

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

MDAH
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In Memoriam

Field Trip Fund Honors Winters

We are so happy that the halls of the Two Mississippi Museums are once again filled with the joyful noises of school children on field trips.



Nearly four years ago at our opening ceremony for the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, former Governor William Winter spoke directly to Mississippi's young people: "You are the future of our state. And if we send you out into this world without a strong understanding of where you have come from, then we have let you down. These Two Museums were built for all of us. But most especially, they were built for you."

Winter never wanted children to miss the opportunity to visit the museums because their schools lacked funds for field trips. In the final months before he died in December of 2020, Winter was working to raise funds for an endowment to bring Mississippi's school children to the Two Mississippi Museums, or as he called them, "Mississippi's largest classroom." His passion for public education was shared by his wife Elise, who died in July.

The Winter family has continued this legacy, joining with the Foundation for Mississippi History to create a fund, the William and Elise Winter Education Endowment, that will underwrite field trips to the Two Mississippi Museums long into the future.

We are grateful to the family for their support. I hope you will join me in giving to this fund as a tribute to William and Elise Winter.



Katie Blount
Director
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Fundraising Efforts Support Field Trip Program at Two Mississippi Museums

With the return of in-person learning in schools across the state this fall, the Two Mississippi Museums—the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum—have welcomed thousands of students back to Mississippi’s largest classroom with its field trip program experience.

Launched in 2019, the program has continued to increase its numbers in museum visitation among students from Mississippi public schools in grades 3–12 despite the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are pleasantly surprised with the surge of visitation among students in spite of this complicated school year,” said Stephanie King, MDAH field trips coordinator. “We have had roughly 700 students visit the museums this fall semester.”

The Two Mississippi Museums field trip program is open to all public schools in the state and includes free admission to the museums with transportation scholarships for district buses. Donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations provide funds for the field trip program.

The program is curriculum based and incorporates educational materials that teachers can access online to enhance their students’ learning experiences in the museums. It allows teachers and students to connect with the many stories told in the museums through focused tours of the collection of historic artifacts and documents within the galleries.

“Whether it’s watching a film in one of our immersive theaters or speaking directly with a civil rights veteran, a field trip to the museums presents students



with history in a way that’s new and interactive,” said Rachel Myers, deputy director of the Two Mississippi Museums. “Students are able to compare, contrast, and make personal connections to Mississippi history through touring the galleries and engaging in participatory activities and conversations. The museums expand students’ understanding of how people showed perseverance and resilience throughout our state’s history.”

To schedule a Two Mississippi Museums field trip in person or for our virtual option, teachers must reserve their school’s visit at least two weeks in advance on the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Museum of Mississippi History, or MDAH websites. Visit mcrm.mdah.ms.gov/learn/field-trips.

For more information on field trips, email fieldtrips@twomississippimuseums.com or call Stephanie King at 601-576-6795.

The William and Elise Winter Education Endowment

With help from the family of Governor William Winter and Elise Winter, who both died within the last twelve months, MDAH has established a memorial endowment fund dedicated to bringing children to the Two Mississippi Museums, or as Governor Winter called them, “Mississippi’s largest classroom.” To donate, email Laney McDonald at lmcdonald@mdah.ms.gov or call 601-576-6767.



Spence Flatgard Elected President; Kimberly Campbell Elected to Board of Trustees

The MDAH board of trustees elected attorney Spence Flatgard as president. He has more than twenty years of experience in public finance, public law, and government affairs, serving the state of Mississippi at all levels of government and his clients in private practice. Flatgard replaces outgoing president Justice Reuben V. Anderson.

Flatgard was appointed by governors Phil Bryant and Haley Barbour to act as the state of Mississippi's attorney in all public finance transactions, issuing opinions for the state in more than 2,500 bond matters over the past fourteen years.

The board also elected attorney Kimberly L. Campbell as its newest member.

Campbell is a Jackson native and serves as the Mississippi state director of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). She joined AARP Mississippi in 2016 and is responsible for all initiatives that involve the 50-plus population and their families.

Campbell served as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for eight years, representing portions of Hinds and Madison counties.



MDAH Receives \$458K Federal Grant for Two Mississippi Museums

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a \$458,007 grant to MDAH from the Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) program. The program was created to help cultural and educational institutions recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. The grant is used to retain and rehire workers, as well as reopen sites, facilities, and programs.

“The American Rescue Plan recognizes that the cultural and educational sectors are essential components of the United States economy and civic life, vital to the health and resilience of American communities,” said NEH acting chairman Adam Wolfson. “These new grants will provide a lifeline to the country’s colleges and universities, museums, libraries, archives, historical sites and societies, save thousands of jobs in the humanities placed at risk by the pandemic, and help bring economic recovery to cultural and educational institutions and those they serve.”

MDAH plans to use the funding from the SHARP grant to cover operating costs at the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum as well as expand its digital engagement initiative.

“We are grateful to our state’s congressional delegation and the Mississippi Humanities Council for their help and support during the pandemic,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “These funds will help us expand our public programs and outreach as we emerge from COVID-19.”



Program Highlights



Nursery owner Paige Mizell teaches visitors about growing camellias at the Eudora Welty House & Garden.



High school students gather in the House Chamber before competing against one another in the Old Capitol Bowl.



Children make prints during Field Trip Friday at the Two Mississippi Museums.



Law professor Margaret Burnham and author Jerry Mitchell discuss cold cases featured in the *Un(re)solved* exhibit.



Author and gardener Susan Haltom talks about her book *One Writer's Garden* at the Eudora Welty House & Garden.



Dear Silas, a musician, reads about blues legend Muddy Waters at the Two Mississippi Museums.

Nissan Foundation Donates \$30K to Field Trip Program for the Two Mississippi Museums

The Nissan Foundation has donated \$30,000 to MDAH to underwrite field trips to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum for the 2021–22 school year.

“We are grateful to the Nissan Foundation for their support of our field trip program,” said Katie Blount, director of MDAH. “School children are the most important people we serve. The foundation’s generosity will help us reach our goal for every student in the state to visit the Two Mississippi Museums at least once.”

“For nearly 30 years, the Nissan Foundation has been committed to amplifying the efforts of nonprofit organizations doing the important work of sharing diverse cultural perspectives and experiences with communities across the country,” said Parul Bajaj, senior manager, Nissan Philanthropy. “At perhaps no other time in recent history has the work of the Two Mississippi Museums been so critical. We are proud to support their efforts to inspire people to embrace the value of our differences.”

The funds will be used to defray costs such as admission, travel, and on-site lunches for students. To learn more about field trips or make a reservation, contact Stephanie King, field trips coordinator, at fieldtrips@twomississippimuseums.com.



Pictured (from left) are MDAH board member Helen Moss Smith; Nissan Philanthropy senior manager Parul Bajaj; MDAH board member Nancy Carpenter; MDAH director Katie Blount; MDAH board members Hilda Cope Povall, Betsey Hamilton, and Web Heidelberg; and outgoing MDAH board president Justice Reuben V. Anderson.



Mississippi Distilled: Prohibition, Piety, and Politics Wins SEMC Gold Award

MDAH received the Southeastern Museums Conference’s Gold Award for its recent exhibition *Mississippi Distilled: Prohibition, Piety, and Politics*. The Gold Award was presented in the over \$100,000 budget category and recognizes museums that showcase exhibitions of merit that are well designed, have educational value, and treat the objects with care and respect.

Exhibitions were judged by an appointed jury of museum professionals across the region who specialize in curatorial studies and exhibition design.

Mississippi Distilled was an immersive exhibit that explored the state’s tumultuous relationship with alcohol from the colonial period to today. It featured fascinating artifacts, enticing stories, and surprising images that took visitors on a journey.

Award winners were celebrated at SEMC’s 2021 annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. MDAH staff members pictured above with *Mississippi Distilled* awards are, on the front row (from left), Nan Prince, Jessica O’Connor, and Madeleine Miller; and, on the back row (from left), Sam Butz, Tony Schnadelbach, Barbara McClendon, Shane Keil, and Megan Bankston.



From the Collection

Country musician Marty Stuart, a five-time Grammy winner, took this mandolin and case with him from Philadelphia, Mississippi, to Nashville in 1972 when he joined the bluegrass band, Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass. See this Gibson A-40 mandolin and many other artifacts in the upcoming exhibit, *The World of Marty Stuart*, opening May 7, 2022, at the Two Mississippi Museums.

From the Archives

This broadside from October 1874 advertises thirty-seven varieties of two-year-old apple trees for sale by Henry Jenkins of Jackson. Handwritten notes detail an order of thirty trees for someone named Bennett who lives “just above the N Orleans Depot.”

FOR SALE!
10,000 TWO YEARS OLD,
MISSISSIPPI RAISED,
APPLE TREES!

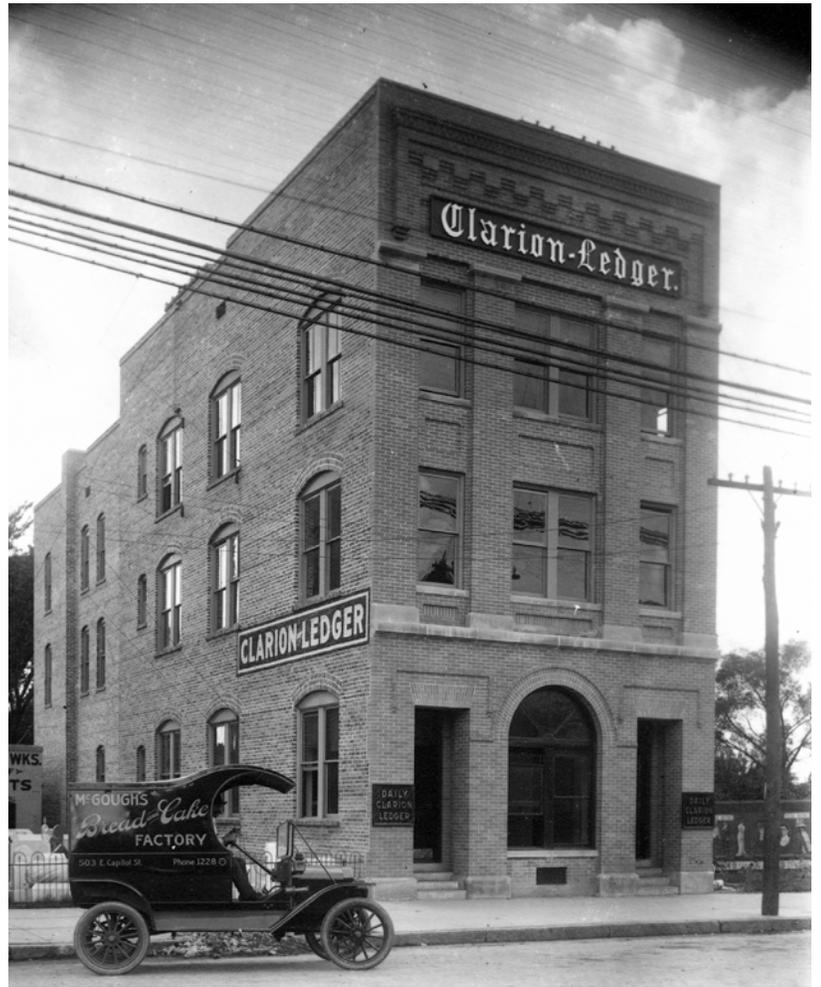
OF THE FOLLOWING VARIETIES:

2 Early Harvest,	Detroit Red,
2 Red June,	Magnum.
2 Yellow Horse,	Carter,
Haskell's Sweet,	Mo. Superior,
Smith's Cider,	Sharp's Cider,
Yellow June,	Sweet Bough,
Red Russetts,	Red Pearmain,
Green Russetts,	Groveinsteen,
Ben Davis,	Summer Queen,
Clinghan's Fall,	Julian,
Mammoth,	27 Fall Pippin,
Striped June,	Winter May,
Red Astrachan,	4 Winesap,
Bevan,	2 Taunton,
Bell Apple,	Red Iberian Crab,
Golden Pippin,	27 Twenty Ounce,
Bell Flower,	Carolina Greening,
2 Nicajack,	Beauty of the West.
4 Shockley.	

Persons desiring to order will address,
HENRY JENKINS,
 Jackson, Miss.

Oct. 1874.

Handwritten notes:
 30 apple trees for Bennett - above depot
 above the N Orleans Depot
 Over



From the Archives

This photograph from the Al Fred Daniel Collection shows the *Clarion-Ledger* building in 1912. A large print of this photo and others from the archives will be on display during Jackson's bicentennial celebration from December 2021 through 2022.

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Sarah Campbell, editor

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Katie Blount, director

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In Memoriam

James Loewen (1942–2021) civil rights activist, historian, educator, sociologist, and author of *Mississippi: Conflict and Change*, one of the state's first textbooks to include the civil rights movement

Robert Parris "Bob" Moses (1935–2021) civil rights veteran and educator, co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), leader of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and co-founder of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)

Elise Varner Winter (1926–2021) former First Lady and widow of former Mississippi Governor William F. Winter, community activist, and author

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas by Candlelight Tour

Friday, December 3, 2021, 4–8 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with a tour of MDAH sites in downtown Jackson.

Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6 p.m.

Moss Point native Eddie S. Glaude Jr., chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University and author of *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, will speak at the Two Mississippi Museums.

The World of Marty Stuart

May 7–December 31, 2022

This new exhibit at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson will explore Marty Stuart's life and his legacy of collecting country music's stories, photographs, instruments, costumes, and more.