

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Archivists celebrate Archives Month this October

COLUMBUS, Miss.-Through the month of October, archives and repositories across Mississippi are hosting various events and activities in promotion of Archives Month. Archives Month is a way to raise public awareness by calling attention to the role various organizations play in preserving historical and cultural records.

This year's theme, "Freedom Mississippi: Stories of Courage" allows archives to showcase their multifaceted collections that represent an historical and ever evolving state.

Organizations are participating in a variety of ways from hosting exhibits to conducting tours. Listed below are just some of the events across the state planned for Archives Month this year.

Society of Mississippi Archivist President Shugana Williams said, "Archives Month is an annual event that highlights the importance of archives and of the work of institutions which preserve historical records. Throughout the month, an array of activities will take place for the public to experience and appreciate Mississippi's unique history."

Archives Month in Mississippi is promoted by the Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) and sponsored by the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board. The Society of Mississippi Archivists celebrates the important work of preserving the cultural heritage of Mississippi and serves as a point of information for people interested in the rich documentary history of the state. To learn more about SMA visit www.msarchivists.org or visit them on Facebook.

The Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) provides professional assistance, resources, and programming to support the preservation and accessibility of the state's invaluable historical documents and records. It serves as the central advisory board for historical records planning and project assistance in Mississippi. For further information on MHRAB go to www.mdah.state.ms.us/admin/shrab/shrab.php.

Archives are locations where collections and records of historical value are maintained, preserved, and made accessible to the public. They may be located in historic societies, academic or public libraries, court houses, corporations, or governmental entities.

Mississippi's statewide participation is an extension of the national celebration of American Archives Month hosted by the Society of American Archivists.

The first celebration of Archives Week can be traced to the Archives Round Table of Metropolitan New York in New York City in 1989. More information on archivists and American Archives Month can be found at the Society of American Archivists website at www.archivists.org.

For more information on Archives Month events, contact Mona K. Vance with the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library at (662) 329-5304.

Archives Month Events 2011:

Biloxi Public Library, Local History and Genealogy Department (Biloxi):

- The Local History and Genealogy Department reopened its doors on October 5 in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Biloxi Public Library held September 30th. In honor of these celebrations, the department is observing Archives Month by working on several critical preservation projects:
 - Sorting the collection into specific categories
 - Assigning places on the newly-installed compact storage units
 - Designing a location map for the new shelving units
 - Evaluating the contents of each category to determine the best method of preservation
 - Re-housing of many of the more-delicate items, such as those in the image collection
 - The department also has on display a 1908-1909 original scrapbook of a sixth grade class from Biloxi Schools.

For more information contact Jane Shambra, Local History & Genealogy Librarian, at 228-435-4613.

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library (Columbus)

- An exhibit titled "Tennessee Williams: Columbus Native, American Master" that follows the playwrights career spanning over 30 years through the use of posters and playbills. It utilizes the collection on Williams housed with the Billups-Garth Archives at the library. The exhibit runs through the months of September and October.

For additional information contact Mona K. Vance at 662-329-5304.

Delta State University Archives and Museum (Cleveland)

- In a collaborative effort between the City of Cleveland's Martin & Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum and Delta State University's Archives & Museum, Alumni Foundation, and the Veteran's Atrium, "Songs of the Patriot: An Exhibition of WWII Sheet Music" will go on display October 1st. Although vintage sheet music is the heart of the exhibit, additional objects on loan or from the collections of the Archives and the train museum will enhance the visitor's experience.

This nationally traveled exhibit is free and open to the public through November 30th in the Veteran's Atrium in Jobe Hall and the main gallery in the Capps Building. The exhibit at the Railroad Heritage Museum will run through November 12th.

For more information contact the DSU Archives at (662) 846-4780 or the Martin & Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum at (662) 843-3377.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History or MDAH (Jackson)

- *The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change* exhibit will continue at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson, through October 29. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- At noon on Wednesday, October 12, MDAH archivist Jim Pitts will present “Rebellions and Relics” at the History Is Lunch (HIL) program in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. The talk will highlight Civil War materials in the MDAH collections.
- On October 12, the public is invited to share their Civil Rights era memories as part of the *Speak Now* audio recording project before and after the HIL program, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The recordings will be added to the MDAH archival collection and made available to the public.
- The Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) *Bookshelf for Archival Collections Care* will be presented to the Local History/Genealogical Collection of the Harrison County Library System in conjunction with the MDAH Board of Trustees meeting on the Gulf Coast in October.

The publications include titles related to archival collection management, care, and emergency response for both professional and public audiences and the selection is tailored to complement the recipient’s existing collections.

MHRAB will also donate a collections care-related volume to the Hancock County Library System, the Long Beach Public Library, and the Jackson-George Regional Library System.

In 2012 MHRAB will continue to work in collaboration with others to promote repositories and their holdings at libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies around the state.

For more information about events at the MDAH call 601-576-6876 or visit <http://mdah.state.ms.us>.

Mississippi State University Libraries (Starkville)

- The Congressional and Political Research Center (CPRC) of the Mississippi State University (MSU) Libraries in conjunction with the Ulysses S. Grant Association will have a display of presidential materials found in the collections of the MSU Libraries including documents, photographs, artifacts and paintings representing the vast array of presidential materials found in the collections. The display will be housed in the CPRC reading room in Mitchell Memorial Library on the first floor.
- The Mississippi State University Libraries, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, and the Ulysses S. Grant Association welcome Mr. Alan Lowe, Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library, to the Morris W. H. (Bill) Collins Speaker Series on Wednesday October 26, at 2 p.m. in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library. The event is open to the public.

For additional information contact Ryan P. Semmes at 662-325-9355.

University of Mississippi Department of Archives & Special Collections (Oxford)

- Showcasing an exhibit titled “We Shall Always March Ahead: Mississippi and the Civil Rights Movement”. It opens September 28th and will be on display through the end of September 2012.
- On October 13th at noon Dr. David Sansing, emeritus professor of History, will speak on the University of Mississippi and the civil rights movement.
- On October 24th at noon Dr. Charles Ross, Director of African-American studies and Associate Professor of History, will speak on civil rights

For more information contact Dr. Jennifer Ford at 662-915-7408.