

# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER

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## State Capitol Named National Landmark

The Mississippi State Capitol Building has been recognized for its contributions to the country's cultural and historical heritage with the designation of National Historic Landmark. Elected officials were joined by National Park Service representative Kathleen Bond at a ceremony commemorating the honor at the capitol on May 4.

"The Mississippi State Capitol is being recognized today as nationally significant for its architectural splendor, but it is also important to me because it stands witness to all the momentous events of the twentieth century in Mississippi," said Bond. "This building was born in a time of newly legislated racial segregation and stood through the unfolding events that marked the progress of civil rights for Mississippians."

The Mississippi State Capitol is a magnificent example of the Beaux Arts style, with large, grandiose spaces and an abundance of classical detail, stone finishes, and architectural elements. The building is 402 feet long, 225 feet wide at the center, and rises 180 feet at its dome. An eight-foot-tall copper eagle, coated with gold leaf, sits atop the dome and measures fifteen feet from wingtip to wingtip.

The exterior of the capitol is limestone over a base course of Georgia granite. The



From left, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, Governor Phil Bryant, Natchez National Historical Park Superintendent Kathleen Bond, and Speaker Philip Gunn unveil the National Historic Landmark plaque at the Mississippi State Capitol.

interior is also designed to impress. When the capitol was being constructed, electric lighting was a novelty of modern technology. Consequently, 4,750 lights were used throughout the building as an architectural element, highlighting and outlining the structure's other features. The building

features a significant collection of art glass by Louis J. Millet of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The main rotunda is of Italian marble with trimmings of jet-black marble from New York. Its friezes and columns lead

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## Preservation Grants Awarded across State

At its quarterly board meeting in April, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History awarded grants totaling more than \$74,000 to ten preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state. Grant amounts range from \$1,750 to create design guidelines for downtown Booneville to \$15,000 to complete a comprehensive survey for the Midtown neighborhood in Jackson.

"During this bicentennial year, we are enthusiastic about the many different types of Certified Local Government grants we are able to offer," said Michelle Jones, MDAH Local Preservation Assistance Coordinator. "From relocating a railroad feature in McComb that would otherwise be lost to helping preserve Walter Anderson murals in Ocean Springs, these are exciting projects for the communities and

the state."

The 2017 grants are as follows:

**Booneville, \$1,750**, to create design guidelines for the Downtown Booneville National Register District.

**Greenville, \$1,500**, to develop a website and exhibit commemorating Mississippi's bicentennial, and for historic preservation education.

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## STATE CAPITOL, continued from p.1

the eye to the majestic and colorful dome. The House of Representatives and Senate chambers at the ends of the building are built of marble and scagliola and feature domed ceilings richly decorated with oxidized copper, plaster, and stained glass.

“This beautiful building is distinguished from other state capitols by its unity of design and construction,” said MDAH chief architectural historian Jennifer Baughn. “It was built in three years by a single construction firm, W.A. and A.E. Wells of Chicago.”

The site draws more than 25,000 visitors each year. The building is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for self-guided tours. Free guided tours are offered Monday through Friday at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Group tours are available by reservation at 601-359-3114 or [tours@house.ms.gov](mailto:tours@house.ms.gov).

The state’s first capitol, no longer standing, was a two-story building constructed in Jackson in 1822. The second statehouse was completed in 1839 and now serves as the Old Capitol Museum in downtown

Jackson. Soon after his election in 1899, Governor Andrew Longino led an effort to address the need for a new capitol. By May 1900, St. Louis architect Theodore Link had completed designs for the structure. Construction began in 1901 and was completed in 1903 at a total cost of \$1,093,641, which was funded entirely by back taxes from a lawsuit settlement with the Illinois Central Railroad.

The National Park Service nominates sites to be National Historic Landmarks

and the Secretary of the Interior makes the final designation. The State Capitol be-

comes one of just over 2,500 sites in the United States to receive this prestigious recognition. Other National Historic Landmark properties administered by MDAH and open to the public include the Eudora Welty House and Garden in Jackson, the Grand Village of the Natchez



Indians in Natchez, the Old Capitol in Jackson, and Winterville Mounds in Greenville.

# Emory Student Named Welty Fellow

The 2017 Eudora Welty Research Fellowship has been awarded to Sophia Leonard, a doctoral student in English at Emory University. Established by the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Department of Archives and History, the fellowship seeks to encourage and support research use of the Eudora Welty Collection by graduate students.

“We’re grateful to the Foundation for funding this award for a seventh consecutive year and delighted that another highly qualified fellow will make extensive use of the Welty Collection again this summer,” said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Record Services Division.

Leonard will use the \$2,000 fellowship to cover travel, housing, and other expenses incurred while doing primary research in the Eudora Welty Collection at



**2017 Eudora Welty Research Fellow Sophia Leonard.**

the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

Leonard will explore how the literary material of the *New Yorker* impacts perceptions of the South at the height of its cultural influence. “This research project revisits this transitional period at mid-century by searching for the ways that

the particular context of the *New Yorker* magazine shaped the contours of place in Welty’s fiction,” says Leonard.

The Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the premier collection of Eudora Welty materials in the world and one of the most varied literary

collections in the United States. The collection includes manuscripts, letters, photographs, drawings, essays, and film and video footage that spans Welty’s entire life.

Beginning in 1957, and over the course of more than forty years, Welty donated materials to the department, primarily literary manuscripts and photographs. At her death the remainder of her papers were bequeathed to MDAH and included unpublished manuscripts and 14,000 items of correspondence with family, friends, scholars, young writers, and noted writers.

The collection may be accessed at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. For more information on the collection, contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6850 or by email at [fgaley@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:fgaley@mdah.ms.gov).

# Historic Structure Damaged by Thieves

## First Shots of Battle of Port Gibson Fired at Site

Thieves vandalized the nearly two-hundred-year-old Shaifer House in Claiborne County, making off with four wooden support beams and damaging masonry piers under the house and interior flooring and walls. The theft was discovered on April 1, and the actions most likely occurred earlier that week.

Staff from MDAH, which administers the site, have made an initial stabilization of the structure to prevent further damage to the house. Because permanent repairs have not been completed, the site has been closed to the public. Security cameras have been installed, and a gate is being put in place to control vehicle access to the site. MDAH is working with public officials and private citizens to increase security at the site.

“The repair of the Shaifer

House is a top priority,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “We are consulting with state legislators, local governments, the Port Gibson Heritage Trust, other state agencies, and the National Park Service to ensure the house is preserved for future generations.”

Staff from the Historic Preservation Division has made weekly visits to the site since the damage was discovered. They are working closely with consulting architect Lawson Newman of WFT Architects on phase one of the project, which will include the emergency stabilization and permanent replacement of the joists and sill, floorboards, interior walls, and masonry piers. Newman is generating requirements and cost estimates that will be used to select a contractor experienced with historic structures to carry out the work.

“Unfortunately, it’s not as simple as going to the local store and purchasing pressure-treated lumber to replace the stolen pieces,” said Mingo Tingle, MDAH chief of technical pres-

ervation services. “We are working on finding a suitable replacement for the old-growth cypress used in the Shaifer House—and something that will last another 150 years.”

The Shaifer House was built

last—and successful—campaign to capture Vicksburg during the U.S. Civil War. The Port Gibson Battlefield is a National Historic Landmark and the Shaifer House is a Mississippi Landmark.



MDAH deputy director Robert Benson inspects emergency stabilizations made to Shaifer House.

by A.K. and Elizabeth Shaifer beginning in 1826. The house was the site of the opening shots of the Battle of Port Gibson. Fought on May 1, 1863, this significant battle was the first in General Ulysses S. Grant’s

The Shaifer House restoration project began in 2006 as a component of the TEA-21 Mississippi Civil War Trails Program. The restored house was dedicated in November 2007.

## Newest *Heritage of Mississippi* Book Published

The first comprehensive history of literature from a state known for its writers is the newest volume of the *Heritage of Mississippi* series. *A Literary History of Mississippi* was edited by Lorie Watkins and includes contributions by scholars on aspects of the state’s history such as indigenous literature, Southwest humor, slave narratives, and the literature of the Civil War.

Essays on modern and contemporary writers and the state’s changing role in southern studies look at more recent literary trends, while essays on key individual authors offer more information on luminaries including William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, Tennessee Williams, and Margaret Walker. Finally, essays on autobiography, poetry, drama, and history span the creative breadth of

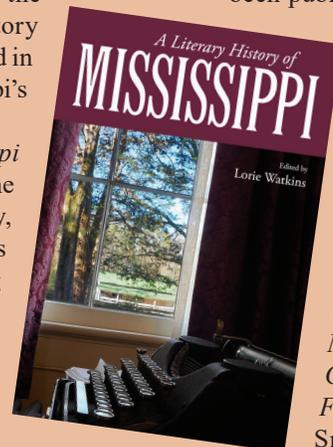
Mississippi’s literature. Written by literary scholars closely connected to the state, the volume offers a history suitable for all readers interested in learning more about Mississippi’s great literary tradition.

The *Heritage of Mississippi* series is published jointly by the Mississippi Historical Society, MDAH, and the University Press of Mississippi, with funding assistance from the Phil Hardin Foundation. It will cover the history of the state in fifteen volumes.

The series is aimed at a broad audience of scholars, teachers, students, and interested general readers. The works are meant to stand as the definitive studies on the topics for years to come.

Six other volumes in the series have been published—

*Art in Mississippi: 1720–1980* by Patti Carr Black; *Religion in Mississippi* by Randy J. Sparks; *Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi after Reconstruction, 1877–1917* by Stephen Cresswell; *Mississippi and the Civil War: The Home Front* by Timothy B. Smith; *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles* by Michael B. Ballard; and *Mississippi’s American Indians* by James F. Barnett Jr.



## GRANTS, continued from p. 1

**Greenville, \$11,250**, to rehabilitate, stabilize, and repair the foundation of the porch of the Joseph Weinberg House.

**Jackson, \$15,000**, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Midtown neighborhood, which is bounded by Fortification, Mill, Woodrow Wilson, and West streets.

**McComb, \$10,266**, to remove and relocate an Illinois Central Railroad sand tower scheduled for demolition from railroad property in the Historic Kramertown Railroad District to the grounds of the McComb Railroad Depot Museum.

**Ocean Springs, \$10,000**, to assess the cause and level of moisture infiltration in the Ocean Springs Community Center. The moisture is causing damage to Walter Anderson murals. This assessment will provide both a short-term emergency solution and a long-term preservation strategy.

**Pascagoula, \$8,000**, to conduct an assessment to produce "as-built" architectural drawings, structural analysis, and to provide recommendations for Pascagoula's Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot rehabilitation.

**Raymond, \$9,641.60**, to

develop and produce a mobile device-friendly MDAH Historic Resources Database.

**Woodville, \$7,000**, to complete tongue-and-groove finish flooring and work on the lighting, plumbing, and wiring of the interior of Polk's Meat Market.

In addition to those grants, due to another community's grant relinquishment Tupelo received an additional allocation of \$10,000 for its FY16 project to rehabilitate the Spain House by removing tin siding and replacing with lap siding.

The Certified Local Government (CLG) 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.

To become a CLG, a community must adopt a preservation ordinance establishing a preservation commission in accordance with federal and state guidelines. Once the commission has been established, application for CLG status may be made to the National Park Service through the Department of Archives and History. MDAH works closely with local government officials and citizens to help them create and manage a workable local historic preservation program. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Michelle Jones at 662-325-2520 or [mjones@caad.msstate.edu](mailto:mjones@caad.msstate.edu).

At the board meeting, three sites were designated Mississippi Landmarks: Greenwood City Hall, a contributing element of the Greenwood Commercial and Railroad National Register

District, designated a Mississippi Landmark at the request of the City of Greenwood; South Side High School in Jasper County, now William J. Berry Elementary School, designated a Mississippi Landmark at the request of school alumni; and Smith Park of Jackson, the only public square that remains from the original city plan drawn by Peter Vandorn, designated as a Mississippi Landmark at the request of the City of Jackson.

The Mississippi Landmark designation is the highest form of recognition bestowed on properties by the state of Mississippi and offers the fullest protection against changes that might alter a property's historic character. Publicly owned properties that are determined to be historically, archaeologically, or architecturally significant may be considered for designation.

Although the Mississippi Landmark program was designed for public properties, owners may nominate their own historically significant properties. Proposed changes to a Mississippi Landmark must be approved in advance by the Permit Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History.

## 1817 State Constitution, 1818 U.S. Flag at Winter Building

The state's founding constitution and the first U.S. flag to include Mississippi will be on display at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building through the summer. The artifacts have toured the state as part of the celebration of Mississippi's bicentennial.

The state of Mississippi was founded upon the 1817 constitution. On March 1, 1817, President James Madison signed legislation enabling inhabitants of the western portion of the Mis-

issippi Territory to form a constitution and state government, while the eastern part would become the territory of Alabama. Forty-eight convention delegates assembled near Natchez in Washington on July 7, drafting the constitution and, after weeks of deliberation, adopting it on August 15. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the nation's twentieth state.

The rare 20-star flag is one of only a handful known to exist. It was acquired by MDAH in 2001 after having

been discovered in an antique shop in Massachusetts. An extensive conservation was completed earlier this year on the large banner, funded by a grant from the Billups-Garth Foundation in Columbus and private donations. The flag has been mounted inside a frame to protect it and allow it to be displayed upright.

Only two official United States flags were used before the 20-star flag. The first had thirteen stars and stripes to represent the original colonies and flew from 1777 until

1795. The second flag added two stars and two stripes and flew until April 13, 1818, when the 20-star flag replaced it.

The Icons of Statehood exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Winter Building free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. The 20-star U.S. flag will be on permanent display in the Museum of Mississippi History when it opens in December.

# Cornell Doctoral Student Named Evers Scholar

A doctoral student from Cornell University has been named the 2017 Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholar. Bobby J. Smith II will explore the relationship between the politics of food, race, and activism using the holdings of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

“Bobby’s research focuses on the historical antecedents of contemporary ideas about food justice and food sovereignty,” said Cornell University associate professor of development sociology Lori Leonard. “His starting point is the iconic Greenwood Food Blockade, which is a prominent example of how food—and control over access to food—mattered to movement politics.”

In October 1962, the Leflore County board of supervisors voted to discontinue the USDA’s federal commodity program, which provided corn meal, rice, flour, and sugar free of charge each month to more than 20,000 African American residents.



In response, the nascent Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized a national food drive, which also gave them direct access to black residents of Leflore County for a voter registration campaign. In the spring of 1963, the supervisors reinstated the commodities program.

“My goal is to reveal unexplored aspects of movement politics,” said Smith. “My project departs from the traditional line of civil rights inquiry and investigates the Greenwood Food Blockade with a focus on how food was a weapon of opposition and a tool of resistance in the civil rights era.”

Smith graduated summa cum laude with a BS degree in agricultural economics from Prairie View A&M University. He holds an MS in agricultural economics from Cornell University, where he is at work on a PhD in the Department of Developmental Sociology. Smith will use the \$4,000 award to cover travel, housing, and other expenses

while doing primary research at the state archives. He plans to focus initially on the Citizens’ Council (Miss.) collection, 1954-1956; the Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers, 1900-1994; and the Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer collection, 1967-2001.

“We’re delighted to partner with the Evers Institute and the Kellogg Foundation on this scholarship,” said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Records Services Division. “Our goal is to facilitate new and exciting research using the tremendous resources here at the state archives.”

The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholars Program, a collaboration between MDAH and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, encourages work in the history of civil and human rights using the state archives’ holdings to publish original research.

The Evers Papers may be accessed at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. For more information on the Evers Scholar program or about the Evers Papers, contact Laura Heller at 601-576-6850 or by email at lheller@mdah.ms.gov.

# Wide-ranging *Mississippi Encyclopedia* Published

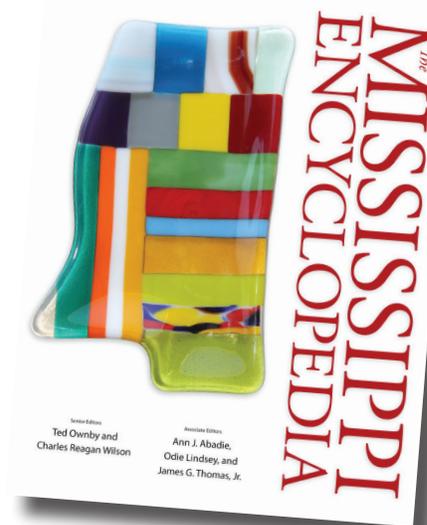
Work on a project that began at the University of Mississippi’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture in 2003 has at long last concluded. *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*—a mammoth collaboration that includes more than 1,600 entries, 1,451 pages, and features more than 700 scholars who wrote entries on every county, every governor, and numerous musicians, writers, artists, and activists—is finally in stores. This is the first encyclopedic treatment of the state since 1907.

The volume, published by the University Press of Mississippi, appeals to anyone who wants to know more about Mississippi and the people who call it home. It will be especially helpful to students, teachers, and scholars researching, writing about, or otherwise discovering the state, past and present.

*The Mississippi Encyclopedia* includes solid, clear information contained in a single volume, offering with clarity and scholarship a breadth of topics unavailable anywhere else. Ted Ownby, coeditor and director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, said he hopes everyone who picks up the book will find surprises.

“Any good encyclopedia has detailed, thorough, smart information on topics people want to find,” Ownby said. “So, from a journalist or traveler to a scholar or teacher to a kid doing a school project, everyone should find ways to use the book. But holding it in their hands, they should find all sorts of things they hadn’t thought to look up. We think it’s revealing that the work starts with ‘Abdul-Rauf, Mahmoud (Chris Jackson)’ and ends with ‘Ziglar, Zig,’ and both

of those entries seem likely to surprise a lot of readers.”



Each entry in *The Mississippi Encyclopedia* provides an authoritative but accessible introduction to the topic discussed. It also features

long essays on agriculture, archaeology, the civil rights movement, the Civil War, contemporary issues, drama, education, the environment, ethnicity, fiction, folklife, foodways, geography, industry and industrial workers, law, medicine, music, myths and representations, Native Americans, nonfiction, poetry, politics and government, the press, religion, social and economic history, sports, and visual art.

*The Mississippi Encyclopedia* is the result of a collaboration between the University Press of Mississippi, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and MDAH.

# Excavation Reveals Insights, Mysteries

## Project Made Necessary By Heavy Rains, Slide at Winterville Mounds Site

Did a mysterious pit constructed hundreds of years ago contribute to a slide on a Native American mound near Greenville? Archaeologists who excavated at Winterville Mounds following the slope failure say the answer is likely “yes.”

During torrential rains in spring 2016, a section approximately 24 feet wide, 18 feet deep, and 100 feet long on the northwest side of Mound A sloughed off in one sheet and slid to the foot of the 55-foot-tall earthwork to reveal the mound’s centuries-old interior. Mound A was constructed in stages, increasing in area and height as layers of dirt and clay were added periodically. When archaeologists were brought in to carry out excavations into the exposed section of the mound, they discovered the outline of a pit several layers from the top—a pit that had been dug and eventually re-filled by the moundbuilders themselves.

“We don’t know why the Native Americans created it. The pit is unique in the Mississippian world,” said Corin Pursell, field director for the project’s consulting firm Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research (TVAR). “But its location at the center of this slide may indicate that rainwater was able to permeate the mound through the feature, saturating this large sheet and making it heavy enough to slip away.”

Another discovery made during the excavations, which ran from November 2016 through February of this year, was a massive wooden post some four or five feet in diameter. “It may have served as the central support for a large structure that probably would have been an important ceremonial space for the people of the area.”

In addition, the team found indications of at least five other buildings from eight different habitation layers of the mound exposed in the slide. “The buildings constructed near the edge of the mound seem

to be constructed the same way as normal homes, wood walls and thatch roofs,” said Pursell, “But they were large and during two of the occupations they stood right next to enormous marker posts probably twenty feet tall that we think marked a ceremonial location or an alignment with the sun.”

At least one and probably two of the mound layers were made with alternating dark clays and light sands, which made for a striking visual contrast that would have been evident and important to the builders.

“This is once-in-a-lifetime access,” said Pursell. “We would not have wished for this slide to occur, but the opportunity to

from civil engineering and geotechnical firms.

“We take our responsibility toward this incredibly significant site very seriously,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “The Mississippi Department of Archives and History will continue to do what is necessary to preserve this magnificent testament to the Native American culture.”

Winterville Mounds, named for a nearby community, is the site of a prehistoric ceremonial center built by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450. The people responsible for these great earthworks were the ancestors



literally look back in time at the mound’s interior has produced insights that will enhance our understanding of the ways the Native peoples constructed and used these earthworks.”

Mound A is among the ten tallest Native American mounds in the United States, roughly the same height as a five-story building. Until modern construction techniques were developed, its summit was the highest point between Emerald Mound in Natchez and the great mounds at Cahokia, Illinois.

MDAH is working closely with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Native Nations to develop a plan to address the damage. Access to the site has been tightly controlled since the slope failure. TVAR will submit a report on their archaeological findings that the department will use to shape plans to repair the site. MDAH is currently reviewing proposals

of the Chickasaws, Choctaws, and other American Indian tribes we know today. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History operates the 42-acre site near Greenville, which features twelve mounds and two large plazas. Most members of the society lived away from the mound center on family farms throughout the Yazoo-Mississippi River Delta basin. Only a few of the highest-ranking tribal officials lived at the mound center, which was the site of sacred structures and ceremonies.

In 1939 the Greenville Garden Club led a community effort to purchase the site and convey the property to the City of Greenville. Supported by the Winterville Mounds Association, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (formerly the Mississippi Park Commission) operated Winterville as a state park from 1960 until 2000, when the property was conveyed to MDAH. In 1993, Winterville Mounds was designated a National Historic Landmark.

# Museums To Open, Mark Bicentennial on Dec. 9



The grand opening of the Museum of Mississippi History (MMH) and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (MCRM) is less than six months away. On December 9 the state will commemorate its two hundredth birthday with a celebration featuring a ribbon-cutting and remarks by state leaders, musical performers from around the state, and food vendors.

Hundreds of people have reserved their priority passes for opening day and will receive a keepsake card as well as a year of unlimited admission by becoming charter members of the Two Museum Member program. Annual memberships begin at \$45. Join by August 1 to insure your entry to the museums when Mississippi makes history on December 9.

Exhibit spaces in the museums are taking shape. Exhibit fabricators—1220 Exhibits for the MMH and Exhibit Concepts Inc. for the MCRM—are installing murals, display cases,

and immersive environments.

“It’s been great to see the creation of the exhibits from the base layers outward,” said MCRM director Pamela Junior. “I’ve enjoyed watching aspects of each one gradually coming together, and seeing how the images interact with the accompanying text.”

Fabricators are installing exhibits in MCRM’s Mississippi in Black and White gallery that cover the end of the Civil War through the early twentieth century. Exhibit fabricators are also installing *The Way We Live*, an MMH exhibit focused on how people lived during the antebellum era. The exhibit allows museum visitors to peer through the shack of an enslaved family, the house of a yeoman farmer, and the mansion of a wealthy landowner and planter.

“I enjoy making presentations about the Museum of Mississippi History,” said MMH director Rachel Myers. “People approach me afterwards excited

about the opening. They tell me their stories, and I can tell them where that history will be located in the museums.”

In late summer contractors will formally transfer possession of the museums to MDAH. The complex encompasses the two museums as well as shared spaces such as temporary exhibit space, an auditorium, classrooms, the Mississippi Museum Store, Nissan Café, staff offices, collections space, exhibit fabrication area, and a parking garage. Landscaping of the Entergy Plaza is complete. The plaza will be the site of the opening day celebration.

Artifacts in the MDAH collection will be moved from climate-controlled storage into

the new collections facilities. “Artifact mounters will be on site to prepare the approximately 1,800 artifacts that will be on

view to the public in the museum exhibits,” said MDAH collections director Nan Prince. “The remaining artifacts in the collection will be cared for in the state-of-the-art space located in the new building.”

The Mississippi Museum Store will offer books on Mississippi history and culture; artisanal goods such as pottery, baskets, and wooden items; hand-crafted jewelry; educational materials; memorabilia such as ornaments and mugs; historical postcards; and maps. For more information, email [storemanager@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:storemanager@mdah.ms.gov).

## TWO MISSISSIPPI MUSEUMS



# MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

*Mississippi History Newsletter*  
Chris Goodwin, editor

For a free subscription to the newsletter or to submit news, call 601-576-6998 or email [newsletter@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:newsletter@mdah.ms.gov)

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Katie Blount, director

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## JULY-AUGUST HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

Programs in the *History Is Lunch* series are held noon Wednesdays in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building (WFW) or Old Capitol Museum (OCM). There is no charge.

For information call 601-576-6998 or email [info@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:info@mdah.ms.gov).

**July 12**—Carolyn Brown will discuss her new University Press of Mississippi book *The Artist's Sketch: A Biography of Painter Kate Freeman Clark*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

**July 19**—MDAH historian Jeff Giambone will present "Recollections of My Prison Life: The Civil War Memoir of Captain John S. Lamkin, 33rd Mississippi Infantry." **WFW**

**July 26**—Robert W. Hamblin

will discuss his book *Living in Mississippi: The Life and Times of Evans Harrington*. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

**August 2**—Rex Buffington, director of the Stennis Center for Public Service, will present "John C. Stennis: Mississippi's Longest-serving U.S. Senator." **WFW**

**August 9**—Former Speaker Pro Tem Robert G. Clark will be the guest of honor as Judge Fred Banks, Rep. Alyce Clarke, and other current and former state officials participate in a program commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the historic election of Clark to the Mississippi Legislature. Reception to follow. **OCM**

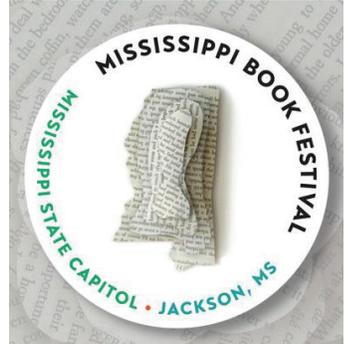
**August 16**—Debbie Z. Harwell

will discuss her book *Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change, Freedom Summer 1964*, which was named best book in southern women's history by the Southern Association for Women Historians. Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

**August 23**—NancyKay Sullivan Wessman, author of *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero*, will present "Katrina: Looking Back, Planning Ahead." Sales and signing to follow. **WFW**

**August 30**—MDAH archivist Shaun Stalzer will present "'A Finger In Every Pie': The Mississippi Auditor of Public Accounts in the Nineteenth Century." **WFW**

Mark your calendars for Mississippi's third literary lawn party



**Saturday,  
August 19**  
**State Capitol**

**GREG ILES  
ANGIE THOMAS  
RICHARD FORD  
LINDA W. JACKSON  
RON RASH**