

2014...A Very Good Year!



Dear MDAH Volunteers:

This past year has been an amazing one of productivity thanks to the MDAH volunteers! Volunteers served a total of 18,148.76 hours in 2014. The labor value of this service is \$409,254.54. Some of you serve many hours at one site and some of you serve at multiple places. Whichever the case, our agency is better and richer because of your involvement. Pictured above are the 2014 Governor's Award of Merit winners for their service in 2014. Award winners, including those not pictured, are listed on page two.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity. Your donations of volunteer service have been the catalyst in mobilizing others to help in furthering our mission. These are exciting times at Archives and History, and we are very happy that we have such outstanding volunteers to represent us and to share our Mississippi story.

Katie Blount, director

Test Your MDAH History Facts

1. At the conclusion of the Civil War, sick and injured soldiers boarded a steamboat on the Mississippi River that was docked on the Vicksburg river bluff in hopes that they would be taken home. In all, there were 2,400 aboard this steamboat, more than six times its capacity. This boat exploded near Memphis due to faulty design and the heavy load of human cargo. The name of this steamboat is:

- a) the Lusitania
- b) the Cairo
- c) the Sultana
- d) the Delta Queen

2. The Mississippi River Flood of 1927 impacted eleven states severely, including much of Mississippi. This event brought about change—social and political—and found its place in music, folklore, literature, and films. Which English rock group reworked Kansas Joe McCoy and Memphis Minnie’s song, “When the Levee Breaks?”

- a) the Beatles
- b) the Rolling Stones
- c) Electric Light Orchestra
- d) Led Zeppelin

3. This engineer built an arched bridge in St. Louis, Missouri. His next great work had an effect on the Gulf Coast. His design and creation of underwater walls or “jetties” where Mississippi meets the Gulf sealed his reputation as a master of river engineering. This engineer is:

- a) Pierre Lemoyne D’Iberville
- b) James Buchanan Eads
- c) Herbert Clark Hoover
- d) Andrew Atkinson Humphreys



Answers are on the last page.

Governor’s Award of Merit Winners

First row: Steve Kelly, Kathy Gray, Noreen Prouty, Pauline Akers, Sue Newman, Nan Harvey, Jane Dunaway, Montine “Teeny” Bond, Betty Henry, Joyce Huskey, and Jeri Reiff **Second row:** Mary Lohrenz, Gail Buzhardt, Bernie Lieb, Carol Busbee, Joy Matthews, Jane Phillips, Luran Buchanan, Jackie Roman, Carolyn Clements, Joyce Ellis, MDAH director Katie Blount, Judy Lacy, Dorothea Brock, Master Gardener (Natchez) Jean Simonton, and Clytice Gardner **Third row:** MDAH Volunteer Services Elizabeth Coleman, Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell, Lee Adams, Cindy Lyons, Master Gardener (Natchez) Peggy June, Kermit Baumgartner, Reeser Cooksey, MDAH director emeritus Elbert Hilliard, and Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto

Award winners not pictured: Sharon Anderson, Chuck Borum, Jean Clarkson, Brenda Cole, Paul Davis, Pat Fleming, Greenville Christian School, Greenville Garden Club, Regina Griffin, Emily Hancock, Buena Lee Huff, Virginia Hughson, Benny and Gena Roberts, Freda Spell, Wirt Adams reenactors, and Charles Zuccaro.

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2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Governor's Mansion

Story and Images courtesy of the Editor, unless otherwise noted



Left: Governor Phil Bryant and First Lady Deborah Bryant welcomed numerous visitors (almost 1,000!) to their home during the Candlelight Tour. First Lady Bryant is the honorary chair of the Mississippi's Commission for Volunteer Service, Volunteer Mississippi.

During the Candlelight event, MDAH docents were posted at the front door and in each room, greeting the public and sharing information with visitors.



Above: Jean Clarkson was posted in the hallway near General John Quitman's painting. Quitman's history as a soldier and politician make for fascinating conversation.



Left: Luran Buchanan welcomed people as they entered this National Historic Landmark which is the second-oldest continuously occupied executive residence in the United States.

2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Governor's Mansion

Right: The Governor's Mansion pictured at dusk right before the tour began.



Image courtesy of MDAH

Below: More interior images at the Governor's Mansion. Docents Carol Bubee, Andi McDaniel, Pat Pierce, and Steve Kelly, and many other docents told interested visitors about the history and furnishings at the site.



Carol Bubee



Andi McDaniel



Pat Pierce



Steve Kelly

2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Manship House Museum



Left: Image courtesy of MDAH



Image courtesy of MDAH

1) The Manship House Museum (MHM) hosted more than 600 visitors on the night of Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. It was obvious that the public was excited to have the site reopened for this event. 2) Volunteers Jeff Klingfuss and Todd Sanders in the role of Victorian men. 3) Volunteer Jerald Everett greeting people at the door. 4) Marilynn Jones (MHM director) provided luminaries throughout the site 5) Irish dancers, musicians, and children's crafts were all part of this festive evening. Special delectable treats were provided by the Manship Restaurant in Jackson.

2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: William F. Winter Building



Lucky Osborne



Betty Henry



At the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, visitors were treated to model trains, Christmas stories, choral music, and artifacts from Christmases long ago.



Image courtesy of MDAH



Far left: Possum Ridge trains traveled through the town.

Immediate left: Rebecca Saunders Gage, a doll from the Antebellum period.

Immediate left, bottom: Shirley Temple, a doll from the Depression era

Below: First Presbyterian Day School performed in the Archives Building



Image courtesy of MDAH

2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Eudora Welty House and Garden

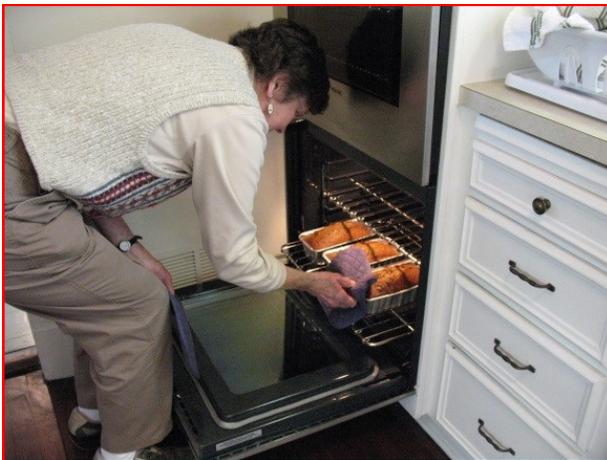
News and Images from Megan Bankston

It was an unseasonably warm night for our annual December event, *Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour*. The EWHG welcomed 542 visitors the night of December 5. MDAH employees from Collections and Archives and Records Services brought over special Christmas cards, letters, and artifacts to display for the event.

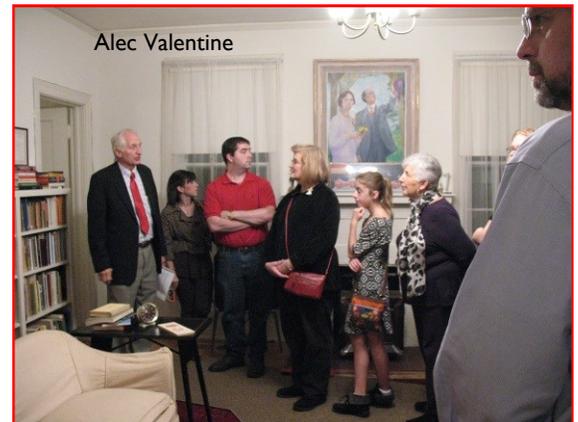
Guests were greeted in each of the downstairs rooms of the Welty House by volunteers armed with a wealth of knowledge about Miss Welty and her family at Christmas time. Next door in the Education and Visitors Center, guests listened to traditional Irish music by Spirits of the House. They could also find more volunteers busily preparing homemade pumpkin bread, cookies, and warm cider. The Welty staff thanks every volunteer who helped in any way in making the night a success for all.



Volunteer Freda Spell greeted visitors on the front porch



Volunteer Barbara Rogers and her husband John made all of the pumpkin bread from scratch.



Volunteer Alec Valentine talked to visitors in the sitting room



The Irish band Spirits of the House played in the Education and Visitors Center



Betty Uzman from Archives and Records Services showed visitors original Christmas cards sent to Welty

2014 Christmas by Candlelight Tour: Old Capitol Museum



The Old Capitol Museum hosted more than 1,000 visitors at Candlelight!

1) The Old Capitol Museum Candlelight Marketplace appears only one night each year. Staff member Maura Johnson had several gift bag options available for purchase during this night-time event. Also, there were delicious treats made available by 2) La Brioche.

3) The Old Capitol has such beautiful acoustics in the rotunda that music groups love performing in the crown of the William Nichols architectural treasures.

4) The rotunda of the Old Capitol was a great place for visitors to mill about as they enjoyed this fun evening.

Note: The State Capitol was unable to participate in the 2014 Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour due to an ongoing preservation project. Hopefully, they will return to the tour next Christmas!



Image courtesy of MDAH

Governor's Mansion Annual Docent Luncheon

News and Images from Lauren Miller, unless otherwise noted



Image courtesy of MDAH

First Lady Deborah Bryant hosted the Docent Luncheon for MDAH volunteers who serve that site. Mansion Executive Chef Matt Huffman prepared a delightful lunch. Each docent received a beautiful Christmas ornament from the First Lady. Pictured at the luncheon include: First row: Billie Henry, curator Lauren Miller, Andi McDaniel, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Lynn Stuart, Montine Bond, and Janis Roberts Second row: Sylvia Walker, Steve Kelly, and Brenda Cole Third row: Luran Buchanan, Carol Busbee, Earline Raines, Bernie Lieb, Pauline Akers, and Carolyn Clements Fourth Row: Clytice Gardner, Joyce Huskey, Melanie McKinley, Ruth Tant, and Mackie Jernigan Fifth row: Tom Watts, Pat Pierce, Museum Division director Lucy Allen, Jean Clarkson. MDAH Board Trustee and Mansion Committee member Hilda Povall, and Becky Herren Sixth row: Charlotte Turner, Buena Lee Huff, Mary Louise Nossier, MDAH director Hank Holmes, and Babs Sevier.



- Above: Eight docents worked twenty or more times at the Governor's Mansion. Brenda Cole, Jean Clarkson, Joyce Huskey, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Steve Kelly, Pauline Akers, Carolyn Clements, Bernie Lieb, and Janis Roberts.



Above: In 2014, five docents retired from the Governor's Mansion. Pictured here with First Lady Deborah Bryant are Babs Sevier, Charlotte Turner, Earline Raines, and Billie Henry. Not pictured: Morella Hene-gan.

Museum Division Education

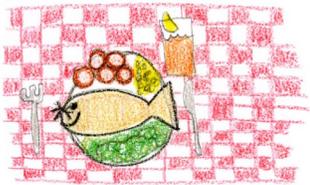
News and Images from Claire Gwaltney



Shamera Brumfield of Starkville is a great example of a volunteer who lives far from an MDAH museum site but continues to volunteer and make a big impact at the department! Shamera's latest project was the research and writing of an issue of *The Mudcat*, MDAH's online student newsletter.

to discover Mississippi's catfish farming history, how a fish goes from fry to fryer, and the existence of some strange species of catfish, including ones that walk and talk (seriously!). The all-catfish issue of *The Mudcat* will be released in April at <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/learn/students/the-mudcat-newsletter/>

Assigned the topic of catfish, Shamera went on



Mississippi Department of Archives and History

The Mudcat

The Online Mississippi History Newsletter for Students

Vol 3. No 2. Spring 2015

Mississippi is #1 in Catfish Farming!



Catfish farmers near Doddsville. MDAH Museum Division Education.

Mississippi is the largest catfish farming state in the U.S. and the leader of catfish production in the world. Beginning in the 1970s, Americans became more health conscious as the prices of meat increased. This helped the new aquaculture industry take off. In 1979 there were 5.7 million pounds of U.S. catfish processed annually; today, that number has risen to

334 million pounds. Fish farming is the commercial raising of fish in ponds or other enclosures. On fish farms, growers control the feeding, harvests, and water quality under strict conditions. Farmers measure to ensure a quality product, such as monitoring the health of the water, providing high protein feed pellets made of corn, wheat, and soybeans for

the fish, and taste testing the fish before harvest. In the Delta, catfish are raised in "levee" ponds. These are dug into the flat landscape, using the removed soil to form embankments. The flat landscape and the ground water supply of this region are ideal for these ponds. Ponds typically encompass 17 acres of water. One acre can support up to 8,000 fish.

The Journey from Fry to Fryer

Broodfish are kept in separate ponds to ensure quality stock. They produce eggs in late spring and early summer at a rate of 2,000 to 4,000 per pound of the female's

body weight. Fertilized eggs are placed in hatchery tanks at a temperature of 78 degrees. The eggs hatch after seven days and live off the food supplied by their yolks. After the yolks are used up, the fish or "fry" are placed in a special pond where they grow into **fingerlings**. The fingerlings are then placed in catfish ponds.

Catfish are harvested at around 18 months old or when they are 1-2 pounds. Once the fish are harvested they are sent to a processing plant. At the plant, the entire procedure takes less than 30 minutes. After processing, the fish is frozen to capture its fresh taste.

Catfish Capital of the World

During the nineteenth century, Mississippi was renowned for its production of cotton, the primary **cash crop** for the state. After the Civil War, the demand for cotton dropped and prices fell. By the 1960s, farmers

began to explore replacing cotton fields with commercial catfish ponds. Even though many people left the Delta looking for better opportunities, some people stayed to try their luck at catfish farming. These farmers raised

catfish to sell at stands or door-to-door. Some managed to sell to processors who then sold to stores and restaurants.

By the 1970s, the market for farm-raised catfish was growing. Country Select, Delta Pride, and

Heartland Catfish built processing plants in the Delta. The industry brought millions of dollars into the Mississippi economy, making catfish a profitable cash crop.



Image above courtesy of Shamera Brumfield



Thank you,

Shamera!

The school children of Mississippi

will enjoy

learning more

about catfish!

Let's Welcome Megan Bankston to the Governor's Mansion

News from the Editor, Image courtesy of Megan Bankston



Megan Bankston, formerly at the Eudora Welty House and Garden, moved to the Mississippi Governor's Mansion as the Curator as of March 1, 2015. Megan is originally from Flowood and was graduated from Northwest Rankin High School in 2007. She completed her B.A. in history at Mississippi State University and graduated summa cum laude in 2011. She received her M.A. in museum studies in 2013 from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. While at Baylor, Megan was active in the Museum Studies Student Association, serving as president during the 2012-2013 school year.

As part of her graduate requirements, Megan completed a full-time internship during the summer of

2012 in volunteer services at the Mayborn Museum Complex in Waco. Megan gained essential collections knowledge during a nine-month graduate assistantship at the Mayborn Museum Complex in 2012-2013. She also gained experience in museum education, programming, and exhibits while attending Baylor. In addition, Megan has volunteered in the Collections Department at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

Since July 2013, Megan served as the special projects coordinator at the EWHG. She supervised volunteers, the gift shop, the front desk administrative assistant, the site's Facebook page, and various other special

projects.

Since joining MDAH, Megan has been involved in the Metro Jackson Attractions Association (MJAA) as well as Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA).

Happily, Megan is already familiar with a portion of the docents at the Governor's Mansion since they also volunteer at the Welty House, and she is excited to meet and get to know the others. Please join us in welcoming Megan to the Governor's Mansion!

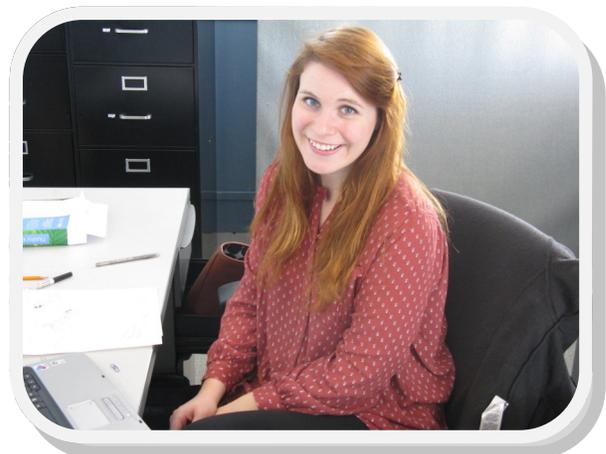
Museum Division Education Intern

News and Images from Claire Gwaltney



The MDAH education staff is happy to have an intern with us this spring. Cadi Duncan is a junior at Millsaps College in Jackson where she is majoring in art history with a minor in museum studies. Cadi's goal is to become a museum education professional and to that end she has been busy creating two very different sets of classroom materials.

One is an activity packet focusing on "Barn Burning," a short story by William Faulkner and its film adaptation. The other is a teaching unit based on *Winter Holidays*, the long-standing annual MDAH holiday exhibit. This unit, designed for students in grades pre-kindergarten through first grade, will reinforce concepts such as the alphabet, counting, and patterns.



Cadi is also using her special skills as a practicing artist to create original drawings for the unit. When complete, both of Cadi's projects will join other classroom resources on the MDAH website.

Old Capitol Museum

News from Lauren Miller



Image courtesy of Jasmine Magee

The Old Capitol Museum continues to benefit from the help of our student volunteers with this semester's front desk volunteer, Jasmine McGhee of Pearl, Mississippi. Jasmine is an English major from Jackson State University graduating in May of this year. Jasmine's infectious positivity is a wonderful asset to the Old Capitol, and we are enjoying having her on Tuesday afternoons at the front desk for the duration of the semester.

MDAH's Jessica Kelly, has diligently matched the Old Capitol with student volunteers who excel at greeting our visitors and helping them feel welcome in our stately museum and our city. We look forward to each semester and the young, new faces who become part of our Old Capitol Museum family!

Getting Updated at the State Capitol

Story and Images from the Editor



Capitol curator Brenda Davis and Visitor Services coordinator Kathy Broom take great care in updating stakeholders about the recent discoveries found during the current restoration project at that site. They, along with MDAH chief architectural historian Jennifer Baughn and Capitol architect Lawson Newman, were on hand at the *Let's Chat* volunteer workshop to inform the volunteers of the new information.



Let's Chat workshops are held periodically to update and inform volunteers serving at the Capitol. MDAH volunteers can be very proud, as they served almost 3,000 hours in 2014 at the Capitol alone!



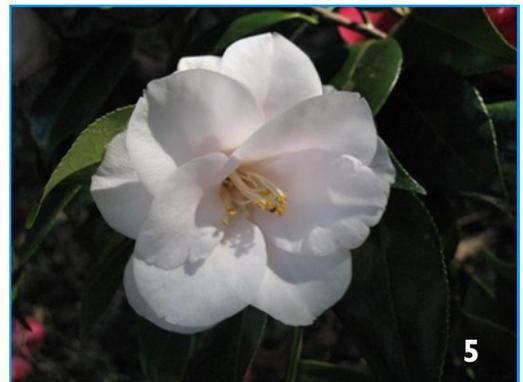
If you would like to learn more about the recent discoveries at the Capitol, come take a volunteer-guided tour.

Tours are available to the public Monday through Friday at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Group tours may be booked by contacting Visitor Services at 601-359-3114.

Camellias Bloom at Welty

News and Images from Megan Bankston

The good thing about the cold weather is the camellia blooms it brings. Camellias were one of Eudora Welty's favorite flowers. While she was in New York, Eudora's mother would carefully pin a camellia bloom into a box and ship it overnight for Eudora to have a little piece of home. Take a look at what is blooming around the Welty Garden, and stay warm!



- 1) Pink Perfection
- 2) Purple Dawn
- 3) Chanderli Elegans
- 4) Tri Color
- 5) Magnoliaeflora
- 6) Lady Clare



MDAH Valentine Volunteer Luncheon

Information from the Editor, Images courtesy of MDAH



Congratulations to the 2014 Governor's Award of Merit Winners



MDAH Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto thanked all volunteers for their service.



First row: Director Katie Blount, Master Gardener Jean Simonton, Master Gardener Peggy June Second Row: Grand Village director Lance Harris and Volunteer Services Elizabeth Coleman. The Master Gardeners of Natchez serve the Grand Village and Historic Jefferson College.



Director Katie Blount with volunteer Kermit Baumgartner. In 2014, Baumgartner served almost 700 hours—Thank you, Kermit!!! He volunteers in the Archaeology and Historic Sites section.



Mangie Bene of Jackson catered the event —yummy! The beautiful floral design was created by Carl Young of Jackson.



Right: Meme's Brick Street Bakery (Clinton) made heart-shaped frosted sugar cookies which were a big hit!

Lauren Miller Named Director of Old Capitol Museum

News from the Editor



Image courtesy of MDAH

Lauren Miller was recently promoted to director of the Old Capitol Museum. Miller replaces Clay Williams, who recently took the inaugural role of Museum Sites Administrator.

Lauren is a Mississippi State University graduate, a recipient of degrees in both history and anthropology. She received her M.A. in History from Southeast Missouri State University where she completed a museum collections internship at the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, Georgia.

She began her career at MDAH in 2008 as curator of exhibits and collections at the Old Capitol Museum. She then became

Museum Division curator of collections in August 2010, and most recently, she served as curator of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion.

When asked about her recent job change, Lauren stated, "I have enjoyed working with volunteers while at MDAH. We have worked side-by-side cataloging collections, providing tours to the public, and updating the scholarship pertaining to our collections at the Governor's Mansion. It is exciting to be back where I started. I began my career at MDAH at the Old Capitol Museum."

You Are Invited to

MANSHIP UNADORNED: AN ARCHITECTURAL TOUR



Join the Manship House director Marilynn Jones for a behind-the-scenes tour of the house's architectural features and history. The house's unfurnished state offers visitors a rare opportunity to view up-close the Gothic Revival details and decorative painting that have been unavailable to the public.

Monday, March 16
2-3 p.m.

RSVP 601-961-4724 or mjones@mdah.state.ms.us

Manship House Museum ❖ 420 E. Fortification St. Jackson, MS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Answers

MDAH history facts

1. c) the Sultana
2. d) Led Zeppelin
3. b) James Buchanan Eads

Follow the link below to access the updated volunteer handbook. Please notice the new policy regarding active status (20 hours per calendar year). This change is to reflect the enormous gifts of time that you share with MDAH. Also, this new level is in keeping with best practices.

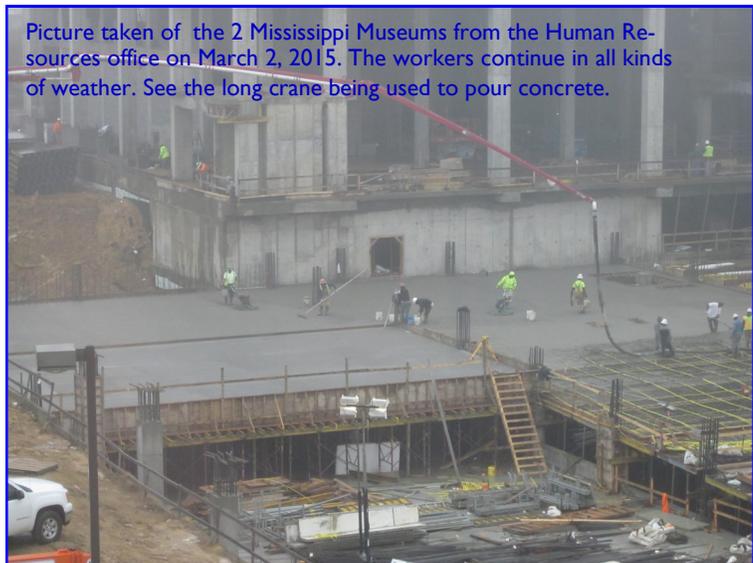
We can't thank you enough for your generosity!

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/interact/get-involved/volunteer-at-mdah/volunteer-handbook/>

MDAH Volunteer Newsletter

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

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Department of Archives and History
Katie Blount, director



Picture taken of the 2 Mississippi Museums from the Human Resources office on March 2, 2015. The workers continue in all kinds of weather. See the long crane being used to pour concrete.



Picture taken of the 2 Mississippi Museums from the Human Resources office on March 2, 2015.

To see the MDAH

Calendar of Events

Lots to do, people to see, places to go...

Click the link below.

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/category/events-category/>



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources. ©