

Mississippi Archives Month Information for the *Make an Impact!* Contest

The Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), and the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), with support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) works each year to create, produce, finance, and distribute a poster throughout the state in honor of American Archives Month in October.

Mississippi's theme this year, "I have so much to tell you....," invited repositories to showcase the multifaceted collections that represent our state's history and its continuing relevance from generation to generation. Organizations participated in a variety of ways from presenting exhibits to conducting workshops and tours.

The Mississippi Archives Month poster has become a valuable tool in bringing multiple institutions together to coordinate its creation and in doing so it has fostered further ideas and advanced the profession throughout the entire state. The Mississippi Archives Month poster should therefore be considered the best for 2009 based on its success in both promoting and enhancing the archival profession.

The Mississippi Archives Month Poster 2009

1. **Intended Audience:** The intended audience to receive Mississippi Archives Month posters was comprised of archivists, librarians, curators, historians, and educators and their constituents throughout the state and beyond.
2. **Quantity Printed:** 500 posters were printed and distributed.
3. **Distribution Plan:**
 - The Distribution Plan included distributing the Archives Month posters (enough for each library in the system) along with a cover letter (Attachment 1) and a MHRAB Fact Sheet (Attachment 2) thusly:
 - Academic Libraries: 41
 - Public Libraries: 225 (52 Systems)
 - Museums: 65
 - State and Territorial Archives: 54
 - Other: 68 (including private libraries, law libraries, state cultural agencies, SMA Board members, MDAH Board Members, MHRAB Board members, members of the Mississippi Bicentennial Commission, Society of American Archivists, and Council of State Archivists)
 - More than 450 posters were sent throughout Mississippi and to other states and territories.
 - A follow-up email blast (Attachment 3) was transmitted to most poster recipients one week after the poster was distributed. In addition, a link to the poster was included on the SMA website at http://www.msarchivists.org/archives_month_poster.html.
 - The distribution plan also included displaying and distributing posters, MHRAB Fact Sheets, and other archival information at the following statewide events:
 - Historic Natchez Conference, Natchez, October 8-10, 2009
 - MDAH Personal Treasures, Corinth, October 14 and 15, 2009
 - Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, Hattiesburg, October 21 and 22, 2009

For more information about Archives Month events in Mississippi, please go to www.msarchivists.org.

Mona K. Vance
SMA Vice President

(Attachment 1) Cover Letter

September 2009

Dear Friend of Mississippi History:

We invite you to join archives, libraries, special collections, and historical societies throughout Mississippi and across the nation in celebrating October as Archives Month.

"I have so much to tell you . . .," the enclosed poster promoting Mississippi Archives Month 2009, features images from the Forrest Lamar Cooper Postcard Collection (MDAH) and hand-written sentiments that remind us of the resonance of the documentary record from generation to generation.

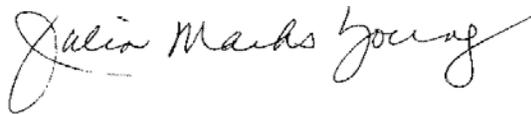
The poster also provides information for your members, patrons, staff, and/or students. Please distribute the enclosed posters to each of the libraries in your system. Additionally, please accept as our gift a copy of *Rescuing Family Records: A Disaster Planning Guide* for your system-wide collections.

Many Mississippi institutions will present a variety of events throughout the month; for information about these events, please go to www.msarchivists.org. For information about celebrations nationwide, visit www.statearchivists.org. If your organization will offer a public event during October that you would like to have included in the calendar on the Society of Mississippi Archivists' website, please send the information to Mona Vance at 662-329-5304 or archives@lowndes.lib.ms.us.

These initiatives are led by the Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), with partial funding provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Information about upcoming MHRAB initiatives is also enclosed.

Held annually, Archives Month is an excellent opportunity to explain and share the significance of historical materials in our communities and the importance of preserving our archival "memory bank." Please join the celebration!

Sincerely,



Julia Marks Young
Director, Archives and Records Services,
MS Dept of Archives & History
Deputy Coordinator, Mississippi
Historical Records Advisory Board



Ryan P. Semmes
Assistant Archivist
Congressional and Political Research Center,
Mississippi State University
President, Society of Mississippi Archivists

Enclosures

(Attachment 2) MHRAB Fact Sheet

The **Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board** provides programming, resources and professional assistance to support the preservation and accessibility of the state's invaluable historical documents and records.

The mission of the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board is to promote awareness of, and improve education about, historical records foster and enhance the preservation, identification, and care of records improve access to historical records for all Mississippians; and advocate and encourage collaborative funding for historical records preservation and resource sharing

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Coordinator: H.T. Holmes, *director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History*; Curtis Austin, *University of Southern Mississippi*; Frances Coleman, *Mississippi State University*; Elbert R. Hilliard, *MDAH*; Harriet D. Kuykendall, *Librarian, retired*; Edward E. Nave, *East Mississippi Community College*; Deanne Nuwer, *University of Southern Mississippi*; Julia Rholes, *University of Mississippi*

ARCHIVES MONTH

Each October the nation celebrates our country's rich historical collections. Many Mississippi institutions will present a variety of events throughout the month; for information about these events, please go to www.msarchivists.org. For information about celebrations nationwide, visit www.statearchivists.org. "I have so much to tell you . . ." is the theme of Mississippi's celebration for 2009.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Maintaining a Healthy Records Program and Managing Electronic Records Workshop

This training opportunity for records officers of counties and municipalities will provide a records management foundation and includes hands-on activities related to current practices and procedures. The workshop will be offered three times: on **November 3** in **Jackson**; on **November 17** in **Columbus**; and on **December 3** in **Hattiesburg** and run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Space is limited; registration and a \$15.00 fee per participant are required two weeks before the event and there will be no on-site registration.* To register or obtain more information call Tim Barnard at 601-576-6894 or go to <http://mdah.state.ms.us/recman/training.php>.

Archival Processing Workshop

This free archival processing workshop will focus on arrangement, description, and preservation for small to mid-size repositories with historical materials and will be held in **Jackson** on **December 15**, 2009. The workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Nichols Room of the Old Capitol Museum. *Space is limited to no more than two persons per organization; and registration is required. There will be no on-site registration. The registration deadline is December 8, 2009.* To register or obtain more information, contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6872, fgaley@mdah.state.ms.us.

Basic Archives Workshop

This workshop will be held in **Oxford** in November or December (date and location to be announced) for small to mid-size repositories with historical materials. The workshop will provide essential information

about collection acquisition, evaluation, processing, access, and preservation. *Space is limited; registration is required and there will be no on-site registration.* To obtain more information, contact Julia Young at 601-576-6991, jyoung@mdah.state.ms.us.

OTHER EVENTS

Personal Treasures

Personal Treasures is the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's popular program based on the *Antiques Roadshow* format. The public is invited to bring household items, books, maps, photographs, textiles, coins, stamps, architectural elements, and military items (except weapons) for expert advice on the age and origin of the item and its conservation and care. This event will take place on **October 15** from 12:00-5:00 p.m. and **October 16** from 8:00 a.m. to noon in **Corinth** at the Corinth Public Library. Personal Treasures is free and open to the public. ***Monetary appraisals are not available at this event.*** Visit <http://mdah.state.ms.us/admin/news/events.html> for the most current information.

The Mississippi Cultural Resources Network

In 2010 MHRAB will co-sponsor a statewide online survey of archives, libraries, and museums to determine overall needs of historical records repositories, to allow better training opportunities and strengthen relationships between cultural collections institutions, and facilitate planning of activities for the celebration of Mississippi's bicentennial in 2017. The survey is funded by a Connecting to Collections grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Awards Program

In April 2009 the first MHRAB Awards; established to honor efforts to identify, preserve, and provide access to Mississippi's historical records; were presented to recipients at the Society of Mississippi Archivists luncheon at the Gulf Coast Campus of USM. Awards of excellence were presented to John Ellzey, Ricks Memorial Library, and Stuart Rockoff, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life for *Documenting Mississippi's History*; Charles Yarbrough, Mississippi School for Math and Science for *Using Historical Records in Grades K-12*; and Ricky Harrison, East Central Community College for *Using Historical Records in Higher Education*. The awards are presented biennially; the next recipients will be honored during the spring of 2011 and nominations will be accepted throughout the 2010 calendar year. For more information contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6872, fgaley@mdah.state.ms.us.

These programs are funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. For more information about any of these programs, contact Julia Marks Young, deputy coordinator, at 601-576-6991 or email SHRAB@mdah.state.ms.us.

(Attachment 3) Email Blast

Dear Friend of Mississippi History:

We invite you to join archives, libraries, special collections, and historical societies throughout Mississippi and across the nation in celebrating October as Archives Month.

Mississippi's theme this year, "I have so much to tell you....," invites repositories to showcase the multifaceted collections that represent our history and its continuing relevance from generation to generation. Organizations are participating in a variety of ways from presenting exhibits to conducting workshops and tours; for information about these events, please go to www.msarchivists.org. For information about celebrations nationwide, visit www.statearchivists.org. If your organization will offer a public event during October that you would like to have included in the calendar on the Society of Mississippi Archivists' website, please send the information to Mona Vance at 662-329-5304 or archives@lowndes.lib.ms.us.

These initiatives are led by the Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), with partial funding provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. A sampling of upcoming archives-related events is listed below.

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Julia Marks Young

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