

Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour Dec. 5

Experience the grand old public buildings of the capital city at the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. The tour runs between the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and Manship House Museum from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 5.

At 4 p.m. the Mustard Seed Bells of Faith Hand Bell Choir will perform at the dedication of the Christmas tree at the State Capitol.

Free transportation for the Candlelight Tour is provided by Cline Tour buses courtesy of the Greater Jackson Arts Council.

Mississippi's State Capitol was completed in 1903. For the holiday season the capitol sports festive exterior lights. The building's grand architecture is complemented with garlands, wreaths, bows, and ornaments. A native Leyland cypress stands in the rotunda, and smaller magnolia trees are displayed in the niches around the second-floor atrium.

Entertainment Schedule, State Capitol

5 p.m.—*Lanier High School Girls Choir*
6 p.m.—*St. Matthew's United Methodist*

Church Adult Choir

7 p.m.—*Hinds Community College*

Christmas Brass Ensemble

7:30 p.m.—*Madison Central High School*

Madrigal Singers

The Manship House was built in 1857 by Charles Henry and Adaline Daley Manship. The Manship House is dressed for the holidays with decorations like those the Manship family used—fresh pine garlands, holly, and other native greenery. Authentic nineteenth-century tree ornaments include cornucopias, paper snakes, and gilded pine cones. The dining table is loaded with plum pudding, cakes, tarts, madeleines, fresh fruits, and other dishes popular during the Victorian era.

Entertainment Schedule, Manship House

5 p.m.—*Piney Woods School Choir*
5:30 p.m.—*Mississippi Girlchoir*
6 p.m.—*St. Philip's Figgy Pudding Singers*
6:30 p.m.—*Crossroads of the South Chorus*
7 p.m.—*Mississippi Boychoir*

7:30 p.m.—*Greater Clark Street Male Chorus*

The Mississippi Governor's Mansion dates to 1841. It is the second-oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the United States. In 1975 the Governor's Mansion was designated a National Historic Landmark. During the holidays the mansion features an ornately decorated Leyland cypress Christmas tree as well as traditional decorations of seasonal greenery and poinsettias throughout the house. For the Candlelight Tour there is live holiday piano music.

From Friday, December 5, through Tuesday, December 23, free guided tours of the mansion 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. The mansion will be closed for tours from Wednesday, December 24, through Thursday, January 1, 2009. The mansion may be closed at other times during the month for official state functions. For more information or reservations, call 601-359-6421.

Construction Delays Push Back Opening of Old Capitol

The public opening of the Old Capitol Museum has been pushed back. Interior painting and carpet installation have stretched past initial deadlines, preventing exhibit installers from completing their work as scheduled. The building will still be ready for the January 6 opening session of the 2009 Mississippi legislature but will not open to the general public until Saturday, February 7.

"We regret that not everything will be finished by the time the Legislature meets, but the situation is a historically accurate one: in 1839 when the first-ever legislative session was held at the Old Capitol, con-

struction of the building wasn't complete," said Old Capitol director Clay Williams. "The House of Representatives and Senate Chambers, the Governor's Office, the galleries, and the rotunda will all be ready for the session. It is only some of the exhibit rooms where technicians will still be at work."

The first several hundred visitors to the Old Capitol Museum on February 7 will receive commemorative souvenirs. Other opening day features will include children's activities, a re-enactor portraying the "Keeper of the Capitol," and a live radio broadcast.



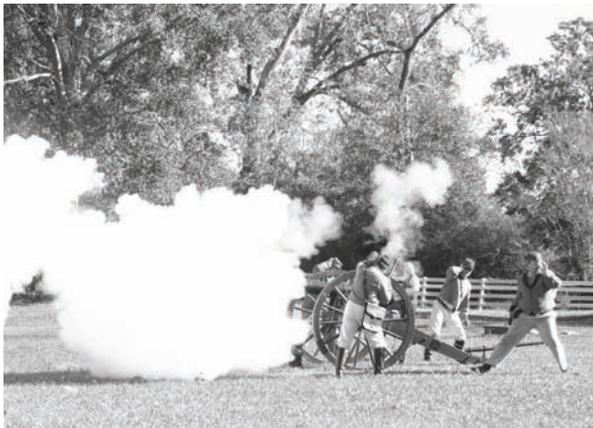
Governor's Mansion executive chef Luis Bruno (seated, center) served healthy treats as he debuted his new cookbook for enthusiastic shoppers at the Mississippi History Store's Holiday Open House on Nov. 15. The store, located in the Winter Building, carries a wide range of Mississippi folk art, books, and local crafts. It is open Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. For more information call 601-576-6921.

Over 1,100 Attend Civil War Battle Reenactment at Jefferson College



More than 1,100 people showed up on Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9, at Historic Jefferson College in Washington to watch reenactments of Wirt Adams's 1863 raid into Natchez. Reenactors from Mississippi and neighboring states portrayed not only Union and Confederate artillery, cavalry, and infantry, but also wives, children, musicians, and sutlers—civilians who sell provisions to an army.

Jefferson College was the first institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Territory. Jefferson Military College, as it came to be known, closed its doors in 1964 after serving as a prep school from 1866. Hours are Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 1–5 p.m. for the buildings and daily sunup to sundown for the grounds. For more information call 601-442-2901.



Composer Still Subject of New Traveling Exhibit

The Department of Archives and History is co-sponsoring a new traveling exhibit on Mississippi native William Grant Still, the groundbreaking African American composer. "William Grant Still: Inspired to Inspiring" celebrates the life and work of the Woodville native venerated as the "Dean of American Negro Composers." The creator of more than 150 compositions, Still was the first African American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra or to have a symphony of his own performed by a leading orchestra.



In conjunction with the exhibit's opening at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building on January 20, at noon on Wednesday, January 21, Still's daughter Judith Anne and Mississippi Symphony Orchestra music director Crafton Beck will discuss Still and his music at a History is Lunch brown bag program at the Winter Building.

"Inspired to Inspiring" is at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library through Dec. 19, then will be on display at Clarksdale's Carnegie Public Library Dec. 22–Jan. 16, 2009. The exhibit will travel the state through November 2009.

"Inspired to Inspiring" is co-sponsored by MDAH, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the Mississippi Library Commission. For more information contact Emily Weaver at 662-820-3021 or by email at eweaver@pixel221.com.

Historical Society Meeting To Focus on Historic Preservation

The Mississippi Historical Society will hold its 2009 meeting March 5–7 in Jackson. The theme will be historic preservation and restoration efforts of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The meeting opens at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, with a public reception at the Governor's Mansion. The general sessions will be held Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7, in the newly restored Old Capitol Museum.

Speakers will include architect Robert Parker Adams, Old Capitol Museum director Clay Williams, MDAH historical archaeologist Jack D. Elliott, Jr., MDAH director emeritus Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH Historic Preservation Division director Ken P'Pool, Historic Natchez Foundation programs director Mimi Miller, Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi, Eudora Welty House director Mary Alice White, Eudora Welty Foundation board member Liz Welty Thompson, MDAH Welty Collection curator Forrest Galey, historical gardens consultant Susan Haltom, Louisiana State University librarian Hans C. Rasmussen, and University of Texas associate professor

Patricia Galloway.

At the Friday luncheon Ron Miller will discuss his work as the executive director of the Historic Natchez Foundation. Peter H. Brink, senior vice president of programs for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will be the keynote speaker at the Friday evening banquet. The McLemore Prize for best book of 2008 will also be presented at the banquet.

The recipient of the Betterworth Award for history teacher of the year and other prize winners, will be announced at the awards brunch on Saturday, March 8, at 11:30 at the Old Capitol Inn.

Registration for MHS members is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for couples. For non-members the cost is \$50 for individuals and \$65 for couples. A block of rooms is being held at the Old Capitol Inn. To reserve a room call 888-359-9001 or 601-359-9000; specify the MHS rate of \$110 plus tax per night. Additional rooms have been booked at the Cabot Lodge Millsaps (800-874-4737); specify the MHS rate of \$89 plus tax per night.

For more information contact Sherry Norwood at 601-576-6849.

Mississippi Records Advisory Board Sponsors Workshops



In November participants from across the state representing public and academic libraries, churches, museums, and local historical societies attended workshops in Jackson and Gulfport for small repositories with historical materials. The Jackson meeting was led by Greg Johnson, Blues curator at the University of Mississippi (pictured above). Panelists included Forrest Galey and Julia Marks Young from MDAH and Jamie Ellis from the Biloxi Public Library. The workshops will be offered on a regular basis in the future.

Native American Days Sets Attendance Record



Winterville Mounds set an attendance record with more than 4,500 schoolchildren and other visitors to the 2008 Native American Days held Nov. 5–8. Demonstrations included dancing by Chickasaws and Choctaws, Native American crafts, primitive weapons, flint-knapping, stickball, and birds of prey.



December MDAH Events

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

All MDAH offices and sites will close December 25–28 in observance of Christmas, and January 1–2, 2009, in observance of New Year's.

GREENVILLE

Winterville Mounds

Highway 1 North
662-334-4684

Sunday, December 7. *Christmas Open House.* 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Featuring live holiday music.

JACKSON

History is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m.
William F. Winter
Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6998

Wednesday, December 3— James G. Hollandsworth, Jr. will talk about and sign copies of his new book, *Portrait of a Scientific Racist: Alfred Holt Stone of Mississippi*.

Wednesday, December 10— Historian Robert S. McElvaine will talk about his latest book, *Grand Theft Jesus: The Hijacking of Religion in America*.

Wednesday, December 17— Glass craftsman Andy Young will present a pictorial history of the Pearl River Glass Company of Jackson.

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724

Monday, December 8, 3:30 p.m. *St. Nicholas Day Craft Workshop.* Children will make a Victorian-style Christmas craft. For ages five to twelve. Free of charge, reservations required.

December 5–23. *Christmas at the Manship House.* 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.

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901

December 12–31. *Children's Victorian Christmas Celebration.* The public is invited to view Christmas trees decorated by children and displayed in the historic buildings.



The Archives and Records Services Division sponsored a Veterans Day program on Friday, November 14, at the Winter Building. Speakers included (above, from left) Charles M. Fitts, Jr., 12th Armored Division, World War II; John Thomas, 3rd Marine Division, Viet Nam; and Clarence Hunter, 7th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, Korea.



Volunteers for the Archives and Records Services Division in 2008 were honored on Tuesday, November 18, with a party at the Winter Building. Pictured left to right are Pat Weeks, Jim Hollandsworth, Nan Harvey, Paul Bragg, Jean Hudspeth, and Elbert Hilliard. Not pictured are Judy Hocking and John Munn.