

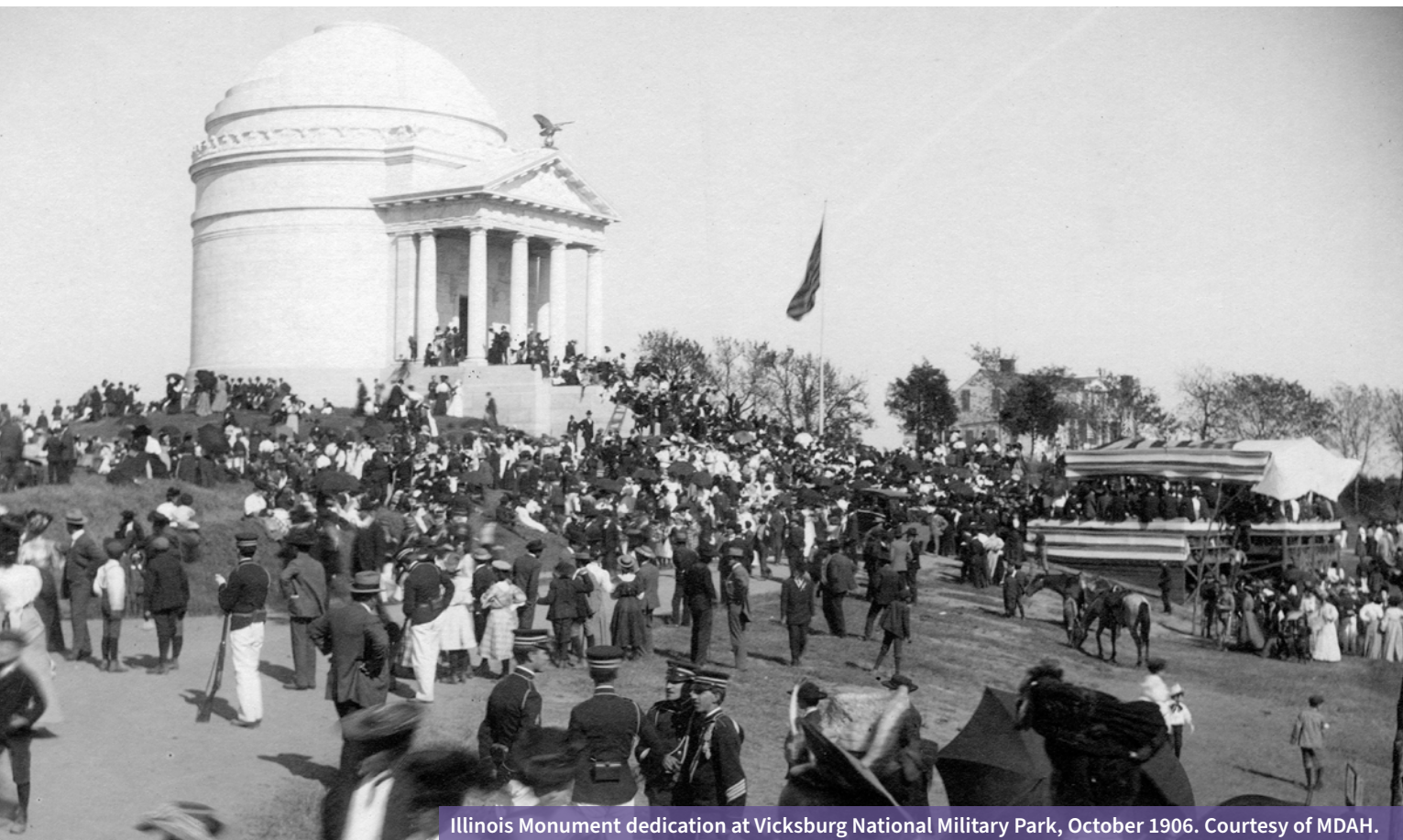
MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
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Illinois Monument dedication at Vicksburg National Military Park, October 1906. Courtesy of MDAH.

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Saying Goodbye to Colleagues

This summer, we say goodbye to several employees who have done outstanding work at MDAH and have decided to move on. I am grateful to each of them, and I want to highlight two people who have made a special impact here.

Pamela D.C. Junior is retiring as director of the Two Mississippi Museums. She was our first director, having been promoted to this new position after serving as the first director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Pam came to MDAH with deep roots and credibility in the community, many years of experience in the museum field, and a commitment to excellence that she modeled for younger staff. She personally led many thousands of visitors through the museums, enriching their experience with her passion for history and her boundless charisma. In our first years, Pam lifted up the Two Mississippi Museums and shared them with the world. We are grateful.

We are also losing a longtime leader in our Programs and Communication Division. After 15 years with MDAH, Stephenie Morrisey has decided to return to her roots as a classroom teacher in the Jackson Public Schools. Stephenie was instrumental in elevating our marketing, public relations, and programming as we opened the Two Mississippi Museums. She has been a key member of the leadership team and a valued mentor to many younger staff.

While we have not yet found a replacement for Stephenie, we are very excited to announce that Michael Morris will succeed Pam as Two Museums director.

Michael is a Jackson native, a graduate of Jackson State University, and a lifelong student of Mississippi history. He began at MDAH as a public relations officer in 2016 and was later promoted to PR director and, most recently, director of public engagement. Pam Junior is excited to see him follow in her footsteps, saying, "I am thrilled to know Michael will continue the work we have begun. He is well known and respected in both the public history and civil rights communities."



We will miss Pam and Stephenie, and we wish them the best. We are excited to see what Michael and the outstanding Two Museums staff will do together in the coming years.

Katie Blount

MDAH to Develop New Civil War Interpretive Center in Vicksburg

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been charged with developing a new Civil War interpretive center in Vicksburg in partnership with the Friends of the Vicksburg National Military Park and the National Park Service.

The Mississippi Legislature, with leadership from Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann and Senator Briggs Hopson, recently appropriated \$10 million to MDAH to begin planning.

Vicksburg National Military Park, established in 1899 to preserve the site of the Siege of Vicksburg, is the most visited historical attraction in Mississippi with more than half a million visitors annually.

“We are excited about the opportunity to tell a more comprehensive story of the entire Vicksburg Campaign,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “This new interpretive center will cover not only the siege, but also events leading up to it in Port Gibson, Jackson, and Raymond. We hope visitors will travel throughout the region to see these historic places.”

The modern interpretive center will tell the dynamic history of Ulysses S. Grant’s campaign to capture Vicksburg in 1863, a turning point of the Civil War. Other important battles in the campaign were fought at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, and the Big Black River.

Telling the complete story also means addressing the aftermath of the siege, which includes occupation and later Reconstruction.

After the Emancipation Proclamation, thousands of formerly enslaved men joined the Union army as part of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The USCT occupied Vicksburg, performed police duty, and protected the city. Many are buried in the Vicksburg National Cemetery.

“Not only is the Vicksburg National Military Park one of the most significant historic sites in the state, and the most visited, but it connects closely with the work we are doing at our other sites,” said Blount. “At Jefferson College, Windsor Ruins, and Vicksburg National Military Park, the connective thread is the cotton economy built on slavery, and the war fought to determine its fate.”



Six-pound iron shot recovered from Champion Hill Battlefield. MDAH Historic Objects Collection.

MDAH Seeks Artifacts

MDAH is excited to begin this project of telling the full history of the Vicksburg Campaign through the stories of the people who lived it.

Primary artifacts for the new exhibits will come from MDAH collections. MDAH holds many Civil War artifacts—flags, uniforms, personal items, weapons, and accoutrements—that tell the story of Mississippi and its people during the war.

MDAH will seek additional artifacts, both through donation and loan, to help tell the national story that is the Vicksburg Campaign and represent all those involved in the struggle. MDAH will seek artifacts in support of the following themes and subject areas:

- Confederate and Union army/navy forces and commanders in Mississippi in 1863
- United States Colored Troops at Vicksburg and in the Western Theater
- Civilians, both free and enslaved, impacted by the fighting and movement of the armies across Mississippi.

Dr. Lucius Marion Lampton elected to MDAH Board

Dr. Lucius “Luke” Lampton of Magnolia has been elected to the MDAH Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lampton completed his residency in Family Medicine at University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1996 and is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice. In 2005, he was awarded the degree of Fellow by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Lampton is known for historic preservation efforts and previously served on the board of directors for the Mississippi Historical Society. He followed the late Governor William Winter as president of the Foundation for Mississippi History, and in this capacity, helped fund the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson.

In 2018, he published the award-winning book of medical history *Images in Mississippi Medicine: A Photographic History of Medicine in Mississippi*. He contributed a chapter on medical history to the recently published *The Racial Divide in American Medicine*, which is available at the University Press of Mississippi.

Dr. Lampton currently practices family medicine at the Magnolia Clinic in Magnolia.

He is married to the former Louise Lyell of Jackson, and they have two sons, Crawford and Garland.



More Than \$97K in Preservation Grants Awarded

MDAH has awarded grants totaling more than \$97,000 to eleven preservation projects in Certified Local Government communities across the state.

“We are pleased to be partnering with ten communities in 2023,” said MDAH deputy director of historic preservation Meredith Massey.

The 2023 grants are:

Carrollton, \$1,309, coloring book that includes historic sites in Carroll County.

Columbus, \$10,000, Munroe Mausoleum.

Kosciusko, \$13,000, audio/video tour of Redbud Springs and the Natchez Trace.

Lexington, \$8,650, Lundy House.

New Albany, \$10,000, survey resources in the Southside neighborhood.

Ocean Springs, \$12,899, murals located at the Ocean Springs Community Center.

Oxford, \$7,500, editing and revising design guidelines for Oxford’s local historic districts.

Quitman, \$5,200, Quitman Depot.

Tupelo, \$10,000, Spain House rehabilitation project (Phase VII). This phase includes sheetrock and plaster repair to walls and ceilings.

Tupelo, \$10,000, Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Woodville, \$9,400, Polk’s Meat Market.

Program Highlights



Visitors enjoy live music, food, and shopping during *Mississippi Makers Fest* at the Two Mississippi Museums.



Nicole Evers-Everette, Myrlie Evers, and Reena Evers-Everette are pictured here with Brother Rogers, MDAH Programs and Communication Division director. Evers family members threw out the first pitch at a Mississippi Braves game on June 10 as part of a week-long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.



Mississippi students compete in the National History Day contest held in Washington, DC.



Campers play a game of chunky during Discovery Week Summer Camp at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.



Visitors participate in a *History Happy Hour* flash tour led by Two Mississippi Museums director Pamela D.C. Junior.



Jennifer Rose, education specialist at the Eudora Welty House & Garden, reads during *Storytime on the Side Porch*.

Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign Exhibit at Two Mississippi Museums

Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign is open through September 24 at the Two Mississippi Museums. This Smithsonian traveling exhibit explores a pivotal grassroots movement of the civil rights era: the Poor People's Campaign of 1968.

Based on the original exhibition created by the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), this exhibit explores the six-week protest community in Washington, DC, that called the nation's attention to the effects of poverty on millions of Americans.

Visitors will experience photographs, artifacts, documentaries, ambient audio, and graphics in addition to an interactive video with interviews of campaign participants, a 3D-printed model of Resurrection City, and a map of the nationwide caravan routes.

The exhibition title is a reference to the Solidarity Day Rally, which was held on June 19,

1968. The rally at the Lincoln Memorial featured speeches by Coretta Scott King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy as a continuation of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



Woman between tents, Resurrection City, Washington, DC, 1968. Photo by Robert Houston. Courtesy of Smithsonian NMAAHC.



Dancers from Judah School of Performing Arts.

HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding Division Sponsors Free Juneteenth Weekend

The Two Mississippi Museums welcomed more than 1,800 people over the Juneteenth Weekend. Admission was free Saturday, June 17, through Monday, June 19, thanks to the continued support of HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division.



Nan Prince, director of collections, leads tour of the historic objects collection.



On the Friday before the Juneteenth Weekend started, a group of Ingalls employees visited the Two Mississippi Museums.

Real names and real people type written here, ch

~~It Ain't Even July Yet~~

Voice from an Unknown Interior

From the Unknown

~~A Voice from a Jackson Interior~~

~~June 14~~

I says to my wife, "Just reach and turn it off, ^{then} ~~it~~"

Recently Digitized

This detail from a first draft shows proposed titles and the opening of Eudora Welty's story "Where is the Voice Coming From?" A reproduction of the manuscript's first page is featured in *Out of Outrage: Processing the Murder of Medgar Evers*, a new exhibit at the Eudora Welty House & Garden. Published in *The New Yorker* twenty-five days after Evers was assassinated on June 12, 1963, Welty's story was remarkable for its depiction of the murderer's mindset. © Eudora Welty, LLC.; Courtesy Eudora Welty Collection, MDAH.

From the Archives

This handwritten account by civil rights activist Annie Rankin describes her journey on the Mule Train from Marks to Washington, DC. A reproduction is featured with other Mississippi material to complement *Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign*, a Smithsonian traveling exhibit at the Two Mississippi Museums. From Annie Rankin Papers, Tougaloo College Civil Rights Collection, MDAH.

Trip on The mule train

I left home by the 18th of May and went to Grenada and I left there on the 22nd and we arrived in ~~the~~ ^{the} miss, and everything went very good there and then we left for Starkenville and we had quite a bit of harassment by the state trooper, but we survive and then we left for Duck hill miss and that is where we had people to leave with us and when they left the white people there put there things out into the street and then we left there going to Columbus miss and that is where we had a lot of trouble from our sides throwing bottles and bricks after us so we stayed there 3 days and nights and we could not even buy medicine at the drug stores and then we left for the Ala. line and that is when I drove a pair of train horses 40 miles until they could get a driver who was not afraid of them and when we entered Ala. I was called all kinds of



From the Collection

This photograph shows MDAH's storage system for protecting quilts and other textiles in the historic objects collection. It was published in *Quiltfolk* magazine's April issue, which was dedicated entirely to quilters and quilting in Mississippi. The article about MDAH's collection showcased not only the richness of the 214-quilt collection, but also illustrated how quilts influenced the museums' design and content. Shown here is a quilt in the Triple Irish Chain pattern, circa 1857. Photo courtesy of *Quiltfolk*.

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Katie Blount, director

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James Bridgforth (pictured), MDAH National Register coordinator, surveys tornado damage in Rolling Fork after an F-4 tornado devastated the town on the night of March 24, 2023. Bridgforth was part of an MDAH team that traveled to affected areas to conduct damage assessments at registered historical sites. In addition, Tim Barnard, MDAH director of local government records, and Lauren Harmon, MDAH records analyst, visited with officials at the Sharkey County Courthouse in Rolling Fork.

Mark Your Calendar

Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign **Through September 24, 2023**

This Smithsonian traveling exhibit at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson explores one of the most important grassroots movements of the civil rights era.

History Happy Hour **Thursday, August 24, 5–7 p.m.**

Join us for a medicine-themed *History Happy Hour* at the Two Mississippi Museums sponsored by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. Enjoy flash tours in the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, live music, refreshments, and a cash bar.

Archaeology Expo **Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Come to the Two Mississippi Museums to experience the world of archaeology through games, interactives, modern technology demonstrations, and more.