

Local History

The Newsletter of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies

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From the Chair—Paul Cartwright

I hope all our historical societies are bearing up in the heat of these dog days of summer. However, keeping in mind that the heat is not good for artifacts, this is a good time to review conservation measures and ana-



lyze how items are stored in our societies across the state.

The federation has an exciting fall and winter lineup of meetings and workshops planned across the state; we'll provide more details in the next newsletter. Fall is also a busy time for many societies as we begin to collect dues for the up-

coming year. One way to potentially increase contributions is to check with local newspapers and radio stations about free public service announcements for your non-profit organization.

I look forward to learning more about each of your societies. Please let me know if you would like to schedule a visit.

Historic Windows Workshop Nov. 6 in Ocean Springs

Windows are significant character-defining features of historic buildings. Yet too often historic windows are lost during building rehabilitation because of a lack of understanding about their repair and maintenance, as well as concerns about energy efficiency. In light of recent storms on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, building owners are now faced with concern about hurricane-resistant glass.

On Thursday, November 6, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will offer a one-day workshop on procedures for restoring and maintaining historic windows. Understanding that the individual homes and buildings that make

up the historic neighborhoods and downtowns have a profound impact on heritage tourism of all communities—but specifically those communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina—the National Park Service and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are funding this workshop through a Preserve America Grant to help rebuild the heritage tourism market of the hurricane-affected areas.

Professionals and experts on the rehabilitation and restoration of wood and metal windows will lead interactive sessions to help building owners, architects, contractors, preservation professionals, and volunteers make informed decisions regarding the

proper treatment of windows in their rehabilitation projects.

The workshop will be held at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center for Arts and Education in Ocean Springs on Thursday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. AIA HSW Continuing Education Units (6 hours for the day) will be offered to architects.

The fee for the workshop is \$60 for architects receiving AIA HSW CEU hours and \$20 for other participants. Registration includes lunch and a resource notebook.

For more information contact Michelle Jones at 662-325-2520 or mjones@caad.msstate.edu.

Member Happenings from Around the State

On June 14, following the annual business meeting of the **Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society**, the society hosted an Amite County-style "Antiques Road Show" with four evaluators with expertise in various types of antiques and artifacts.

In addition to approximately thirty-five members bringing in items, there were forty non-member guests that participated. The evaluations lasted from 11 a.m. until mid-afternoon. Quite a number of interesting items were brought for evaluation and some proved to be rather valuable one-of-a-kind items.

For more information contact Wayne Anderson at sitemanager@achgs.org.



The **Family Research Association of Mississippi** is an organization devoted to genealogical research throughout the entire state. The association meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month except during June, July, August, and December. Visitors are always welcome to attend the meetings, held at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.

Topics for the programs vary greatly. Recent programs have included a presentation by the Simpson County Historical & Genealogical Society; "Preserving Your Family Photographs," by Tricia Nelson;



Kate Lobrano House, Bay Saint Louis

"Take Her Down," about Commander Howard W. Gilmore by Ward Calhoun, director of the Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History; and Dr. Douglas Richardson, attending pathologist for Rankin Medical Center and clinical associate professor at the University of Mississippi Medical School, explained in layman's language the basis of DNA testing and how the results can be applied to the field of genealogy.

The annual membership fee is \$17 for an individual or \$20 per couple. The FRA newsletter *Frameworks* is published eight times each year and is distributed by email (exceptions are made for those without access to the Internet).

FRA hosted a Genealogical Fair last November at the Rankin Campus of the Hinds

Community College. Because of the success of the fair, plans are being made to continue it as an annual event. For more information contact Peter Miazza at pbmiazza@bellsouth.net.



The **Hancock County Historical Society**, which was organized in 1977 and received its 501(c)3 status the following year, has a present membership of 1,049, making it one of the largest societies in the state.

The headquarters building, the Kate Lobrano House, is an 1896 shotgun house with later additions and is located at 108 Cue Street, directly across the street from the Hancock County Court House in Bay Saint Louis. The city has given the society the Old City Hall building, a beautiful columned brick struc-

ture about a block away that will be used for computer operations and research. The Lobrano House will remain open to the public for tourists, research, and civic affairs.

The headquarters did not lose a single record or document despite substantial damage by Hurricane Katrina.

Visit their Web site, www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com, for a complete list of reference resources, collections, and hours of operation. For more information contact Charles Gray at hancockcountyhis@bell-south.net.



As part of an ongoing project of digitizing nineteenth century county records, the **Itawamba Historical Society** has digitized and placed in its online archives the **Itawamba County Stock Mark book**.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many farmers let their stock graze in unfenced areas called the open range. In Itawamba County the creek bottomlands and the Tombigbee River lowlands were popular areas for open ranges. Branding and ear marking were used to identify the owners of the cattle. The State of Mississippi passed livestock laws that included a system of registering such brands and ear markings. This collection of livestock

markings (mostly ear marks) is a unique county record group in Mississippi. The Itawamba County Stock Mark book is a small bound volume (6 ½" x 7 ½") that contains registrations from 1851 through 1904. By the late 1800s, fencing laws were enacted and the need for a county stock mark book ended during the early 1900s.

The society transcribed the entire book and the transcription was published in the Summer 2008 issue of *Itawamba Settlers*, the 56-page quarterly membership magazine. A complete index of the book with digital images of all the pages has been placed in the society's online archives (<http://www.itawambahistory.org/stockmarks/>).



This book is just one of several such historic volumes the society plans to digitize in the near future. The Itawamba Historical Society digitization project is made possible by membership dues and donations. To view the entire digital archives visit the society online at www.itawambahistory.org and select "Online Archives." For more information contact info@itawambahistory.org.



After much discussion and effort, the Jackson County Historical Society and the Genealogy Society have officially merged as the **Jackson County**

Historical and Genealogical Society. Officers are president Tommy Wixon, vice president Barry McIlwain, vice president for genealogy Doug Coulter, recording secretary Liz Ford, corresponding secretary Renee Gautier-Hague, and treasurer Linda Grimes.

The new society meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Pascagoula Public Library. The first two meetings with programs were standing-room only. In June retired librarian and genealogy researcher Janet Smith presented "The Outlaw James Copeland." In July Roger Hansen presented "Greenwood Island: The Importance of Pascagoula in 1859—They came from the Sea," about the soldiers from the Mexican-American War who lived and died in Pascagoula at the U.S. government's military post, Camp Jefferson Davis.

The organization is in the process of sending its latest annual journal and the Jackson County cemetery book to press and will be taking orders in September or October for the latter. Work is underway to obtain grants to restore the Lapointe-Krebs House (Old Spanish Fort and Museum) to pre-Katrina status, with the goal of expanding the museum in the future. For more information contact Renee Gautier-Hague at pggen2@jgrls.org.



The Local History & Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Public Library/ Harrison

County Library System, is moving! During August they will relocate to their new site on the third floor of the downtown Biloxi Post Office. The department staff will be updating its Web site, www.harrison.lib.ms.us/genealogy/lhgmain.html, as more information becomes available regarding an official reopening date later this year.



The **Marion County Historical Society** has been busy with their historic districts and has just been awarded a grant for the nomination of a fourth historic district. For more information contact Ann Simmons at asimmons@columbia@aol.com.



The **Natchez Historical Society** is offering its hardbound book *The Natchez Area Family History* free to libraries for a payment of \$3 for shipping. Orders may be sent to the Natchez Historical Society, P.O. Box 49, Natchez, Mississippi, 39121. For more information contact Candace Bundgard at Candace-Bundgard@aol.com.



At the August 9 meeting of the **Newton County Historical and Genealogical Society**, singer-songwriter, teacher, and author Richelle Putnam performed songs from the soundtrack *A Mother's Son*, a historical play set during the Civil War. The theme of her presentation was *Songs of the South*.

Richelle Putnam has written

lyrics and music for over thirty years. In the early 1980s, she played guitar and sang with the Magnatones; at the millennium, after rearing four children, she took up writing music again. She also co-writes with Ralph



Gordon and together they wrote seven of eight songs on the soundtrack. The eighth song, *A Mother's Son, Her Baby's Love*, was written by Putnam to a theme set by co-writer Anne McKee. Putnam's songs have been recognized by the *American Songwriter Magazine* and Song of the Year Contest.

Putnam instructs all ages on the craft of writing, whether fiction, non-fiction, lyric writing, or putting lyrics to music. She has been an artist-in-residence at schools and Girl Scouts of America, facilitated journaling sessions with incarcerated women, and worked in libraries, Headstart Programs, and Boys and Girls Clubs. Her Web site is www.richelleputnam.net. For more information contact Harold Graham at whggenie@decaturtel.net.



The **Noxubee County Historical Society's** welcome center, located in the restored Pure Oil Building, has been chosen as the site for the installation of a Mississippi Blues Trail historical marker. The marker dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place on August 18, and two of the three honorees will not only be present at the ceremony, but will also perform together.

The honorees include Willie Earl King and Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, along with the late Carey Bell. One of Mr. Bell's sons, who is an accomplished blues guitarist in his own right, may also attend and perform to represent his father. Main Street Macon is sponsoring a barbeque luncheon for the event.

Concurrent with the dedication ceremony, the NCHS will host an art exhibit featuring the blues inspired paintings of Noxubee native James Connor. To learn more about Connor, visit www.artevo.com/artistlist.asp and look up "James Connor." For more information contact Anderson Thomas at Anderson@shuqualak.com.



The **Oxford Lafayette County Heritage Foundation** has passed many milestones during the first half of 2008. The \$2 million restoration of the L.Q.C. Lamar house is now complete. A gala reception and program was held June 8 to mark the occasion. Senator Thad Cochran spoke at

the event that was attended by members of the Lamar family—for them the event was a family reunion as well as a celebration and history lesson.

“It is difficult to express the breadth of his service,” Cochran said about Lamar, “But I think we can all agree he was the most distinguished Mississippian ever to serve in government.”

Oxford mayor Richard Howorth spoke of the public and private partnership the city and the foundation are building as the foundation is in the process of turning over the ownership of the Lamar House to the city.

The Lamar Committee continues to work to prepare both standing exhibits for the house and traveling exhibits that will relate to Lamar's life and service. The house will soon be open on a regular basis. For more information contact Liz Shiver at liz-shiver@bellsouth.net.



It is hard to imagine a time when air travel wasn't a part of everyday life, when the sound of jets passing over a house wasn't as normal as the ring of a telephone or doorbell. But during the early years of flight, people looked at these creations with a sense of awe and wonder as they flew by.

Heroes of the Sky: Adventures in Early Flight, 1903-1939, opening on November 10 at the **Tunica Museum**, celebrates the first remarkable decades of flight through stories of the fliers, businessmen, and inventors who transformed airplanes from

the novel inventions of tinkerers into sophisticated machines of transportation, commerce, and war.

Using historic artifacts, documentary videos, graphic panels, and hands-on activities, *Heroes of the Sky* introduces visitors to the men and women who had the vision to see flight as more than a simple curiosity; to the barnstormers and record breakers who pushed the limits of what the new machines could do; and to the explorers who saw airplanes as a means of expanding our understanding of the world. The Wright Brothers, Henry Ford, Donald Douglas, Glenn Curtis, Jimmy Doolittle, Bessie Coleman, and Admiral Richard Byrd are just some of the adventurers featured in this exhibition.

Heroes of the Sky: Adventures in Early Flight, 1903-1939, has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is brought to you by Mid-America Arts Alliance, and was organized by the Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan.

This exhibit will be on display November 10, 2008 through January 7, 2009. There

is no admission charge. For more information contact Darlene Griffith at darlene@tunicamuseum.com or visit www.tunicamuseum.com.



Planning is underway by the **Union County Historical Society & Heritage Museum** to organize the first Mississippi chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation as a part of the commemoration of the Meriwether Lewis's final journey through North Mississippi.

In October 1809, Meriwether Lewis, leader of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition, made his final journey through what would become Union County as well as other counties through the northeast Mississippi region.

As governor of the Louisiana territory, Lewis had been called to Washington to make an accounting of his actions as governor and lack of action on the three volumes he was supposed to write after the conclusion of the expedition. Fearing that the British would capture him and his important papers, Lewis decided to go overland for much of the journey. He opted to travel from St. Louis to what would become a landing at Memphis on the Mississippi River. From there he took the Chickasaw Trail that meandered



slightly east and southward and then turning to a more southern route that took him through what would become several northeast Mississippi counties, including Tippah, Union, and Pontotoc and into the edge of Chickasaw County to the Chickasaw Agency.

There is material evidence he made an important stop in Union County. An exhibit at the Union County Heritage Museum interprets Lewis' journey through what became Union County and an important find at the site of the Chickasaw King. About three miles south of New Albany, a farmer was plowing his field in the 1920s when he struck a large silver medallion—a Jefferson Medal. The Jefferson Medals were minted for Lewis and Clark to carry with them on their famous Westward journey. No doubt Lewis carried one with him into the Chickasaw nation as he made this journey.

As Lewis traveled down the Chickasaw Trail in the fall of 1809, he was in a foreign nation. The Treaty of Pontotoc that ceded the Chickasaw lands to the United States would not be signed for another twenty-three years. As Lewis passed through down the "King's Road" or the Chickasaw Trail, he had to pass through the King of the Chickasaw's personal territory. As on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, he no doubt saw the necessity of extending the arm of friendship

to the leader of the tribe as he had the fifty or so other tribes that he had met on the westward expansion. The way the expedition sometimes did this was by presenting the native leader with a peace medal as well as other goods. The Chickasaw leader at that time was Chinubby.

After Lewis left the king's site about three miles south of new Albany, his destination was the Chickasaw Agency, where he would secure a guide and then travel north on the Natchez Trace to Nashville, and then on to Washington. He spent two nights at the agency, traveling north after that with fresh horses and a guide. Due to some mishap the horses strayed and Lewis was at Grinders Station without his guide for a time. That is when he was shot and killed or fired the fatal shots himself.



In October 2009 there will be a commemoration of the final journey of Lewis by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which will meet in north Mississippi for part of the 41st annual meeting, *Courage Undaunted – The Final Journey*.

"Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Bryant Boswell of Jackson, who portrayed Lewis on a portion of the reenactment Discovery Expedition, this national gathering will take place in our area," said Jill Smith, museum director.

For more information about becoming a member of the Mississippi Chapter of the Lewis and

Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, contact the Union County Heritage Museum at 662-538-0014 or uchm@uchheritagemuseum.com.



The **Utica Heritage Society** hosted its biennial Utica Homecoming on July 26, which several hundred Uticans attended. The society awarded \$500 college scholarships to Laura Ashley Anderson and Christie Leigh Hennington in May.

The society continues to maintain the Utica Community Veterans Memorial it constructed in 2000, as well as keep entrances to the town clean as part of the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program. For more information contact Mary Collins Landin at landinmc@aol.com.



The **Wayne County Genealogy Organization, Inc.**, has published two new hardback books. *The Heritage of Wayne County, Mississippi, Volume Two* contains more than one hundred family histories and four hundred photographs and costs \$55.

The Pictorial History of Wayne County, Mississippi, contains more than two hundred historical and family photos and sells for \$20. A \$5 shipping and handling fee is added to each purchase.

The books may be purchased by check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to WCGO, Inc., and mailed to 1103 A Mississippi Drive,

Waynesboro, MS, 39367. To place a credit card order, call toll-free 866-735-2268.



The **Woodville Civic Club, Inc.**, announces the second annual Woodville Antiques Show and Sale will be November 14–16, with all proceeds benefiting the **Wilkinson County Museum** and the **African American Museum**—both housed in early nineteenth century buildings on the Court House Square in Woodville.

On Saturday, November 15, a gala dinner will be held at the Forest Home Plantation—an exquisite restoration of the 1830s home—located just outside of town on the Whitestown Road and owned by Mrs. Boatner Howell. On Friday and Saturday afternoons the Feltus–Catchings

home will be on tour; built in 1819, this Federal home has been in the Catchings family since 1899. For more information call 601-888-7151.



The **Yazoo Library Association** is pleased to announce the gift of a collection of 12,000 negatives of Yazoo County photos and portraiture dating from 1950 to early 1960s. It is a wonderful time capsule and includes many building and activity shots.

Stanley Beers was the only local photographer for that period. The library is planning an



Feltus–Catchings House, Woodville

exhibit for the fall with selected historic images. Approximately eight boxes of the negatives have been listed in a “digitized finding aid” and will be loaded to the library Web site, www.youseemore.com/yazoo/.

For more information contact Paul Cartwright at pcartw@yazoo.lib.ms.us.

Copyright and Local Historical Societies

Copyright issues are an ongoing challenge. Check out this Web site, <http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider> for some quick, easy answers about copyright. Remember that there are many components to copyright laws, if you have any questions about a piece, contact a lawyer.

Share your accomplishments in the next issue of *Local History*—send your group’s news by October 13 to Cindy Gardner at federation@mdah.state.ms.us