



## THE HISTORIC NATCHEZ FOUNDATION

"HEARTS RESOLVED AND HANDS PREPARED, THE BLESSINGS THEY ENJOY TO GUARD." Smollett

February 2004

A Publication of the Historic Natchez Foundation

Natchez, Mississippi

### Tour Christina Williams House this Sunday, Feb. 8

The Historic Natchez Foundation and Adams County Supervisor Darryl Grennell invite the public to tour the Christina Williams house on Sunday, February 8, from 3:00 to 5:30, and enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Located at 600 N. Martin Luther King St., the Queen Anne-style house was built about 1895.

A suggested donation of \$5.00 will benefit Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church's planned renovation of the historic Club Delisso build-



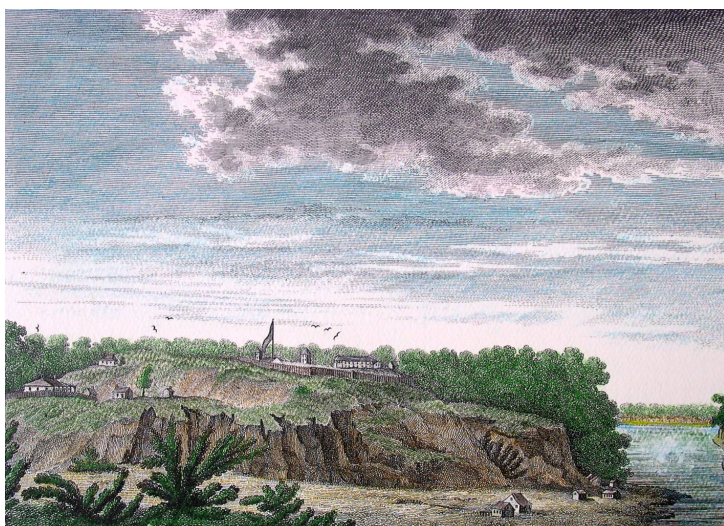
ing adjacent to the church.

Grennell acquired the then deteriorated house (see photo above left) in 2002 from the Historic Natchez Foundation and

received the Foundation's 2004 historic preservation award for his renovation (see photo above right).

Dan and Roane Bland and David and Judy Heard

donated the house to the Historic Natchez Foundation in 2000. The Foundation structurally stabilized the porch before transferring ownership to Grennell.



*The perspective view of Natchez and the fort above were drawn in 1796 by French cartographer Georges Henri Victor Collot and published in A Journey in North America in 1826. Greg O'Brien will focus on 1790s Natchez in his conference presentation, "Choctaws, Chickasaws, Spaniards, and Anglos: Trade, Kinship, and Politics in the 1790s Lower Mississippi Valley."*

### HNF Elects New Leaders for 2004

Peter Burns began his tenure as President of the Historic Natchez Foundation at the annual meeting held jointly with the Chamber of Commerce on January 23 at the Convention

Center.

Members selected Dennis Switzer as President Elect, Frances Morris as Secretary, and Chuck Caldwell as Treasurer.

New board members

elected to 3 year terms were Royal Hill, Stuart Margolin, Margaret Perkins, and George Ward.

Eddie Christian assumes the office of immediate past president.

### Free Public Events at Historic Natchez Conference February 11-14

Free events at the 2004 Historic Natchez Conference, "South by Southwest: Exploring the History of the Old Natchez District," include lectures, visits to historic sites, exhibits, and two cocktail buffets—one at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Eola Hotel and the other, sponsored by New

York Life, at 7:00 p.m. Friday at Stanton Hall.

The conference brings together recognized scholars, archivists, students, and the general public to discuss subjects as diverse as the planter aristocracy, the slave trade, Irish immigration, the Civil Rights era, free African Americans, and World War II.

The conference also recognizes the role of archival collections in researching and interpreting the history of the American South.

The conference is an outgrowth of the Adams County Courthouse Records Project, a public re-

search preservation and research program initiated in 1992 by California State University, Northridge, and the Historic Natchez Foundation, with major funding and assistance provided by the Natchez National Historical Park.

Graduate students serve as interns in a comprehensive summer program involving conservation, research, and interpretation of multiple manuscript sources. Most student papers presented at the conference are products of that program.

(See the following two pages for the complete conference program.)



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

All conference presentations will be in the ballroom of the Eola Hotel, except for the Thursday evening session to be held at St. Mary Minor Basilica. All morning sessions will break at 10:30 for refreshments in the Eola Hotel lobby.

- 11:00 a.m. Registration opens, Eola Hotel lobby  
*Point of Beginning*
- 1:00 p.m. Session #1 (Student Session): *Putting Themselves on the Map: Early Settlers Make Their Marks*. Moderator: Ralph Vicero, California State University
- From Jersey to the Wilderness: Revolutionary Era Migration from New England to the Natchez Area.** Johanna Lee Smith, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- Andrew Marshalk and the Fighting Press of the Old Natchez District.** Anthony Seybert, California State University, Northridge
- Fair Daughters of Charity: Women and the Ordering of Benevolence in Natchez and the Early American Republic.** Nancy Zey, University of Texas, Austin
- 2:00 p.m. Break for Refreshments, Eola Hotel lobby
- 2:30 p.m. Session #2 (Student Session): *African American Passages: All Over the Map*. Moderator: Charles Macune, California State University, Northridge
- The Journey Home: Natchez and the African-American Colonization Movement, 1828 to 1855.** Dawn Dennis, California State University, Northridge
- The Natchez "Over-Ground" Road to Emancipation: Sending the Enslaved to Ohio, 1830 to 1861.** Roseanne Welch, California State University, Northridge
- Telling the Monmouth Story from the Perspective of the Enslaved.** Cynthia Parker, California State University, Northridge
- Making the Most of Freedom: Female Black Teachers in Post-Bellum Natchez.** Darcy Bieber, California State University, Northridge
- 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception: Eola Hotel  
*The Benchmark of Downtown Natchez*
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome. Natchez Mayor F. L. "Hank" Smith; Historic Natchez Foundation President Peter Burns; Natchez National Historical Park Superintendent Keith Whisenant; California State University, Northridge Ronald L. F. Davis
- 7:15 p.m. Session #3: *The Compass Always Points North*. Moderator: Faye Phillips, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- Not Quite Southern: The Precarious Allegiance of the Natchez Nabobs in the Sectional Crisis.** William K. Scarborough, University of Southern Mississippi

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

- 9:00 a.m. Session #4: *Crossroads and Cross Currents: Converging Cultures in Early Natchez*. Moderator: Charles Bolton, University of Southern Mississippi
- Natchez Bluffs: Once Upon and Now Down Under, Archaeological and Historical Investigations along the Natchez Riverfront.** Thurston Hahn, Coastal Environments, Baton Rouge
- Choctaws, Chickasaws, Spaniards, and Anglos: Trade, Kinship, and Politics in the 1790s Lower Mississippi Valley.**

Greg O'Brien, University of Southern Mississippi

- 11:00 a.m. Session #5: *Delineating a Decade: The 1940s*. Moderator: Anne Lipscomb Webster, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Camp Van Dorn, Natchez, and the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in World War II.** Charles P. Roland, Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky
- Federal Law Against Mississippi Mob Law, 1940-1947.** Christopher Waldrep, San Francisco State University
- 2:30 p.m. Session #6 (Student Session): *Metes and Bounds: The Post-bellum Era*. Moderator: Charles Yarborough, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Columbus
- Lost Cause Versus Lost History: Historical Memory and the Black Troops of Civil War Natchez.** Dan O'Sullivan, California State University, Northridge
- They Came on Like Locusts: Northern Merchants in Post-Bellum Natchez.** Aaron Anderson, California State University, Northridge
- Jim Crow, Louis J. Winston, and the Survival of Black Politicos in Post-Bellum Natchez.** Sheryl Nomelli, California State University, Northridge
- The Unknown Soldiers: The Black Troops of World War I Natchez, 1910-1930.** Shane Peterson, California State University, Northridge
- 6:00 p.m. Session #7: *Gender and Ethnic Meanders*. Moderator: Don Carleton, Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin. St. Mary Minor Basilica, Main and Union Streets
- Felicite' Girodeau: Racial and Religious Identity in Antebellum Natchez.** Emily Clark, Lewis and Clark College, Oregon
- The Irish in Antebellum Natchez.** David Gleeson, College of Charleston, South Carolina
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**
- 9:00 a.m. Session #8: *Archival Expeditions: Traveling Well-Worn Paths and Blazing New Trails*. Moderator: Ron Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation
- Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, Don Carleton**
- Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Faye Phillips**
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History, H. T. Holmes**
- Southern Historical and Folklife Collections, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tim West and Laura Clark Brown**
- 11:00 a.m. Session #9: *Betwixt and Between the Law: Mid-Century Explorations*. Moderator: Tim West, Southern Historical and Folklife Collections, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- When Natchezians Were Terrorists: Filibustering and the Failure of American Law in the 1850s.** Robert E. May, Purdue University
- White Christmas: Buy-ins and Boycotts in Civil Rights-Era Natchez.** Ted Ownby, University of Mississippi
- 2:30 p.m. Session #10: *Living Within Boundaries: Free African Americans in Antebellum Natchez*. Moderator: Keith Whisenant, Natchez National Historical Park
- Not Everything is Black or White: Comparing and Contrasting the Lifestyles at Melrose and the William Johnson House.**

Carol Petravage, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service

**In Search of Robert Smith: Preserving and Interpreting an African American Legacy.** Jim and Ruthie Coy, Natchez

- 4:00 p.m. Tour of William Johnson House and Bontura (home of Robert Smith). *Scouting African American Landmarks*
- 7:00 p.m. Cocktail Buffet at Stanton Hall. *Scaling the Heights: A Classical Monument of the Planter Class.* This reception is hosted by New York Life in appreciation of the support extended by the Natchez community in the creation of educational websites and documentary programs on African-American history.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

- 9:00 a.m. Session #11: *Downriver and Cross Country: Slave trading to the Deep South.* Moderator: Ralph Jennings, Historic Natchez Foundation
- Andrew Jackson, the Interstate Slave Trade, and the Election of 1828.** Robert H. Gudmestad, Southwest Baptist University, Missouri
- Empire for Slavery: Capital, Cotton, and Slaves in the Lower Mississippi Valley.** Walter Johnson, New York University
- 11:00 a.m. Session #12: *Setting Markers: Staking Out the Sites.* Moderator: Ronald Davis, California State University, Northridge

**Driving Out the Traders: The Natchez Uprising of 1833.**

Thom Rosenblum, Natchez National Historical Park

**Recognizing and Interpreting the Forks of the Road Slave Market.** Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

[www.slaveryinamerica.org](http://www.slaveryinamerica.org) and [www.jimcrowhistory.org](http://www.jimcrowhistory.org): **The New York Life and Natchez Connection: a Partnership Voyage.** Kathleen Jenkins, Natchez National Historical Park; Tim Hallinan and Kathy Honda, Hallinan Consulting, Los Angeles, California

12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Carriage House (ticketed event)

2:00 - Exhibits: *Sign Posts and Guide Posts: Envisioning the Past.*

*Interpreting the Slave Narratives: An Artistic Vision by Johnnie M. Maberry Gilbert of Tougaloo College.* Natchez Museum of Afro-American History, 301 Main Street

*Natchez in Historic Photographs.* First Presbyterian Church, 117 South Pearl Street

*Passover and Pilgrimage: The Natchez Jewish Experience.* Temple B'Nai Israel, 213 South Commerce Street

7:00 p.m. Cocktail Buffet at Longwood (ticketed event) *Nutt's Folly—A Charted Course Interrupted*

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On this list are the names of those whose gifts were dated during 2003. Gifts include dues, memorials, grants, and major donations to the foundation or the Church Hill Preservation Trust.

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