



Society of Mississippi Archivists

Newsletter

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People in the News:

MDAH

Elbert R. Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History since 1973, has announced his plans to retire December 31, 2004. Hilliard had planned to retire January 1, 2004, but postponed his retirement at the request of the board of trustees.

Elbert R. Hilliard, a native of Nitta Yuma in Sharkey County, received his bachelor's degree from Delta State College and his master's degree from Mississippi State University. After teaching history for six years, he began working at the Department of Archives and History in 1965 as curator of history at the State Historical Museum. He became director of Historic Sites and Archaeology in 1970 and Department director in 1973.

Under his leadership important new collections were added to the MDAH archives including the papers of Jefferson Davis, Judith Sargent Murray, and Medgar and Myrlie Evers. The state records management and local government records programs were established.

A public reception will honor Hilliard on Thursday, January 27, 2005, at 3 p.m., in the Old Capitol Rotunda.

H. T. Holmes, director of the MDAH Archives and Library Division since 1988, will assume the position of MDAH director January 1, 2005.

McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Mark Danley has resigned his position at the University of Southern Mississippi's Archives.

Programs and Exhibits at Archives around Mississippi

Delta State University Archives:

CHARLES W. CAPPS JR. ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

Key Ingredients: America by Food

On Display 20 November 2004 - 9 January 2005
This Smithsonian exhibit has traveled to several other sites in Mississippi and is finally in the Delta! We are so excited to be able to explore our American history, culture and ethnicity through our foods. This exhibit encourages families to cross generational lines to talk about foods, memories and so much that has come together to create the foods on our tables and in our markets.

When They Were Strangers at Our Gates: Tracy Sugarman Illustrations and Photographs of Freedom Summer 1964

On Display 20 January - 4 March 2005
This is a multi-media exhibit on the Freedom Summer in Mississippi. Sugarman is a renowned artist who captured the spirit of the people and the time in his illustrations and photographs.

Lunch and Learn Lecture: Jerry Ward
10 February 2005

Professor Ward will present "African American Life Histories: The Oral and the Written" at a noon lecture. This will take place at the Capps Archives and Museum building, Lucy Somerville Howorth Seminar Room.

A River Unleashed: The 1927 Mississippi

River Flood

On Display 24 March - 5 May 2005

This is the Old Capitol Museum's traveling exhibit.

Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 5:00

Friday 8:00 - 4:00

Free admission (601) 846-4780

Grants

MDAH has been awarded a grant to preserve a collection of amateur films shot in the 1940s by Robert A. McClure, a Delta farmer. The \$3,234 grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation will fund the conservation of four black-and-white silent films that document the state during its transition from labor-intensive manual farming to mechanized methods.

The films were shot on 8mm and 16mm film. A 1944 film of field workers in Coahoma County shows the manpower necessary to grow cotton at the time. A 1947 film shows mechanization beginning to replace human labor in the cotton fields. The film titled "Clarksdale Dusting Co." shows footage of a converted military airplane that is thought to have been the first plane used for spraying pesticides. Also documented is a rare snowstorm that swept across north Mississippi on January 5, 1944.

After conservation, the films will be available for viewing in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.

Important Information

The annual SMA meeting will take place in Hattiesburg and is tentatively scheduled for April 20 through April 22, 2005.

More details will be posted on the website as the program is finalized.