

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

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

## HAHS MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

The volunteers have been busy at the HAHS Museum. We have responded to numerous requests for information and pictures. Although we were unable to find information on Crymes Brick, manufactured by Thomas Pendleton Crymes, or a photograph of the Little Gem Café, located on East Pine Street, we did give information on the Sullivan Kilrain fight to *Sports Illustrated* and photographs of the HHS 1973-74 State Basketball Champions to *The Hattiesburg American*. Other successes included copies of class pictures, information on units stationed at Camp Shelby during WWII, and photos of the Dreyfus homes on Court Street.

Drop-in visitors continue to find information and photos in the city directories, school annuals, and files in our Archives. Please remember the HAHS if you have annuals or city directories you no longer want. We would also like photographs (originals or copies) of local buildings and businesses—with names and dates, please.

Programs have been presented on the early history of Hattiesburg and the surrounding towns and counties. The Museum has hosted the Institute for Learning in Retirement, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Colonial Dames XVII Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, and two Cub Scout packs. We also provided a quiet place for the media to interview Judge Charles Pickering prior to the reception held in his honor at the Cultural Center.

The HHS Class of 1953 and the HHS Class of 1957 held some of their reunion activities at the Cultural Center and enjoyed viewing the current school exhibit. The displayed items have helped refresh fading memories and have stimulated contributions and memberships. Other classes have already put their names on the museum calendar.

Recently the HHS Class of 1937 decided to have no more reunions. Class Officers Lucy Ellen McCurdie and Sarah Gillespie presented the HAHS with a most generous gift from their classmates—the remaining funds in the class bank account. These funds will be used to help maintain the High School Class Collections. We are grateful to the HHS Class of 1937 for their countless contributions to Hattiesburg's past, present, and future.

It is this continued support from our friends and members that enables us to keep our doors open, provide programming, and maintain museum collections.

Remember, this is YOUR museum and organization. Drop by during our regular hours or call to set up a special visit or program time.



Members of the Institute for Learning in Retirement, shown at the right, attended a five week, ten hour class on "Hub Area History." Each week an area around The Hub was studied via handouts, slides and lectures. Fifteen members belonging to the U S M organization enjoyed themselves.





## ...FROM THE PRESIDENT, Paula Harvey

On November 6, 2003 we held our general membership meeting. One of the main focuses of the meeting was on how to involve more our membership and promote better attendance at our meetings. Several ideas were presented. The officers for the coming year were elected and board members were appointed to new terms. The proposed amendments to the HAHS Constitution were discussed and approved. Overall expenses were up this past year due to repairs on our computer system and the purchase of a new copier. However, we are financially sound.

I also continue my struggle with our boat. I contacted a gentleman in Iowa, Butch Bouvier, also know as "Mr. Keelboat". He provided me with a letter for the city of Hattiesburg explaining the significance of our boat. Part of Mr. Bouvier letter is as follows:

We have felt that there was a transitional design between the original Bateau's of the Eastern seaboard states, and the true keelboat design. Since these transitional boats or "Missing links," if you will, were few and far between, we have just always assumed that it would be more likely than not that we would locate a true keelboat if we found anything.

The remains of the craft, which HAHS is desperately trying to preserve, turned out not to be a keelboat, but incredibly seems to be one of our rare missing links. It displays the hull shape which resembles what we feel a keelboat would, but without the enclosed center cabin or raised walkways. Unlike the barge of the era, this craft was more than likely double ended, and had grown in size well beyond that of the standard Bateau and had developed a sleek up river hull design which would soon evolve into the keelboat.

The community of Hattiesburg probably would not have been founded when and where it was if craft such as this had not paved the way for goods and services to reach that area. As such it is an integral part of the Hattiesburg story and a vital link in the design evolution from the local small delivery craft to the versatile keelboat which lasted till the age of steam. It is, in my humble opinion, a State treasure and should be designated as such. Immediate action should be taken to conserve and preserve it for future display and interpretation. If the community leaders of Hattiesburg do not feel that they can act on this, I strongly urge you to locate a museum, which will accept the craft and protect it for future generations before it is to late. Based on the photos I have seen, the craft is quickly deteriorating to the point where preservation will be impossible.

On February 27, 2004 I spoke again, with Mayor Dupree regarding the boat and forwarded him a copy of the letter from Mr. Bouvier. He promised to get back with me in a couple of weeks. I am still waiting to hear from him.

## Recent Monetary Contributions

September 27, 2003 - April 30, 2004

<b>Life Members</b>	HHS Class of 1937	Eleanor Carroll	Gillespie	Billy Miley
Patty H. Hall	Billie C. Spell	Louise Cleveland	Chester Hardee	David Collins
Marion F. Nissen	E. Leon McDaniel	Kornumpf	Lawrence McDuff	Bernette G. Richard
George R. Hall	Katie Rose	Richard R. Stewart	James Switzer	Lowery Woodall
Cecil Chambliss, Jr.	McClendon	Helen Risher	John Evans	Phyllis Gail Folks
Eugene C. Tullos	A J Jones	Louise Gibson	Emily R. McGowin	Juanita C. Howell
Carolyn Stromeyer Nations	Dr. & Mrs. Fred E. Tatum	Katie Arnold Smith	Jerry Miley	
Ben M. Stevens, Jr.	Marilyn Darby	Margaret Hemeter	Ronald Gilmore	
James N. Yelverton	Carpenter			
W. T. Meyers	Virginia W. Kelly			
David M. Ott	Ursula Ruth Jones			
Louisa B. Williams				
Carolyn R. Snell	<b>In Memory Of:</b>			
Reese H. Snell	Major Regan, Sr.			
<b>Donors</b>	Patsy Howell Kutock			
Martha R. Tatum	Franklin M. Tatum, Jr.			
Martha Polk Douglas	Jacq Polk Jones			
	Maargaret Ladner			
	Margaret McDaniel			







## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

September 1, 2003 - April 30, 2004



- ★ Miniature covered wagon with appointments - Philip Davenport, Jr.
- ★ Hattiesburg depot sign and 1998 Norfolk Southern Timetable - Matt Griffin
- ★ Booklet, "*Building the Old Spanish Trail*" - Freddie C. Bass
- ★ WWII gas ration book belonging to W. G. Gillespie and his obituary - Sarah Gillespie
- ★ Clipping: Boy Scout Troop 11 (1985) - Sarah Gillespie
- ★ 3 pictures of the 2000 Awards Ceremony-Excellence in the Arts - Sarah Gillespie
- ★ Print material and pictures of Steven Blair - A J Jones
- ★ Early photo of Economy Supply Co. - 1930's - Lewis Myrick
- ★ 1943 Hattiesburg High School-Petal High School football program - Robert E. James
- ★ 1954 HHS Class photo (HAHS matted and framed the picture)-Margaret Fountain Sowden
- ★ 1919-1920 Hattiesburg Country Club Roster; Luke Field WWII publication - Anne Hord
- ★ Palmer School Certificates (penmanship) - Anne Hord
- ★ 2003 Forestry Calendar - Carolyn Ware Howell
- ★ "HHS Class of 1957" floor rug - James Yelverton
- ★ Wood easel and two photos of the Saenger organ - Dorothy Terry
- ★ July 1941 *National Geographic* magazine - Katherine Oubre
- ★ Items for railroad and timber exhibit plus Cuban money - on loan from Andrew English
- ★ *Reminisce* magazine subscription from Martha Ann Gunn



Eight-wheel wagon and oxen previously donated by Phyllis and Bob Bailey

### DID YOU KNOW...?

From *History of Forrest County*

(as written in Otis Robertson's 1894 *Facts About Hattiesburg*)

#### Fire Destroys Hattiesburg!

"On October 11, 1893 the people were startled by the blowing of whistles, the ringing of church bells, the shooting of pistols, the bursting of powder cans, and all manner of noise. The entire business portion of town was ablaze. The fire started in the flue of the large 'Southern Hotel,' located where the Opera House was later built. As most of the buildings were of wood, the fire could not be stopped until 26 business houses were destroyed and thousands of dollars worth of goods. The next morning presented a terrible scene of goods lying all over the streets; smouldering coals were where only a few hours before nice houses and goods had been. The town seemed ruined; however, almost as soon as the ground was cold the erection of new buildings began. They were built this time of brick, as the town board almost immediately passed a law prohibiting another frame house being erected in the business portion of town."