

## 2015 Annual Report

### Director's Note

This year, the Department of Archives and History saw continued growth and progress in major initiatives. We strengthened ongoing work and launched new partnerships and programs—making the state's historic resources available to more people.

Construction of the 2 Mississippi Museums remains on schedule, with phase one completed this fall. The completion date for phase two, interior construction, is February 23, 2017. We are grateful to the 2015 Mississippi Legislature for providing funds to complete construction, begin fabrication and installation of exhibits, and have eleven staff positions for the museums. Fundraising is also on track—the 2MM campaign has met its fundraising goal of \$12 million and continues to raise private funds for exhibits and endowment.

MDAH director H.T. Holmes retired on January 31, 2015, and several hundred people gathered to honor him at a reception on January 15. I am honored to step into this role and excited about the future of the department.

This report presents highlights of our work in FY 2015. Thank you for your support.

—Katie Blount

Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

### News

#### **Kellogg Awards Civil Rights Museum \$2.3M**



**From left, Mississippi state senator John Horhn, MDAH board of trustees president Kane Ditto, former NAACP chair Myrlie Evers, Kellogg Foundation president and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron, former governor William Winter, and MDAH director H.T. Holmes**

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History received a \$2.3 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support programming through the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and to fund a partnership between MDAH, the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. The grant will make possible educational initiatives such as summer teacher training programs and school workshops, public programs in communities throughout the state, and the digitization of important historical documents from the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Collection at MDAH. The announcement was made October 14 in Jackson at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

“We thank the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for this extraordinary investment in our state’s future and for connecting the collections of MDAH with the people of Mississippi,” said MDAH director H.T. Holmes. “And we are thrilled they made this grant in honor of Myrlie Evers and Governor William Winter, two leaders who have been instrumental in making the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum a reality.”

### **State Capitol Undergoing Restoration**



A repair and restoration project is underway at the State Capitol that will leave the 111-year-old structure in its best shape in decades. Priorities are to address longtime water leaks, replace materials damaged by water and weather, and clean the exterior. “Leaks have occurred regularly in some parts of the capitol since its construction,” said Lawson Newman, project architect. “Unfortunately, persistent leaks are common in structures with complex roofs like this one.”

The 402-foot-wide capitol building has three domes—the main dome in the center that soars to a height of one hundred eighty feet, and two smaller domes at each end over the House of Representatives and Senate chambers. Scaffolding and an elevator have been installed to roof level on most of the circa-1903 building, and work will progress around the exterior as crews clean the limestone and granite panels and replace the sealant between them. “Much of the work is not complicated, but it will require going over every square inch of the stone cladding,” Newman said. “On a building the size of the capitol it will require significant time just to complete the job.” The entire project is expected to take 24 months.

## **Deputy Director Tapped to Lead MDAH**



Katherine Drayne Blount was named the seventh director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The Board of Trustees made the decision at a special meeting on September 4. Previous director H.T. Holmes continued to serve in the position until January 31, 2015.

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the two outstanding directors under whom I have served, Elbert Hilliard and H. T. Holmes,” Blount said. “This is an exciting time at MDAH. Across the state and here in Jackson, the staff is working hard to collect and preserve Mississippi’s extraordinary historic resources. And in just three years we will celebrate the state’s bicentennial by opening the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, two new museums that will join with many others across the state in telling stories of our shared past and our shared culture.”

Blount has been with MDAH since 1994, working for the last ten years in the director’s office. Since 2011 she served as deputy director for communication, overseeing the department’s strategic planning process, and working with the department director and deputy director for administration to make decisions on budget, personnel, and policy issues.

## **Legislature, Donors Provide 2MM Funds**



**Pictured at the Neilsen gift announcement are, from left, state senator John Horhn, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute chair Myrlie Evers, former governor William F. Winter, Neilsen and Company president Ray Neilsen, MDAH board of trustees vice**

**president Jack Garner, MDAH board of trustees president Kane Ditto, and Ambassador John Palmer, Foundation for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Inc.**

The Mississippi Legislature has approved \$20 million in bonds to complete the construction of the 2 Mississippi Museums and to begin the fabrication and installation of exhibits. Department director Katie Blount commented, “We are grateful for the Legislature’s ongoing commitment to this important project, and we’re excited about this latest milestone on the road to opening the museums to the public. The department will seek additional funding next year to complete the exhibits and furnish the building.” Since January 2015 the department has received \$3.35 million in private donations for the project. On January 9 the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and philanthropist Ray Neilsen committed \$2.5 million to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. In a joint announcement on February 10, Trustmark CEO Jerry Host and Butler Snow chairman Don Clark made commitments of \$500,000 and \$350,000 respectively.

The Neilsen Foundation was established in 2002 by Craig H. Neilsen, the founder of Ameristar Casinos who died in 2006. A Mississippi resident, Ray Neilsen is president of the real estate development firm Neilsen & Company and co-trustee and chairman of the board of the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. “I share my late father’s commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusion, and I am honored to support the history—and the future—of our state in this way,” said Ray Neilsen.

In commemoration of the \$2.5 million gift, the 2 Mississippi Museums will feature the Craig H. Neilsen Auditorium and the Ray Neilsen Hall of History.

Trustmark’s gift will sponsor the lobby and Community Room shared by the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History. Butler Snow’s donation will sponsor the opening gallery, “Mississippi’s Freedom Struggle,” in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

“Being engaged in the communities we serve has been a corporate philosophy at Trustmark for 125 years,” said Trustmark CEO Jerry Host. “The 2 Mississippi Museums will be an asset to our state, both culturally and economically, by providing an optimum place for education on our state’s history, diversity, and culture for Mississippi citizens and guests from around the world.”

Since construction began in December 2013, all interior floors have been completed. Work on the limestone façade and the 150-car public garage is underway. The concrete roof of the museums is in place and construction of the oculus, the round opening on the roof of the MCRM, has begun. Phase one of the project is expected to be completed in summer 2015. Phase two, interior construction, will last eighteen months.

The 2011 legislation authorizing construction of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum required MDAH match the public money with private dollars for exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History and Foundation for the Mississippi Civil

Rights Museum are on target to meet the goal of \$16 million—\$12 million for the exhibits plus a \$2 million endowment for each museum.

### **Grant Awarded to Catalog, Digitize Items**



**Eudora Welty kept books in every room in her house—including stacks on the table in the dining room.**

MDAH will use nearly \$150,000 in federal funds to create digital images and descriptions of more than 11,000 artifacts and make that information available online. The Institute of Museum and Library Services grant will provide for contractual staff, photography and computer equipment, and specialized software over the three-year project, which began December 1.

“Our grants are highly competitive, and receiving one is a significant achievement,” said IMLS director Susan H. Hildreth. “The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums.”

MDAH staff will make regular monthly postings to the department’s collections blog *A Sense of Place* highlighting the newly digitized content as the project progresses. The project will pave the way for the development and launch of a digital collections interface.

### **2MM Project Support Grows**



**MDAH director Katie Blount and Museum Division director Lucy Allen accept the grill of a Nissan Murano from Jeffrey Webster, director of Diversity and Inclusion for Nissan North America, and members of the Nissan Canton choir.**

Gifts totaling \$1.5 million from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and Nissan to the 2 Mississippi Museums project will fund common areas and galleries in the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

“Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi is proud to support the 2 Mississippi Museums, which celebrate the culture and history of our state,” said Sheila Grogan, Vice President, Community and Public Relations.

“This project seeks to tell the full story of Mississippi’s past while also magnifying hopes for the future,” said Jeffrey Webster, director of Diversity and Inclusion for Nissan North America.



**From left, state senator John Horhn, former governor William Winter, Jeffrey Webster, and former governor Ronnie Musgrove.**

## **Projects**

### **Newspaper Digitization Project Underway**

From the state’s longest running newspaper, the *Woodville Republican*, to short-lived Civil War newspapers such as the *Corinth War Eagle*, seventy-four Mississippi newspaper titles from twenty-two counties published between 1836 and 1922 are being processed for inclusion on the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America website. Wednesday, November 12, Deborah Thomas, National Digital Newspaper Program coordinator, was at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson to discuss the project and Mississippi’s role.

“As a primary source for the historic record, newspapers give a rich view into the events, people, and society of the past,” said Thomas. “The addition of unique content from Mississippi

communities will provide historians, genealogists, students, and teachers the opportunity to explore further how the people of those communities lived their lives and add Mississippi historical viewpoints to the national corpus.”

In 2013 MDAH received a two-year National Digital Newspaper Program grant to digitize 100,000 pages of the state’s historical newspapers. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, the program has helped more than thirty states scan eight million newspaper pages to enhance the study of American history.

### **Charnley-Norwood Restoration Wins Best-Of 2014**



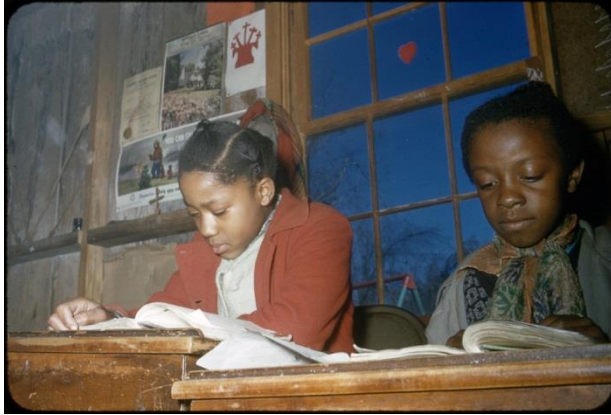
The Department of Archives and History was honored for its work on a nationally significant Gulf Coast residence. The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians presented MDAH and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources with their 2014 Best of the South: Preserving Southern Architecture award for the restoration of the Charnley-Norwood House in Ocean Springs.

The house was designed for timber baron James Charnley in 1890 by two of the United States’ most influential architects, Chicago’s Louis Sullivan—“the father of the skyscraper”—and his lead draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright—“the father of modern architecture.” The vacation cottage was destroyed by fire in 1896 and immediately reconstructed by the new owner Frederick W. Norwood.

The privately owned home was nearly destroyed again more than a century later when Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2005. Teams of preservation professionals from across the country descended on the Gulf Coast to help identify and save significant structures. Under MDAH’s oversight, they helped document the house and salvage significant portions of the building from the wreckage. By 2009 teams had completed an emergency stabilization of the property. In 2011 a federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant allowed the property to be

purchased by the State of Mississippi, and funds from the federal Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation administered by MDAH made possible the restoration.

### **Digitized School Photos Collection Posted**



Thousands of historical images of Mississippi students, teachers, staff members, and schools can now be viewed on the department's website. The collection documents aspects of twentieth-century education in Mississippi such as demographics, classroom furnishings, extracurricular activities, bussing, and the state's change from a racially segregated system. "School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s" is the fortieth collection to be scanned and added to the MDAH Digital Archives, which provides direct online access to the resources of the state archives.



### **Sites**

#### **HJC Joins Natchez Fall Pilgrimage**

Historic Jefferson College joined the annual Fall Pilgrimage in Natchez as part of a special morning tour offered September 26 and 29 and October 2, 5, 8, and 11 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



The Red Tour featured HJC and Sweet Auburn, the first home of Dr. John Wesley Monette, and was led by reenactors in period costume.

Historic Jefferson College was established in 1802 as the first institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Territory. In 1817 the Mississippi statehood convention took place in a church building adjacent to the college. In 1863 the college closed and was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War, serving for a time as the offices of the Freedmen's Bureau. It reopened in 1866 as a preparatory school and became known as Jefferson Military College until its closure in 1964.

The school was the location for films and television productions including *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, *The Horse Soldiers* starring John Wayne, and the miniseries *North and South*.

### **Music Festival Returns To Jefferson College**

The Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest returned for its eighth year to Historic Jefferson College in May. The festival celebrated Mississippi's long tradition of fiddle and string band music. Live acoustic performances began on the outdoor stage and featured some of the region's finest traditional musicians. Acts included 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; old time band Mississippi Cajun, outlaw fiddlers Frank and Jesse, fiddler band extraordinaire Kinney's Two Carr Garage, and others.

In 1939 the federal government assigned Herbert Halpert to travel to Mississippi and make field recordings of folk songs for the Library of Congress. Halpert captured performances by several fiddlers, in some cases preserving songs that might otherwise have been lost to time. A selection of these recordings was released by MDAH in 1985 under the name "Great Big Yam Potatoes," after one of the featured tunes. The gathering and fiddle contest is named after that influential album, now out of production.

### **Restoration Planned at Winterville**

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History will use \$300,000 made available by the 2015 Mississippi Legislature to restore Winterville Mounds to its pre-Columbian appearance. American Indians began developing the site some thousand years ago as their political and ceremonial center. Dozens of earthworks, including the five-story-tall Mound A, were constructed before the area ceased to be used between five and six hundred years ago.

"We are grateful to the legislature and to strong local leaders such as Delta Council executive vice president Chip Morgan, Greenville Garden Club member Lynn Cox, and Southern Research Center biologist Paul Hamel," said MDAH director Katie Blount.

Long-term plans for Winterville Mounds include a new museum that will explore the lives of Mississippi's American Indians.

## Outreach

### **Local Civil Rights Veterans Featured in Series**



### **Freedom Summer and Beyond: Belzoni**

During the summer and fall, MDAH and the Mississippi Humanities Council partnered with communities and organizations across the state on a series of programs featuring local civil rights veterans, presentations on the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum under construction in Jackson, and the collections of the department. The five “Freedom Summer and Beyond” programs attracted more than 325 people.

“The struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi was a grassroots movement involving scores of local people who helped transform our state,” said Mississippi Humanities Council director Stuart Rockoff. “The Humanities Council was honored to support these programs, which gave voice to these local heroes and honored the work they have done.”

MDAH partnered with the Humphreys County chapter of the NAACP and the Humphreys County Cultural Museum on the inaugural program in July, held at the O.M. McNair Elementary School in Belzoni. The featured speaker was Bessie Ree Moore Thurman. In August the department worked with the DeSoto County African American History Symposium and the DeSoto County Museum to stage a panel that included Gemenie Bowdrie, Gertrude Bridgeforth, Willie Dobbins, Theron Long, Leslie McLemore, Thomas Plunkett, and Joseph Stone at the West Oak Grove Church of Christ in Hernando. The Canton Chapter of the NAACP co-sponsored the September program in Canton that featured John Brown and Dr. William Truly.

The final program of the series was held in November at the Westside Community Center in Gulfport. Co-sponsored by the Quarters Group, 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Alumni Association, and Concerned

Citizens Coalition, it featured Gulf Coast civil rights activists James Black, Robert Cook, and Boyd James III.

### **Welty Fellow Focuses on Story Cycle**



The 2015 Eudora Welty Research Fellowship was awarded to Ikuko Takeda, a doctoral candidate in English at Louisiana State University. Established by the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Department of Archives and History, the fellowship supports research use of the Eudora Welty Collection by graduate students.

“We’re delighted to welcome Ms. Takeda to the Archives,” said Julia Marks Young, director of Archives and Records Services. “As the fifth Welty Fellow, she continues the pattern of strong, creative scholarship and brings an international dimension to the prize.”

Takeda’s research focuses on the relationship between Welty’s writings and the short-story cycle as a genre, with emphasis on sexuality and gender in *The Golden Apples* and *The Wide Net*. She will use her findings to develop an essay for submission to the *Eudora Welty Review*, and to form the basis of her dissertation. While at the archives in May she reviewed four series: uncollected stories, 1925–1987; *The Wide Net*, 1942; *The Golden Apples* and Related Works, 1949; and relevant correspondence, 1918–2002.

Takeda plans to return to her native Japan as a faculty member and Welty scholar.

The \$2,000 fellowship covers travel, housing, and other expenses incurred while doing primary research in the Eudora Welty Collection. Applicants for the 2015 fellowship included students from Renmin University of China, University of Notre Dame, Georgia State University, University of Mississippi, and University of California–Santa Barbara.

### **Society Awards Annual History Prizes**



**Aram Goudsouzian received the McLemore Prize from committee member Robert Fleegler.**



**The Dunbar Rowland Award went to Rosemary Taylor Williams, left, with 2014–2015 MHS president Ann Simmons and MHS secretary-treasurer Elbert R. Hilliard.**

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting March 5–7 in Corinth to honor its 2015 award winners and offer presentations on the meeting’s theme of north Mississippi’s role in the Civil War. Topics included the Battle of Corinth, Unionism, life on the home front, and slavery.

### **Emancipation Symposium in Jackson**



The celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of emancipation was held in April in Jackson. Activities ranged from musical and theatrical performances at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center and the Mississippi Museum of Art to symposia at the Old Capitol Museum and Tougaloo College.

“There was no more important watershed event in Mississippi’s history,” said Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, one of the co-sponsoring organizations. “Emancipation transformed the lives of all Mississippians, the majority of whom had been enslaved. This free symposium will bridge the worlds of academia and the general public, bringing leading scholars to explain the continuing resonance of this crucial period.”

“The word jubilee is befitting for this event because the liberation was a mass celebration of freedom for the African,” said Pamela Junior, Smith Robertson director. “This is a time to reflect on the feelings of our ancestors of the great jubilee of freedom and understand the spirit and meaning of this word in the twenty-first century. I am very excited about the City of Jackson and Smith Robertson co-sponsoring this magnificent celebration.”

Mississippi Jubilee is made possible through a partnership between MDAH and the Mississippi Humanities Council, Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, Smith Robertson Museum, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

### **Symposium to Examine History of the Vote**

MDAH co-sponsored a symposium that examined the long-range effects of the fifteenth amendment and the ways in which it curtailed until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library hosted the three-day program “The Fifteenth Amendment: From U.S. Grant to Lyndon B. Johnson’s Voting Rights Act” on September 23–25 on the campus of Mississippi State University.

Professor Douglas Egerton was the keynote speaker. The featured panel included Mississippi Supreme Court chief Justice William Waller, retired Mississippi Supreme Court justice Fred Banks, and retired Rhode Island chief justice Frank J. Williams. The moderator was former Mississippi governor and member of President Bill Clinton’s Nation Advisory Board on Race Relations William Winter.

## Grants

### **Preservation Projects Receive \$2M**

Seventeen preservation and restoration projects throughout the state have received more than \$2 million from the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program. The program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, other historic properties. Over the life of the program MDAH has awarded more than \$32 million to 203 projects. The 2015 Legislature has approved funding for another round of the program.

The latest grant awards are as follows:

**Natchez Institute**, Natchez, Adams County—\$150,000. *For installation of a fire suppression system.*

**West Point City Hall**, West Point, Clay County—\$81,597. *For exterior restoration and roof repair.*

**Clarksdale Central Fire Station**, Clarksdale, Coahoma County—\$46,458. *For electrical upgrades, restoration of interior, and repair to masonry, doors, and windows.*

**Eureka School**, Hattiesburg, Forrest County—\$131,000. *For restoration of the school's second floor.*

**Lanier High School**, Jackson, Hinds County—\$80,000. *For restoration of the building's façade.*

**Lowry House**, Jackson, Hinds County—\$59,708. *For rehabilitation of interior, installation of interior and exterior lighting, and landscaping.*

**Morning Star School**, Edwards, Hinds County—\$75,000. *For restoration of roof and walls.*

**Rhino Barn at Jackson Zoo**, Jackson, Hinds County—\$148,400. *For interior rehabilitation and roof and masonry repair and restoration.*

**LaPointe-Krebs House**, Pascagoula, Jackson County—\$200,000. *For further stabilization and restoration of interior and exterior.*

**Lynville School**, Preston, Kemper County—\$216,000. *For roof replacement.*

**Temple Theatre for the Performing Arts**, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$38,240. *For roof repair, exit door replacement, and termite treatment.*

**Marion County Courthouse**, Columbia, Marion County—\$141,830. *For cupola repair and restoration.*

**Old Water and Light Plant**, Holly Springs, Marshall County—\$160,000. *For roof replacement and masonry restoration.*

**Immanuel Church**, Winona, Montgomery County—\$138,094. *For restoration of stained glass windows.*

**Old Holmesville-Pike County Courthouse**, Holmesville, Pike County—\$120,750. *For restoration and stabilization of the exterior and rehabilitation of the interior.*

**Tallahatchie County Courthouse**, Sumner, Tallahatchie County—\$122,370. *For restoration of the east entrance.*

**Union County Courthouse**, New Albany, Union County—\$245,000. *For restoration of the roof and cupola.*

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

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling more than \$74,000 to sixteen preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state. The 2015 CLG grants are as follows:

**Aberdeen, \$5,245**, for a professional assessment of M&O Depot, including a facilities report, structural review and report, and design and construction documents for an ADA and bathroom addition.

**Brandon, \$1,131**, for the creation of self-guided tour brochures for the Old Brandon Cemetery, as well as informational signs along tour route and a waterproof brochure box at the cemetery.

**Canton, \$10,000**, for the replacement of fencing on east side of “New” Canton Cemetery.

**Clinton, \$4,000**, for the completion of a survey and a National Register Historic District nomination of Olde Towne Clinton.

**Como, \$6,000**, for the replacement of Como City Hall roof.

**Durant, \$375**, for the completion of a National Register Historic District nomination and the rehabilitation of the Durant Depot’s south-side windows.

**Greenwood, \$9,500**, for the completion of a historic resources survey for the downtown commercial district.

**Holly Springs, \$5,800**, for a ten-day intensive historic windows workshop at the Chalmers Institute, which will include hands-on instruction in diagnostics, traditional wood repairs, glazing, and epoxy repairs by *Save America’s Windows* author John Leeke.

**Jackson, \$10,000**, for the interior, exterior, and mechanical rehabilitation to the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center.

**McComb, \$4,500**, for the completion of a historic resources survey in East McComb.

**Pascagoula, \$1,950**, for the design and installation of two pedestal signs along downtown historic pathway to raise public preservation awareness for residents and visitors.

**Port Gibson, \$873**, to print copies of the Port Gibson Design Guidelines.

**Quitman, \$6,000**, for the completion of a survey and National Register Historic District nomination of downtown Quitman and the Old Mill District.

**Vicksburg, \$2,150**, for the placement of signs at major streets entering historic downtown Vicksburg.

**West, \$1,382**, for the creation of brochures and signage to promote West Historic District as well as signage for Casey Jones Museum, West Methodist Church, and Masonic Lodge.

**Woodville, \$5,500**, for rehabilitation of Polk's Meat Market, including construction of rear deck and handicap ramp, replacement ADA rear doors, electrical work, and new interior floor.

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.



## Volunteers



**The Mississippi Department of Archives and History held its annual Valentine Volunteer Luncheon to recognize the service of their volunteers who serve in both public and behind-the-scenes roles throughout the state.**

Volunteers continue to serve vital roles at MDAH, furthering the mission and enhancing the work of the department. MDAH volunteers served over 17,700 hours in calendar year 2015. A total of 274 individual volunteers and 91 service group volunteers served within every division. Volunteers serving between 100 and 2,000 hours received Awards of Merit from Governor Phil Bryant. Thirty-two volunteers and two service groups received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award (500+ hours for individuals and 1,000+ hours for groups).