

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
Hattiesburg Cultural Center
723 Main Street
Mailing: P.O. Box 1573
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1773

Hometown Heroes

Recently, the HAHS Museum was contacted by the family of Edmo Merkel. Edmo was a Hattiesburg native. His family wanted to share his story, and wondered if it could be done in his hometown. While serving in the military during WWI, he became a decorated hero receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart, and the French Forragere. Although he spent much of his life elsewhere, his memorabilia is finally coming home.

Hattiesburg has always honored her heroes. Their names are seen on the columns in our memorial park, and their photographs hang on the walls of buildings named in their honor. Their sacrifices are remember and recognize in ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. But what makes one a hero?

True heroes and heroines are more than just names carved in stone or images upon a wall. Although some paid the “ultimate” cost, living heroes walk among us every day. They will tell you that those who gave their lives in battle are heroes, and they never seem to see themselves as heroic.

Without being unappreciative of the lives given in service to our country, it is important to acknowledge the contributions and influence of those who have lived as heroes. Who are they? Some have served their country in times of war and come home with physical and emotional scares. Others were never in battle, but have supported their country in times of war and peace. In the face of all difficulties, these heroes have continued to meet the obligations of good citizens.

They have raised law abiding families, paid taxes, and voted in every election. They have attended church; run for office; served on the school board; worked with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, and the Junior Auxiliary. They have contributed physically and financially to the American Heart Association American Cancer Society; Salvation Army; American Red Cross; numerous hospitals; drug and abuse prevention organizations; educational, patriotic, arts, historical, and cultural societies; etc. They have taught and coached and preached with their actions as well as their words. In short, they have had the courage and fortitude to be examples and role models in their communities.

The Hattiesburg Area Historical Society would like to recognize some of these heroes and heroines with a **Hometown Heroes** exhibit. This exhibit will feature Edmo Merkel and other Hattiesburg natives. Using newly acquired manikins, original clothing of the heroes, and photographs from the HAHS Collection, the exhibit will “tell the stories” of some interesting people.

The HHS Class of 1944 World War II Monument has been installed on the grounds of the Cultural Center. With the help of Randy Jamison of Woodstone Monument Company, and Ann Jones, Grounds and Maintenance General Manager for the City of Hattiesburg, the WWII Monument and the Class of 1926 Sundial were placed near the parking lot doors. The HAHS is grateful for their work in completing this project.



Hometown Heroes Exhibit
The public is invited to the exhibit
Grand Opening and Reception
Sunday, February 22, 2009
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Dedication program at 4:00 p.m.

HAHS Receives IMLS Bookshelf

The Hattiesburg Area Historical Society was selected to receive the *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*. This set of conservation resources is designed to assist museums, libraries, and archives in caring for their collections. The books are distributed free of charge and are part of the *Connecting to Collections : A Call to Action* initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The IMLS had many partners in providing these materials. Financial support was provided by the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The staff at Heritage Preservation selected books to match HAHS needs. The American Association for State and Local History managed the acquisition and distribution of the *Bookshelf*.

Linda Nguyen, University of Southern Mississippi Luckyday Scholar and museum volunteer, places *The Bookshelf* on a bookcase donated to the museum by Betsy Rowell. The books are available for use by individuals and organizations with questions concerning the care and preservation of their collections.



The Roseberry Case

An anonymous donation in honor of retired elementary school teacher Earline Roseberry has enabled the museum to make a bookshelf into a locking display case with safety glass. The Roseberry case will be used to securely display small items that are temporarily on loan to the museum.

Earline is greatly loved and admired by her students from school and church. She has been a loyal worker for the HAHS and HAHS Museum.

It is fitting that the first exhibit in the Roseberry Case (marked by the plaque shown at right) be a display of children's antique cooking utensils and a 1924 Empire electric stove (below).

**In Honor Of Earline Roseberry
Outstanding HAHS Museum Volunteer**



GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

May 1, 2008 - October 30, 2008

- ★ Books: Mississippi Official Statistical Register 1980-1984; Our Mississippi 1959 (textbook); Mississippi Wildflowers (autographed by Lucile Parker) and various calendars featuring local homes - A J Jones
- ★ Various antique toys - Ursula Jones
- ★ Assorted newspaper clippings, 1953 "Hi Flashes," 1952 math exam, Various junior high publications - Garland Sullivan.
- ★ First Baptist Church Yearbook 1958-59; Assorted First Baptist Church "Messengers" 1957-1977; Mississippi School Bulletin 1963-1964 Directory; Postcard signed by S. H. Blair, 1964 - A J Jones
- ★ Court Street Methodist Church car tag - Lynn Phillips
- ★ Calendar pictures: Rawls Springs Picnic and Early Hattiesburg Crowd - Richard V. Forte, Sr.
- ★ VCR tape: "60 Years of Building Freedom" (Ingalls Welding Award) and supporting documentation. - Vera Anderson McDonald
- ★ Forrest County Coroner Patch; 1976 "Purple & Gold" book; Kiwanis items - Tom R. Phillips III
- ★ Button hook c1900; Book "God's Armour, A Prayer Book for Soldiers" c1917 - Laurie Crowson
- ★ Various buttons; 1984 HHS Annual - Tom R. Phillips III
- ★ Battles of World War II and flag - Capt. Matthew Duke, Jr. Chapter, USD1812
- ★ Various papers - UDC & SCV papers and books; 1927 The Rebekah Assembly framed charter, - Mary Adamo
- ★ Aladdin Read-cut Houses Catalog #31 1919 copyright third edition - Tony Stark
- ★ 1942 Army dress Jacket, short jacket, pants and Army flat hats - Lake Douglas
- ★ Numerous photographs, programs, articles, postcards and yearbooks - Jane W. Pigott
- ★ Three framed prints of turn-of-the-century ladies - Virginia Kelly
- ★ Three USM Annuals and program - Sarah Brewton
- ★ Three USM Annuals - Ursula Jones
- ★ Various items belonging to Ben Earles, Eula Earles and Jere Earles; Bessie Lee James and James Samuel Earles including a rocking chair - Jerre E. Boker
- ★ 1929 commencement announcement for State Teacher's College - Robert S. Doherty
- ★ 2004 Forrest -Lamar Co. City Directory; TCO flat screen monitor, 3 metal shelves - Betsy Rowell

**Recent Monetary Contributions**

May 1, 2008 - October 30, 2008

Life Members

C. D. Galey
 Harris M. Hardy
 Lucy Anne McGinnis

Donors:

Norvell Robertson Chapter NSDAR
 Dee Abbott
 A J Jones
 Ray A. Sims
 Albert C. Jones
 Cora Sutherland
 HHS Class of 1945
 Mrs. A. G. Snelgrove
 Maureen Curley
 Clifton Evans, Sr.

ff&e Specialty Group
 Mrs. Robert Myers
 Mrs. Jack Brown
 James E. McInnis
 Earline Roseberry
 Joanne R. Newcomb
 Ralph Sanders
 Carole J. Sanders
 Questers Magnolia Memories

Memorials:

Esther Cranford
 Maurice McWhorter
 Joanne Frost Sims

 Renee Domergue

A. J. Myers
 Charner McLelland
 Sarah Gillespie
 Blanche Barge
 G. D. Williamson
 Charles Newcomer

Honorariums:

Ursula Ruth Jones
 A J Jones
 Tat Ott
 Dee Abbott
 Jeanette Coleman
 Earline Roseberry

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR COMING EVENTS

HAHS MUSEUM
Post Office Box 1573
Hattiesburg, MS
39403-1573



MUSEUM HOURS
Mon., Tues., Thurs.
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by Appointment
Call 601-582-5460

Located in the
Hattiesburg Cultural
Center
723 Main Street
Downtown
Hattiesburg, MS

Email:
hahsmuseum@
megagate.com

OFFICERS

President
Paula Harvey

Vice President
Ursula Jones

Treasurer
Barbara Curry
Asst: AJ Jones

Secretary
Laurie Crowson

Historian/Parliamentarian
Brian Blair

- Saturday, December 13, 2008 - Holiday Art Walk, 4 - 7 p.m., Cultural Center
Exhibit: "Emerging Artists"
HAHS Museum Open 4 - 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 13, 2008 - Annual Candlelighting from dark until 9 p.m.
& Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood
- Sunday, December 14, 2008 - Downtown Hattiesburg
- Sunday, February 22, 2009 - Grand Opening and Reception
"Hometown Heroes" Exhibit, Cultural Center
HAHS Museum Open 2:30 - 5 p.m.
Program at 4 p.m.

½ PRICE SALE!! NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A COPY OF *THE HISTORY OF FORREST COUNTY* FOR EVERY ONE YOU KNOW. The book, published by The HAHS, is on sale for \$25.00. The 50% off sale will continue through January 2009. Get several!!!

DUES TIME! IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. Check your mailing label. If you do not have an 2009 or "L" after your name, dues are due. We appreciate those of you who support the HAHS with your dues and contributions.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HATTIESBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET.

2009 HAHS DUES

Date Received _____

Check # _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$10 _____

Couple/Organization \$15 _____

Student \$2 _____

Life Membership- Each Person \$100 _____

**(Please make checks payable to HAHS and send to
P. O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573)**

BOOK ORDER SPECIAL PRICE

The History of Forrest County, MS _____ copies @ \$25 each \$ _____

Tax exempt donation of \$4.00 for S/H if mailed \$ _____

Book shipped to above address unless other specified Total: \$ _____

DONATION

The enclosed donation is given by:

In honor of () _____

As a memorial to () _____

Gift to endowment fund () _____

Please notify:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please make checks payable to HAHS and send to)

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