the long-range management plan, we’re about to install new garden signs that will better meld the Welty House, the grounds that surround it, and the

labors, aspirations, and inspirations that permeated both. Also, three new raised beds behind the Education and Visitors Center will be

used for plant propagation and educational programming.”

Teacher Workshop Examines Reconstruction

The twenty-ninth annual MDAH Social Studies Teachers Workshop was November 1, 2013, at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson. The theme, “Deconstructing Mississippi’s Reconstruction,” examined the devastated economy and new social structure that black and white Mississippians faced after the Civil War.

The workshop began with an overview of Reconstruction in Mississippi by Max Grivno,



University of Southern Mississippi. Morning presentations included “New Roles for African Americans in Mississippi Government” by K.C. Morrison, Mississippi State University, and “Chinese Population Comes to Mississippi” by Frieda Quon, emerita, Delta State University. Afternoon topics featured teaching Reconstruction, interpreting living history, and choosing Old Capitol lesson plans of either yellow fever epidemic of 1878 or the use of artifacts in the classroom.

The workshop was sponsored by MDAH in conjunction with the Mississippi College School of Continuing Education, Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Historical Society.

OUTREACH

Old Capitol Hosts Smithsonian Youth Summit

On February 5, 2014, the Old Capitol Museum hosted students from across the country in a virtual National Youth Summit on Freedom Summer and civic engagement. Civil rights activists and Freedom School interns participated in a panel discussion about the 1964 youth-led effort to end the political disenfranchisement of African Americans and race-based inequity in education in Mississippi.

Speakers included 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 enabled young people from California to Pennsylvania to participate via webcast, submitting questions for the panel through email, Facebook, and Twitter.

The summit was 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.

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 in 2013.

“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 was displayed in February 2014 at the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg, where it was part of the museum’s grand reopening celebration. Following its run in Hattiesburg, the exhibit traveled to the J.D. Boyd Library at Alcorn State University and the Medgar Evers Library in Jackson.

Groundbreaking Mississippians Chosen



MDAH outreach programs coordinator Claire Gwaltney, Madison Caffey (honorable mention), gifted teacher Allie Reed, principal Paul Lawrence, Alexandra Guzman (winner), gifted teacher Beryl Jones, Mila DouBrava (winner), Hagan Ware (honorable mention), and MDAH director of education Stacey Everett.

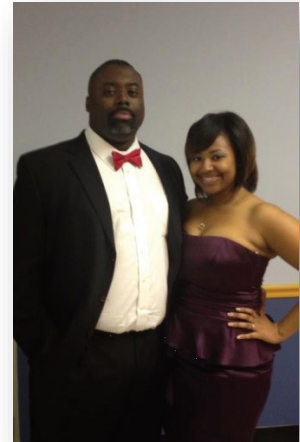
An author, actress, and school teacher were recognized as groundbreaking Mississippians thanks to MDAH’s inaugural art contest for children and online poll.

Camden Elementary School teacher Derian Knox was the write-in winner of the Groundbreaking Mississippian poll featured on the MDAH website. A graduate of Jackson State University, Belhaven University, and Mississippi College, Knox, pictured at right with his wife Micca, is active in numerous professional

teaching associations and community organizations. At Camden Elementary he is the lead math teacher and advisor for their local chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.

Voting was open to everyone, and people were asked to choose the most groundbreaking Mississippian from a list or nominate someone. The ballot included James Thomas, “Cool Papa” Bell, Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, James D. Hardy, Jim Henson, and Eudora Welty.

Two Winona Elementary School students took first place in the statewide art contest. Third grader Mila DouBrava submitted a drawing of acclaimed author Eudora Welty, and fourth grader Alexandra Guzman depicted actress and Meridian native Sela Ward. Children across the state were asked to illustrate and submit their choice of the most innovative, inspiring, heroic, or otherwise significant person in Mississippi history.



Both contests were designed to celebrate the construction of the new Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. To learn more about family and educational activities check the Learn tab on the MDAH website, www.mdah.state.ms.us.

Preservation Workshops Booked Statewide

In lieu of the annual Historic Preservation Boot Camp, MDAH is planning a series of training sessions in summer 2014 in Pascagoula, Starkville, Natchez, and Leland. The workshops are for elected officials, city staff, local Main Street organizers, and anyone interested in historic preservation.

These free seminars fulfill the annual training requirement for historic preservation commission members in Certified Local Government communities. Each session will focus on a different aspect of historic preservation.

GRANTS

\$4 Million Awarded to Projects Statewide

More than two dozen preservation projects across the state received a total of \$4 million in the most recent round of the popular Community Heritage Preservation Grant program. Funded by the Mississippi legislature and overseen by MDAH, the program helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, other historic properties.

“The Mississippi legislature has shown a commitment to historic preservation through this program, which has awarded more than \$27 million to one hundred seventy projects,” said MDAH Historic Preservation director Jim Woodrick. “Although there are always more requests than available funds, we have been able to give much-needed assistance to communities across the state.”

The 2013 grant awards are as follows:

Auburn Kitchen Dependency, Natchez, Adams County—\$157,688. *For roof repair and interior restoration.*



Natchez Institute, Natchez, Adams County—\$134,000. *For installation of a fire suppression system.*

Amite County Courthouse, Liberty, Amite County—\$181,736. *For restoration of original courtroom and exterior.*

Bolivar County Courthouse, Cleveland, Bolivar County—\$164,000. *For roof repair of original courthouse and jail.*

Houlka Attendance Center, Houlka, Chickasaw County—\$227,073. *For the replacement of metal windows with historically accurate wood windows.*

Port Gibson City Hall, Port Gibson, Claiborne County—\$166,280. *For repair of roof and interior plaster.*

Clarke County Courthouse, Quitman, Clarke County—\$72,160. *For replacement of the courthouse roof.*

Millsaps Hotel, Hazlehurst, Copiah County—\$176,160. *For replacement of roof and restoration of porch and windows.*

Old Cockrum School House, Hernando, Desoto County—\$80,000. *For the stabilization of roof and floor.*

Grenada Masonic Temple, Grenada, Grenada County—\$69,152. *For restoration of thirty-four windows.*

Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead, Jackson, Hinds County—\$140,276. *For restoration of the main house and five log outbuildings.*

James Observatory, Jackson, Hinds County—\$167,860. *For the restoration of the observatory and telescope.*

Lanier High School, Jackson, Hinds County—\$500,000. *For restoration of 597 original windows.*

Durant Depot North Building, Durant, Holmes County—\$69,600. *For roof repair and architect drawings.*



Gautier Colored School, Gautier, Jackson County—\$80,000. *For stabilization of the building.*

LaPointe Krebs House, Pascagoula, Jackson County—\$266,140. *For stabilization and restoration of the building envelope.*

Old Carthage Elementary School, Carthage, Leake County—\$80,000. *For installation of electrical and HVAC systems.*

Spain House, Tupelo, Lee County—\$120,000. *For replacement of roof and reconstruction of footings and portico.*

Old Greenwood-Leflore Library, Greenwood, Leflore County—\$136,242. *For restoration of the 1914 building interior.*

Stephen D. Lee House, Columbus, Lowndes County—\$40,000. *For a ramp that meets ADA standards.*

Historic Canton High School, Canton, Madison County—\$100,000. *For restoration of masonry.*

Columbia Waterworks, Columbia, Marion County—\$161,280. *For roof replacement.*

Chalmers Institute, Holly Springs, Marshall County—\$80,000. *For replacement of roof and rehabilitation of interior.*

Carnegie Auditorium, Holly Springs, Marshall County—\$400,000. *For stabilization of building for future restoration.*

Philadelphia Police Station, Philadelphia, Neshoba County—\$129,520. *For roof replacement and drainage remediation.*

Noxubee County Jails, Macon, Noxubee County—\$62,400. *For restoration of jails for use as library and offices.*

Tippah County Confederate Monument, Ripley, Tippah County—\$15,700. *For repair, restoration, and preservation.*

Washington County Courthouse, Greenville, Washington County—\$100,000. *For restoration of window fanlights.*

Webster County Courthouse, Walthall, Webster County—\$500,000. *For wall stabilization and roof reconstruction.*

CLG Preservation Grants Aid Communities

More than \$70,000 was awarded to preservation projects in fourteen Certified Local Government Communities at the April 2014 board meeting of the Department of Archives and History. The CLG program helps participants establish and administer historic preservation programs in their communities.

Grants of \$10,000 were awarded to the Merrill Building in Carrollton for building stabilization and repairs; the Main Street Bridge in Leland for repairing and painting concrete guardrails and installing six new lamp posts; and the Spain House in Tupelo for restoration of porticos and porches. Additional grants totaling \$44,407 were awarded to Aberdeen, Baldwin, Biloxi, Brandon, Canton, Gautier, McComb, Pascagoula, Starkville, Tunica, and Winona.

“The CLG program is an excellent example of a preservation partnership that bridges the federal, state, and local levels,” said grant administrator Barry White. “It’s not a one-size-fits-all program because participating municipalities have the flexibility to pursue their own preservation goals in the way that best suits their community.”

CLG participants are eligible for annual matching grants for such diverse projects as 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.

VOLUNTEERS

AmeriCorps Team Works at Manship House

Thanks to the efforts of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team members, the grounds of the Manship House Museum are looking good. The house is currently closed for repairs and foundation work had prevented all but the most necessary grounds maintenance.

“Vicksburg is home to one of only five AmeriCorps NCCC campuses in the United States,” said Elizabeth Coleman, MDAH volunteer services director. “There is serious competition for their services, and we were fortunate to get the Delta 5 Team. They operated like a well-oiled machine and were able to accomplish meaningful preservation work while at the Manship House Museum.”

The seven members of the NCCC Delta 5 team spent November 15 through December 4, 2013, scraping and painting more than seventy-five feet of picket fencing, removing invasive vegetation, pruning trees, digging garden beds, assisting with an archaeological investigation, and organizing artifacts found during the excavation.

Part of Manship House Museum director Marilyn Jones’s work during the closure of the house has been to further research the grounds

for future interpretation. Jones’s discovery of an oral history interview revealing there was a vegetable garden on the property as recently as the 1920s has led to plans for a historical garden exhibit. The AmeriCorps team, with the help of garden specialist Michael Gentry and MDAH volunteers, prepared the walkways and beds for the garden that will feature heirloom varieties of vegetables commonly grown in nineteenth century kitchen gardens, like those the Manship family may have grown.

“I discovered an article in the November 24, 1875, *Weekly Clarion* newspaper that reported all the prize winners at the Mississippi State Fair, including Adaline Manship for dried peaches,” said Jones. “The garden will provide a unique opportunity for us to demonstrate nineteenth-century gardening practices and healthy eating choices.”



The Delta 5 team also worked with MDAH archaeologists David Abbott and Patty Miller-Beech assisting with excavations in the garden area and side yard and cleaning and organizing the found artifacts. Team members included Tyler Monroe, Brandi Monnett, Alia Holle, Nick Bowlby, Francis McDyer, Cal Howick, and Tom Dorman.