

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Fall 2010

Volume 52, No. 7

MDAH Looks Back Five Years after Katrina

Hurricane Devastated Records Repositories, Cultural Sites

Hurricane Katrina was the greatest natural disaster the United States has ever experienced. On August 29, 2005, the storm exploded into Mississippi, killing hundreds of people and forever changing the state's cultural landscape. The historical fabric of the Gulf Coast was devastated; museums and their collections, libraries, government records, and centuries-old buildings and their furnishings were badly damaged or destroyed. The hurricane was so powerful it cut a swath through central Mississippi as far north as Jackson, bringing down trees and affecting structures for 150 miles inland.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been involved in recovery operations since the day after the hurricane made landfall. Archives staff arrived on the coast on August 30 and immediately set to work rescuing the most fragile historical resources: paper records. In Jackson the department's flag-

ship site, the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History, had its roof peeled off by the storm, which then flooded the open building with rainwater. Many staff members left their own damaged homes to rescue waterlogged artifacts from the museum's collection.

Soon museum and preservation staff began traveling from Jackson to the Gulf Coast to document the damage to historic buildings and to help local governments, libraries, and museums salvage their documents and collections. By the end of September, more than 1,200 surviving historic properties across ninety miles of the Mississippi Gulf Coast had been documented. Staff also visited Hattiesburg, Columbia, Picayune, Laurel, Meridian, Jackson, and other towns further inland that suffered extensive damage from Katrina.

Over the coming months volunteer groups of preservation, museum, and archives professionals traveled daily from Jackson to the Gulf Coast to help with the recovery efforts. Due to its broad involvement from the early stages of the storm's aftermath, MDAH became the de facto coordinating body for many of those groups.

At the same time, MDAH

partnered with the Mississippi Heritage Trust, the National Trust for Historic Preservation

guidance on how or whether to proceed with rehabilitation. The reports saved many historic



MDAH employee Preston Everett helps recover hurricane-damaged records at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. Workers wore masks to safeguard against the mold that had grown everywhere.

(NTHP), the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), and the World Monuments Fund to recruit volunteer architects, engineers, and preservation specialists to assess the possibility of rehabilitating damaged historic properties. By May 2006, volunteer teams, working out of a rented 1920 bungalow in downtown Biloxi, had completed detailed reports on hundreds of damaged historic structures. The reports provided property owners with accurate evaluations of the condition of their historic buildings and

structures whose owners had thought their damaged buildings were not salvageable.

The region's museums and libraries were hard hit. Only the chimney remained of the Pleasant Reed House Museum, the restored 1880s cottage of Biloxi carpenter and African American leader Pleasant Reed. Only the roof and a few scant sections of walls survived from the former Coast Guard cadet barracks that for many years housed Biloxi's popular Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. Pass Christian's old public library, a virtual time capsule from the turn of the twentieth century, under restoration when Katrina hit, was swept

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away, leaving scarcely a trace of its existence.

Among the coast's well-known historic landmarks that were completely destroyed were the circa-1800 mansions Elmwood Manor and the Old Spanish Custom House; the mid-nineteenth-century mansions Grass Lawn and Tullis-Toledano Manor; the late-Victorian cottages the Brielmaier House, the Fisherman's Cottage, and the Pleasant Reed House; the 1890 Sullivan House; much of the early twentieth-century artist compound Shearwater Pottery; and most of the Scenic Drive Historic District in Pass Christian, often referred to as the "Newport of the South" for its once-magnificent collection of vacation "cottages" of wealthy southern families.

Some of the cultural resources affected by Hurricane Katrina are less immediately recognizable or well-known, but also form a significant part of Mississippi's historical fabric. For example, the Turkey Creek Community, located near the Gulfport-Biloxi airport, was founded by a group of former slaves shortly after the

Civil War. Even today, most residents are descendants of these former slaves and many still reside in their ancestral homes. Already struggling to survive as a distinct African American community, the residents of Turkey Creek saw their homes flooded during the storm.

The department's archaeological staff responded when many coastal archaeological sites (some previously unrecorded) were uncovered and dam-

aged by Katrina's tidal surge. A very significant example of this is the Moran Site, an early-eighteenth-century French burial ground in Biloxi that provides a unique glimpse into colonial-



This circa 1925 Craftsman bungalow in Gulfport (above) was awarded a \$140,000 grant through the federally funded Mississippi Hurricane Relief Grant for Historic Preservation program. Without the grant the owner would have demolished the house, which has been completely repaired (below).



era life on the coast. Buildings constructed over the site in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were destroyed, and the area was scoured by tidal surge, exposing several graves that had to be quickly excavated in order to protect them from looters, debris removal crews, and possible redevelopment.

The department's historical archaeologist was sent to the Gulf Coast for weeks on end to organize, oversee, and assist

efforts by some of the local museums destroyed by tidal surge to salvage portions of their collections from the rubble of collapsed buildings. Camping out on the grounds of Beau-

museum artifacts damaged in the storm. Many items were evacuated to Jackson for safe keeping, while others were stored in refrigerated trucks procured and delivered to the coast for the purpose.

In Waveland, MDAH staff assisted with the recovery of fifty volumes of city council minutes and municipal ordinances, which the clerk had fortuitously packed into a bank vault next door to city hall. Likewise, staff retrieved sixty volumes of records from the Pass Christian city hall two months after the storm. In both instances, MDAH arranged for temporary cold storage of the moldy records, and eventual freeze drying and cleaning in Texas. Those rescued documents are the only pre-Katrina records remaining from the two cities.

MDAH staff traveled to south Mississippi libraries and museums to assess damage and help conserve materials, and worked with state and national organizations to coordinate emergency grants and hands-on recovery assistance. Staff in Jackson cleaned incoming materials and artifacts,

compiled inventories, and transported materials to cold storage. The department rented a freezer truck in Gulfport, which allowed materials such as books from the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum and collections from the Pass Christian Historical Society to be stored onsite. MDAH arranged shipment of small collections, such as the first volume of the *Sea Coast Echo* (1898), to a Texas salvage company for freeze dry-

ing. Department staff organized efforts to salvage, store, and, in some instances, clean important official records, historical society archival collections, and

compiled inventories, and transported materials to cold storage. The department rented a freezer truck in Gulfport, which allowed materials such as books from the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum and collections from the Pass Christian Historical Society to be stored onsite. MDAH arranged shipment of small collections, such as the first volume of the *Sea Coast Echo* (1898), to a Texas salvage company for freeze dry-

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ing and cleaning, and assisted the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Public Library with numerous recovery actions over a two-year period. These and other initiatives were funded by grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (\$20,000) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$30,000).

In addition to technical assistance, the department was able to award grants of \$25,000 to the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, \$10,000 to the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, and \$5,000 to the Mississippi Sound Historical Museum.

Not long after the storm, the department began conducting workshops around the state on proper methods of conserving storm-damaged materials. The Winterthur Museum and Colonial Williamsburg helped to secure grants and committed staff to work for extended periods with south Mississippi museum properties to undertake

passed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Hurricane Recovery. The bill included a \$40 million appropriation for rehabilitation of hurricane-damaged historic properties in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. MDAH established the Mississippi Hurricane Relief Grant for Historic Preservation to help citizens and communities preserve and rehabilitate hurricane-damaged historic buildings and sites significant in defining the unique character and heritage of those communities.

The department established a permanent Gulf Coast Office to administer the grant program. Many public and institutional landmarks of the local communities were restored with the federal funds, but most of the \$26 million that was the state's share went to rehabilitate owner-occupied houses listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Through May of this year, the department has awarded 263 of these grants to preservation projects totaling

ricane Katrina, the department has helped shape national and international policies on emergency preparedness and disaster recovery. Department director H.T. Holmes presented the talk "Historic Preservation versus

from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the group sponsored a meeting on the coast in December 2006 to focus attention on the significance of cultural collections and organizations in the overall recov-



Records from the Gulf Coast were brought to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson for conservation. The books above had been placed in the archival receiving bay to dry.

Katrina: What Role Should Federal, State, and Local Governments Play in Preservation of Historic Properties Affected by these Catastrophic Storms?" before a Congressional subcommittee on October 21, 2005. Holmes and other senior staff members gave dozens of talks across the country and overseas on lessons learned during the Hurricane Katrina recovery.

MDAH worked with state and national organizations to host workshops on conservation and to coordinate the scores of volunteers who came to Mississippi to help with the recovery efforts, especially students and faculty from the art conservation program at Winterthur and the University of Delaware. MDAH began working with the Mississippi Library Commission, Mississippi Humanities Council, and Mississippi Arts Commission to identify common areas of need and programming collaboration. With funding

ery effort. With funding from a Save America's Treasures grant, MDAH surveyed every archives, library, and museum in the six southern-most counties, to identify holdings and establish a contact database of information to be available in case of future disasters.

The damage to the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson proved to be catastrophic, and in its 2006 session the legislature appropriated \$14.2 million to restore the National Historic Landmark. The site reopened in February 2009 as a museum focusing on the history of the building that was Mississippi's statehouse from 1839 to 1903, and has drawn more than fifty thousand visitors in its first eighteen months. The Mississippi Legislature opened the 2009 session in the historic House and Senate chambers, nearly one hundred and sixty years to the day after its first session in the building.



Fragile paper records and other collections rescued from the Gulf Coast were stored in a refrigerated truck on the coast, then to a space donated by Merchants Cold Storage of Jackson until they could be transported to conservation facilities.

conservation of damaged collections and museum buildings.

In June 2006, Congress

\$24,725,000. Forty-five projects are still in progress.

In the years following Hur-

French Merci Train Car To Be Restored

A historic wooden train car given in gratitude to Mississippi by France following World War II will be restored and relocated with a \$230,000 award from the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program. The Merci car, which sits uncovered on a platform behind the War Memorial Building and Old Capitol Museum, has suffered from decades of exposure to the elements.

“The Merci boxcar has been part of the historical complex on the Capitol Green for decades, and we are glad to be able to finally restore it,” said MDAH director H.T. Holmes.

In 1947, *Washington Post* columnist Drew Pearson launched a grassroots effort to help war recovery in France and Italy. Over \$40 million worth of supplies were collected from across the United States, eventually filling more than 700 railroad cars. The train became known as the American Friendship Train, and the boxcars arrived in Europe in December 1947.

In response to America’s generosity, the French reciprocated with their own train of gifts. Known as the French Merci Train, the cars were decorated with placards of the coats of arms of all of the provinces of France and loaded with personal donations from across the country. Each of the forty-eight states would receive a car, plus one to be shared between Washington, D.C., and Hawaii.

After first stopping in Meridian, Mississippi’s boxcar arrived in Jackson on



February 12, 1949. The items in the car were displayed at the farmer’s market and then divided among various organizations. The Department of Archives and History received forty objects from the Merci train that are still in the permanent collection for display in the planned Museum of Mississippi History.

At only 20.5 feet long and 8.5 feet wide, the Merci car is a small boxcar known as a 40 & 8 in France, so named because each car could carry forty men or eight horses. Most of the original materials will be saved, with

only the siding and missing placards to be replaced. Once the restoration is complete the boxcar will be moved next to the former GM&O depot, where a canopy will be constructed to protect the car. A second rail will also be installed since the gauge of the Merci car is too narrow for the existing track.

The Merci train was placed at the entrance of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds before eventually being moved to its present location. The boxcar was transferred to the Department of Archives and History in 2002.

Historical Society Accepting Nominations for Awards

Every year the Mississippi Historical Society awards prizes for outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi history. Nominations are now being accepted for the following:

The McLemore Prize, which carries with it a \$700 stipend, is given for the best book on a subject related to Mississippi history or biography published the previous year.

The John K. Bettersworth Award is given annually to an outstanding teacher of middle or high school history in Mississippi. The winning teacher receives a \$300 cash award and

is invited as the society’s guest to its annual meeting.

The Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award is given annually as merited to a local historical organization that, as a member of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies, has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. The winning society receives a \$300 cash award.

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, which carries with it a \$300 cash award, recognizes oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collection, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral

history.

The James T. Dawson Award is presented annually as merited to a local government in Mississippi with an exemplary records management program. A local government eligible for the award may be a municipality, a county, or a school district.

Two other prizes, the Dunbar Rowland Award, given in recognition of major contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi History and the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history, are presented as merited.

Nominations for the Riley prize and the Glover Moore Prize will be accepted for 2012.

The prizes are awarded biennially for a doctoral dissertation and master’s thesis, respectively, on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed within the previous two years.

Awards of merit are presented annually to individuals or organizations for their outstanding archival or museum work.

All prizewinners will be invited to the society’s 2011 annual meeting, to be held March 3–5 in Jackson, to receive their awards.

Details are online at the society’s Web site, www.mshistorysociety.com. For more information or to submit a nomination, email info@mshistorysociety.com or call 601-576-6856.

Board of Trustees to Meet in Columbus

The board of trustees of the Department of Archives and History will hold its regular quarterly meeting on Friday, October 8, in Columbus on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women. In conjunction with the meeting, the department will offer one of its most popular programs, Personal Treasures. Like the PBS television program *Antiques Roadshow*, Personal Treasures gives the public a chance to bring items for identification and evaluation by specialists at no cost.

Personal Treasures will be held Thursday, October 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Columbus Public Library. Categories will be books and maps, paper items, and photographs. Although experts will not appraise objects, a list of appraisers will



Whitehall, a circa-1843 Greek Revival residence, is listed as part of the South Columbus Historic District.

be available.

A public reception will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, at Whitehall, the historic antebellum house owned by Carol and Joe Boggess. Kane

Ditto, president of the board of trustees, will present resolutions of commendation to local organizations and citizens for contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Mis-

issippi history. The MDAH board meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday in the Thad and Rose Cochran Hall at MUW and is open to the public.

While in Columbus board members and MDAH staff will tour sites associated with the Tennessee Williams home, the Annunciation Catholic Church, and other preservation highlights in the area on the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau's double-decker bus.

Members of the board of trustees are Ditto; vice president Rosemary Taylor Williams, Corinth; Reuben V. Anderson, Jackson; E. Jackson Garner, Jackson; Duncan M. Morgan, Natchez; Hilda Cope Povall, Cleveland; Martis D. Ramage, Jr., Belden; and Roland Weeks, Biloxi.

Welty Photo Exhibit Opening at Visitors Center

Before becoming known as an author, Eudora Welty briefly considered a career as a photographer. Even after she began to win awards for her writing, she continued to travel with her camera, taking pictures through Mississippi and on trips across the country. On September 14, an exhibit of her photographs from the 1930s will open at the Eudora Welty House Education and Visitor Center. "Welty Snapshots: At Home and Away" features eight images from New York City and two from Mississippi during the Great Depression.

Welty's photographs of Mississippians often portray struggling but resilient people during the Depression. By contrast, many of the New York shots are of faceless crowds and emphasize the scope of the dire economic times. In her introduction to her book *Photographs*, Welty writes that "recording the mass of them did constitute a plea on

their behalf to the public, their existing plight being so evident in the mass."

"The juxtaposition of the images is striking," said Katie Hamm, special projects coordinator for the Eudora Welty House. "Welty's Mississippi shots evoke a feeling of intimacy with the subjects, who are often looking into the camera, while her New York photographs are frequently distant shots of crowds or architecture."

The large, black-and-white prints were made from Welty's original negatives for the exhibit "Eudora Welty in New York: Photographs of the Early 1930s," which opened at the Museum of the City of New York in November 2008. Nearly 1,100 of Welty's photographs from the early 1930s to 1950 survive at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"Welty Snapshots: At Home and Away" is made possible through the support of the Eu-



dora Welty Foundation. The exhibit will hang through January 17, 2011.

The Eudora Welty House is located at 1119 Pinehurst Street in Jackson. Tours are offered Tuesdays through Fridays at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. by reservation. The Education and Visitors Center, next door to the

Welty House, is open free of charge Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visitors Center features exhibits on the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, a reading room, and a gift shop. For more information call 601-353-7762 or email info@eudoraweltyhouse.com.

HJC Holding Photo Contest for New Nature Trail Signs

Historic Jefferson College is sponsoring a nature photography contest. Winners will have their images featured on new interpretive signs that will be installed along the T.J. Foster Memorial Nature Trail next summer.

The nature trail is named after the first director of the site. The trail features a longer loop about one mile in length through fairly rigorous terrain, and a shorter, less taxing quarter-mile loop. More than sixty-five species of native and non-native vegetation are identified on the trails by small metal placards. The



twenty large, new signs will highlight the animals, insects, plants, and other features found along the nature trail.

A list of subjects for the photo contest is online at the Historic Jefferson College Web site, historicjeffersoncollege.com. It contains birds, mammals, reptiles, plants, and more. Participants may submit up to twenty-five entries. Photographers' names will be included on the signs alongside their image. Deadline for submission is September 30, 2010. Technical details may be found with the subject list and submission form on the HJC Web site.

The interpretive signs are made possible in part by a Recreational Trails grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Jefferson College was the first institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Territory. Admission is free. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. for the buildings and daily sunup to sundown for the grounds. For information call 601-442-2901.

Civil War Event at HJC Oct. 10

The third annual Black and Blue Civil War Living History Encampment will take place on Saturday, October 10, at Historic Jefferson College. Historians and reenactors will present a series of first-person accounts of enslaved people, white abolitionists, and white union officers that focus on the roles these people played in Mississippi



and Louisiana during the Civil War. Performances by the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church Civil War Choir will introduce and complement key presentations.

"It's important to tell the African American story of the Civil War," said Clark Burkett, Historic Jefferson College historian. "This event shows how African Americans contributed to their own liberation."

The living history event will begin at

10:30 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m. A soldiers camp for children will begin at 10:30 a.m., and a games activity camp will begin at noon and run throughout the remainder of the program. The Black and Blue Civil War Living History Encampment is sponsored by MDAH and the Friends of Forks of the Roads Society, Inc. For more information call Ser Boxley at 601-442-4719 or email forksyearoads@aol.com.



The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation recently donated approximately 56 cubic feet of archival material from its publicity office to MDAH. The collection documents communities across Mississippi from agriculture to family life. Materials include newspapers, newsletters, photographs and photographic negatives, slides, film and audio recordings, and subject file materials dating from 1927. Farm Bureau also provided funds to process the collection and digitize the photographs and slides.

Native American Days at Winterville Nov. 3–6

Native American Days, the annual program at Winterville Mounds celebrating American Indian culture, will be held November 3–6. The event features traditional dances, stories, and games, and crafts and foods will be for sale. Last year more than 6,000 students and adults attended during the four days of the festival.

Dancers and musicians are still being booked, but confirmed performers include the Choctaw Elderly Dancers from the Pearl River Reservation, Mississippi, Lyndon Alec of the Alabama Nation demonstrating hoop dancing, and master of ceremonies Lewis Johnson of the Seminole Nation playing

cane and cedar flutes. Valerie Hanks-Goetz of the Muskogee Nation will tell stories. There will be face-painting and bead stringing for children, a primitive weapon's demonstration area, and stickball games open to all comers. Booths will once again be set up where the Native American skill of flint knapping will be demonstrated.

Native American Days is free of charge. The event begins at 8 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m. each day. Performances will begin at 9 a.m. and run through 12:45 p.m. School groups should call ahead for a complete schedule of events when booking a field trip.

Winterville Mounds is a pre-historic ceremonial center built



by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450. Located at 2415 Highway 1 North, Greenville, the 42-acre park is open 8 a.m.–5

p.m. every day; the museum is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Sat. and Sun. 1:30–5 p.m. Free of charge. For more information call 662-334-4684.



Talented Choctaw Basket Weaver Linda Farve Dies

Linda E. Farve, 60, an Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians master basket weaver, died August 10 in Philadelphia, Mississippi. For more than thirty years Farve provided Choctaw craft demonstrations and cooked fry bread at public events and educational programs at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. She was recognized as an expert in the art of making double-weave river cane baskets. In November 2009, Farve participated in the Southeastern Indian Basketry Symposium at the Grand Village (picture above). Her loss further diminishes the small community of Southeastern Indian basket weavers.

State Records Board Accepting Nominations for Four Awards

The Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) is seeking nominations for awards honoring efforts to identify, preserve, and provide access to Mississippi's historical records.

The award for Archival Program Development recognizes programs that offer new ideas and innovations that contribute to, as well as increase access to and interest in, Mississippi's documented history.

The award for Documenting Mississippi's History recognizes effectiveness in improving the documentary record of Mississippi, particularly as it relates to under-documented communities and topics, by using innovative approaches and demonstrating success in raising public awareness of the state's history.

The awards for Use of Historical Records in Grades K-12 and Use of Historical Records in Higher Education recognize an understanding of the educational value of

primary sources and their innovative use in the classroom, a school district curriculum, or an academic course or program of study; impact of the use of primary sources on student academic performance and community involvement; and evidence of a collaborative effort with an archival program.

MHRAB will begin accepting nominations for the 2011 awards on September 15. The deadline for receiving nominations will be 5 p.m., December 17. Award recipients will be notified by March 1, 2011, and awards will be presented in conjunction with the Society of Mississippi Archivists biennial meeting in Starkville in April 2011.

Visit <http://mdah.state.ms.us/admin/mhrab/programs.php> for nomination forms. For more information about the awards contact Melanie Collins at 601-576-6810 or by email at MHRAB@mdah.state.ms.us.

Vintage Baseball at HJC Oct.23

Four co-ed teams—the Natchez Indians, Washington Pirates, Jefferson Military College Wildcats, and the Vidalia Bowie Knives—will face off in a baseball tournament using 1870s rules on Saturday, October 23 at Historic Jefferson College.

The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. and run through 3 p.m.

The oldest known baseball photo in the state was taken in 1872 at Jefferson College. For more information, call Clark Burkett at 601-442-2901.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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

Mississippi History Newsletter
Chris Goodwin, editor

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Contents © 2010 Mississippi Department of Archives and History
H.T. Holmes, director

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HISTORY IS LUNCH CALENDAR

History Is Lunch Series

Noon–1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6850

- **September 15**—Mississippi State University professor Noel Polk will present “William Faulkner: His Life, His Work.” *Made possible in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.*
- **September 22**—Acclaimed Oxford artist Glennray Tutor will show his paintings and discuss his unique approach to his art. *Made possible in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.*
- **September 29**—Curator Ellen Ruffin will talk about the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi.
- **October 6**—Hunter Cole will talk about his forthcoming book, *The Legs Murder Scandal.*
- **October 13**—Archaeologist Brad Lieb will present “The Grand Village is Silent: Diaspora of the Natchez Indians.”
- **October 20**—Author Curtis Wilkie will discuss his forthcoming book on Dickie Scruggs, *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America’s Most Powerful Trial Lawyer.*
- **October 27**—Beth Batton, Mississippi Museum of Art, talks about an exhibit of photographs by Oraien Catledge.
- **November 3**—Elise Winter, former first lady of Mississippi, will talk about *Dinner at the Mansion*, newly reprinted by Yoknapatawpha Press.
- **November 10**—Archaeologist Sam Brookes will present “Mississippi Mounds.”
- **November 17**—Historian Rowena McClinton will talk about Native Americans of Mississippi.

Resources for Teachers Available through MDAH

The Department of Archives and History has produced two new teaching aids and will hold a workshop for social studies teachers in November.

From the Delta to Jackson to Natchez, the department offers a variety of opportunities for students of all ages to explore our state’s rich past. The new Teacher’s Guide to Mississippi History is designed to help educators take advantage of the department’s resources, including field trips, classroom outreach programs, and teacher training. The guide is online at http://mdah.state.ms.us/oldcap/2010_teachers_guide.pdf.

“Picturing America” is

a project by the National Endowment for the Humanities as a tool to teach American history through its art. “Reflecting Mississippi” provides companion images from the department’s collection that explore themes related to the state’s history. The images can be downloaded at <http://mdah.state.ms.us/reflecting-ms.zip>.

The department’s annual Social Studies Teachers Workshop will be November 5 at the Old Capitol Museum. This year’s focus will be on Antebellum Mississippi, 1833–1860. The deadline to register is October 29. Registration forms are available on the department’s Web site, mdah.state.ms.us.