

Mississippi History

MDAH

Published by the Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
H. T. Holmes, director
Chrissy Wilson, editor
<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us>
Mailing address: MHN, P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

NEWSLETTER



Candlelight Tour, Winter Holidays, Celebration of Trees at MDAH

An Open House at the Mississippi History Store kicks off holiday events at MDAH, including a candlelight tour of old Jackson, Christmas at the Governor's Mansion and Manship House Museum, *Winter Holidays* at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, and a *Celebration of Christmas Trees* at Historic Jefferson College.

tional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more.

Manship House Museum
420 East Fortification St.
601-961-4724

Friday, December 7, through Friday, December 21. Christmas at the Manship House Museum. Daily tours feature Victorian-style decorations Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required for groups of

ten or more.

Monday, December 10, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Day Craft Workshop. Children ages five to twelve will learn about and make a Victorian Christmas craft. Free of charge. Reservations required.

William F. Winter Building
200 North Street
601-576-6850

Saturday, December 1, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mississippi History Store's Holiday Open House. Signing books will be **Walt Grayson, Chuck Galey,** and **Elizabeth Coleman.** The



Store, formerly the Old Capitol Shop, features the works of Mississippi craftspeople and books about Mississippi.

Monday, December 3 through Friday, December 21.

Winter Holidays. This popular annual event, moved from the Old Capitol to the William F. Winter Building, features the **Possum Ridge trains, trees** decorated to represent various periods of Mississippi history, and **toys** enjoyed by generations of Mississippi children. Also on exhibit will be "**Uniquely Mississippi,**" a sampling of the museum's collection of artifacts now in storage, each telling a story that is unique to Mississippi's past. Planning continues on a new Museum of Mississippi History that will use hundreds of these artifacts to explain our state's past.

No History Is Lunch programs are scheduled for December; see January calendar.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College
Washington 601-442-2901

Saturday, December 8, through Sunday, December 30. A Celebration of Christmas Trees. More than twenty-five live trees decorated by area youth are on display in the historic buildings daily 9-5 and Sundays 1-5 (closed December 24 and 25). Free of charge.



Jackson

Friday, December 7, 5 to 8 p.m. Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. This popular annual event features traditional seasonal decorations at the Manship House Museum, Governor's Mansion, and State Capitol. Special entertainment at each site. For information call 601-961-4724.

Governor's Mansion
Capitol Street
601-359-6421

December 1-20: Christmas at the Governor's Mansion. The historic section of the Governor's Mansion features tradi-



The MDAH-produced video A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge will air December 20 at 9 p.m., December 27 at 8 p.m., and December 29 at 1 a.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The program will be streamed on the MPB Web site, mpbonline.org. For more information on these airings call 601-576-6920.



About 180 persons attended the dedication ceremonies for the Shaifer House in Port Gibson on November 20. Terrence G. Winschel, historian, Vicksburg National Military Park, delivered the dedication address.,

and MDAH director H. T. Holmes (top) and Al and Elizabeth Hollingsworth also offered remarks. Tours of the house followed, and Jane and James Townsend, owners of



George's at the Depot restaurant in Port Gibson treated the crowd for lunch to honor Miss Laura Shaifer. Above, guests tour the house and view original furnishings in every room, all supplied by the Hollingsworths for the opening day ceremonies.

Meng Retires

Beverly Meng, executive director of Mississippi Main Street, has retired after fourteen years of leadership.

Under her direction, Mississippi Main Street, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mississippi Development Authority, has grown from sixteen member towns to fifty-six.

Meng joined the struggling non-profit organization and made it into one of the most effective Main Street programs in the nation, according to H. T. Holmes, MDAH director. Phil Hardwick, coordinator of capacity development at the Stennis Institute, Mississippi State University, said that "the Main Street national president has identified Mississippi Main Street on several occasions as the top one in the country."

Mississippi Main Street helps city leaders form redevelopment plans and initiate them, helping with reorganization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. Meng has cited among her many success stories the cities of Tupelo, Columbus, Port Gibson, Greenwood, and Ocean Springs. Bob Wilson, formerly assistant director, will take on the role executive of director at the organization.

Julius Thompson, 1946–2007

Julius E. Thompson, professor and director of black studies at University of Missouri-Columbia, died October 26 at sixty-one. A native of Vicksburg, Thompson graduated from Alcorn State University and did graduate work at Princeton University. He began his career at Jackson State University in 1973.

Thompson published articles in the *Journal of Mississippi History* and various volumes dealing with black history, including *Lynching in Mississippi: A History, 1865-1965*; *Percy Greene and the Jackson Advocate: The Life and Times of a Radical Conservative Black Newspaperman, 1897-1977*; and *Hiram R. Revels, 1827-1901: A Biography (Dissertations in American Biography)*, as well as collections of poetry. He did much of his research in the MDAH collection.

Visit the
**Mississippi
History Store**

formerly the
**Old Capitol Shop
for Mississippi books
and fine crafts**

**William F. Winter Building
200 North Street Jackson**