Chapter 6

Performing and Visual Artists and Sports Heroes

Chapter Preview

PEOPLE

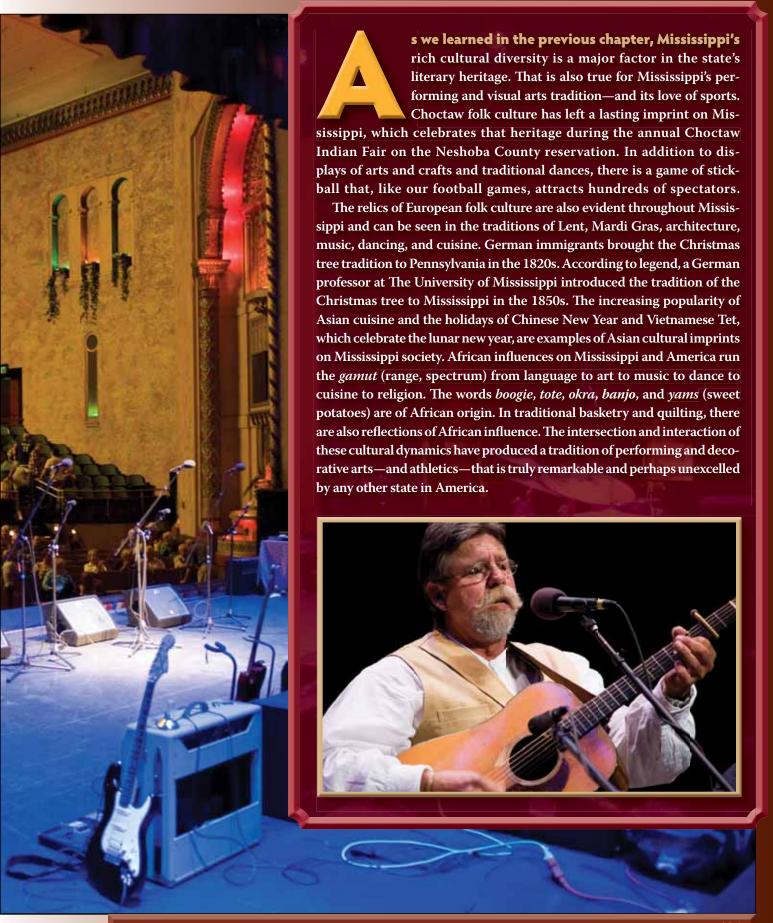
Jimmie Rodgers, Elvis Presley, Charley Patton, B. B. King, Faith Hill, Charley Pride, Leontyne Price, Guy Hovis, Jim Henson, Oprah Winfrey, Sela Ward, James Earl Jones, Morgan Freeman, Kathy Thibodeaux, Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, Pecolia Warner, Ethel Wright Mohamed, Richmond Barthé, George E. Ohr, Walter Anderson, M. B. Mayfield, Theora Hamblett, Jerry Rice, Walter Payton, Manning family, "Cool Papa" Bell, Ralph Boston, Lily Margaret Wade, Davey L. Whitney

PLACES

Dockery Farms, Beale Street, Tupelo, Arkabutla, Bay St. Louis, Allison's Wells, Horn Island, Sumrall, Batesville

TEDMS

spiritual, rhythm and blues, diddley bow, cane fife, Mississippi Blues Commission, ballad, USA International Ballet Competition, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, folk artist, visionary art, Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Negro National League Right: The stage of the historic Temple Theatre in Meridian stands ready for a taping of the Sucarnochee Revue, a popular radio program featuring the music of the Mississippi Black Belt, heard on public radio stations around the country, and around the world on the Internet. It is also broadcast on public television in Mississippi and Alabama. Porterville's "Mississippi" Chris Sharp (opposite page, below) is a frequent guest.



Section

Performing Artists

Something Extra!

The Grammy is named for the gramophone, an early type of phonograph. The award itself is a small golden gramophone statuette.

As you read, look for

- the three major genres of music that have their roots in Mississippi;
- the musical artists who have called Mississippi home;
- the many television and movie stars who come from Mississippi;
- why Mississippi is important to the world of dance;
- terms: spiritual, rhythm and blues, diddley bow, cane fife, Mississippi Blues Commission, ballad, USA International Ballet Competition.



A list of Mississippi's performing

artists, especially in the field of music, reads like a "Who's Who" in the world of entertainment. Mississippi's performing artists are noteworthy not only because of their large number, but also for the variety of fields in which they have won distinction.

The Sounds of Music

Three of the major *genres* (styles, forms) of American music have their roots in Mississippi. The blues were born here, country music was elevated to an art form by Jimmie Rodgers, and rock and roll was born with Elvis Presley's "That's All Right."

Above: The Staple Singers combined gospel music and rhythm and blues in their two number-one hits, "I'll Take You There" and "Let's Do It Again."

Spirituals and Gospel Music

The two primary influences on Mississippi's musical traditions are the rhythms of the African slave community and the folk music of the British Isles. Both traditions originated during the colonial period of American history.

The African American spiritual was a blending of the experiences of slavery, songs the slaves sang in their owners' churches, and work songs in the cotton fields and on the railroads. Improvisation was a characteristic of African American music. The call-and-response technique, in which a leader calls for a response from the congregation, became an integral part of African American spirituals. In the late nineteenth century, many African American spirituals were transcribed and published and became popular in both the black and white communities. The Staple Singers were a popular black gospel group whose big hit, "I'll Take You There," topped the popular music and rhythm and blues charts in 1972. Rhythm and blues is music that combines elements of blues and African American folk music, with a strong beat and simple chord structure.

Other forms of gospel music, with roots in the folk songs of the British Isles, became popular in southern white

churches during the late nineteenth century. Those church songs, known as hymns, emphasized content and message and were usually sung in three-or four-part harmony. With the advent of recordings and radio in the early twentieth century, southern gospel artists, especially quartets, became a favorite among white churchgoers. The Blackwood Brothers Quartet of Ackerman is America's most famous gospel quartet. It was formed in 1934 and has won nine Grammy Awards. The Grammy is an award given to a recording artist by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

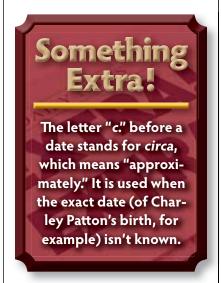
The Blues

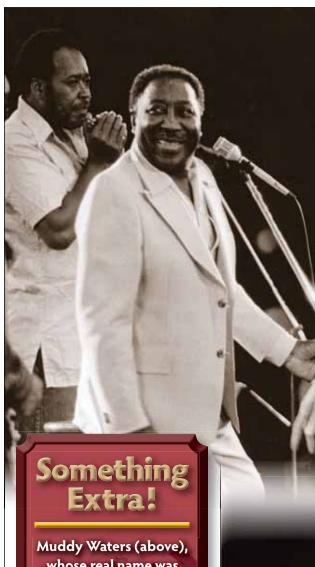
Against a backdrop of poverty and hopelessness, and to the accompaniment of the diddley bow and cane fife, the blues were born in the Mississippi Delta. The **diddley bow** is a typically homemade instrument consisting of a wooden board and a single wire string stretched between two screws. It is played by plucking while varying the pitch with a metal or glass slide. A **cane fife** is an instrument made of two to eight cane pipes bound together, closed at one end and open at the other. It is played by blowing across the open ends of the tubes. Black sharecroppers and day laborers put new English words to old African melodies and gave birth to the blues, a musical link to their African heritage.

The exact birthplace of the blues is lost in time, but some scholars and blues artists believe that it all began at Dockery Farms near Cleveland in Bolivar County. For nearly thirty years, Charley Patton (c.1891–1934), the



Above: The Blackwood Brothers
Quartet still performs today with a
second generation of Blackwoods.
Pictured left to right are Wayne Little,
Billy Blackwood, Jimmy Blackwood,
and Randy Byrd. Standing in the rear
is pianist Mike Hammontree.





most important early Delta blues musician, lived off and on at Dockery Farms. Patton first learned the blues from Henry Sloan, who also lived at Dockery. Patton then influenced other blues musicians who came there, including Howlin' Wolf, Willie Brown, Tommy Johnson, and Roebuck "Pops" Staples. Charley Patton was the first Mississippi blues artist to make a record.

Other famous Mississippi blues singers included Robert Johnson, "Son" House, and "Mississippi" John Hurt. W. C. Handy lived for many years at Clarksdale before moving to Memphis, where he made Beale Street famous throughout the world with his "Beale Street Blues." Chicago, Illinois, also became a center of blues music, and many of its most popular artists were from the Delta. Some of the famous Chicago blues singers from Mississippi were John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Bo Diddley.

B. B. King

Perhaps the greatest of Mississippi's blues artists is B. B. King, who was born in Indianola. With his famous guitar Lucille, King has made more than fifty records, has won fifteen Grammy Awards, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. *Rolling Stone* magazine named B. B. King number three among the one hundred greatest guitarists of all time.

Muddy Waters (above), whose real name was McKinley Morganfield, was born in Rolling Fork in 1915. When he moved into his grandmother's house near Clarksdale, he got the nickname "Muddy Waters" because of his fondness for playing in nearby creeks and puddles.

Right: Born Riley B. King, B. B. King's initials are an abbreviation of "Beale Street Blues Boy," a nickname acquired while he was a disc jockey in Memphis.



Mississippi Blues Commission

The sixteen-member **Mississippi Blues Commission** was established in 2003 to identify and preserve historic blues sites and property. The Blues Commission has placed historic markers at the major blues sites throughout Mississippi.

Blues Archive and B. B. King Museum

To promote and preserve the history of the blues, The University of Mississippi established the Blues Archive in 1984. The archive contains 60,000 sound recordings, 20,000 photographs, 6,000 books, and more than 1,000 videos. In 2008, the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center opened in his hometown of Indianola. Perhaps your class would like to visit the rare and special blues collection at Ole Miss, or B. B. King's collection of memorabilia at Indianola.

Country and Western Music

One of the most popular musical styles in America is country and western, which was known in its early years as "hillbilly music." The historical roots of country music were the **ballads** (rhythmic verses set to music) and folk songs that white European settlers brought with them to America.

Jimmie Rodgers (1897-1933)

The singer who did more to popularize country music than any other performer was Jimmie Rodgers, the "Singing Brakeman" of Meridian. His songs about railroads, poverty, and broken hearts were Bottom: The carving on the Jimmie Rodgers Monument in Meridian's Highland Park is based on this publicity photo, taken in the 1920s. The monument and the locomotive on display behind it are located next to the Jimmie Rodgers Museum.







popular during the depression years of the 1930s. Rogers had enormous influence on both country and western musicians as well as blues performers. His highest tribute came in 1961 when he became the first person inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Faith Hill

One of the most successful country and popular music stars in America is Faith Hill, who was born in Jackson and graduated from McLaurin High School in Florence. Faith Hill has sold more than 40 million records and has had 8 number-one singles and 3 number-one albums. In 2009, *Billboard* magazine named her the top adult contemporary artist of the decade. Her 2006 tour with her husband, Tim McGraw, was the highest-grossing tour in American history.

Charley Pride

America's most popular country and western African American artist is Charley Pride, who was born and reared in Sledge. Charley Pride had a brief career as a professional baseball player, but it soon became obvious that he was better at singing than he was at pitch-

ing. Among his biggest hits were "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin," "Mississippi Cotton Pickin' Delta Town," and "Roll On Mississippi." In 1993, Charley Pride was inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and in 2000 he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

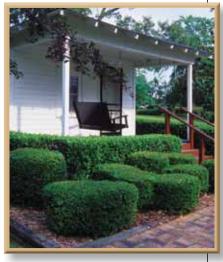
More Country and Popular Artists

In addition to the artists mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, Mississippi can boast of many other country and popular singers and songwriters. Some of those include Mickey Gilley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette, Bobbie Gentry, Marty Stuart, LeAnn Rimes, and Jimmy Buffett.

The King of Rock and Roll

Elvis Presley—the man who changed the sound, the style, and the beat of American music—was born in Tupelo. Before he hit the big time, Elvis played in high school gyms and nightclubs throughout north Mississippi. He emerged from a musical tradition known as







rockabilly, which was a combination of blues and country music. In 1956, Elvis hit the big time with his first number-one hit, "Heartbreak Hotel." During his career, Elvis became "The King of Rock and Roll." Elvis Presley sold more than a billion records worldwide and starred in more than forty movies. His death in 1977 ended one of the most fabulous and successful careers in the history of entertainment.

Leontyne Price

In her debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company, in which she starred as Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, Leontyne Price received a forty-two minute ovation. This great *prima donna* (the principal female singer in an opera), who was born and reared in Laurel, has been acclaimed in the United States and Europe as a star of the first magnitude. Perhaps the highest of many honors bestowed upon Ms. Price was her selection in 1966 to open the

Above left: Elvis Presley, who grew up in a modest home in Tupelo (top right), has sold more records worldwide than any other solo artist in history. This photo is from the famous dance number in his third film, Jailhouse Rock. Above: Laurel's Leontyne Price is recognized as one of the world's great opera singers. Opposite page, above: Country star Faith Hill performs at a tribute concert for the armed forces. Opposite page, below: In 1981, Charley Pride performed in an inauguration concert for President Reagan.

Below: Singer Guy Hovis was a regular performer on the popular Lawrence Welk Show on television for many years. In 2012, he performed at the inauguration of Mississippi governor Phil Bryant. Bottom: Millions of children grew up watching the Muppets on Public TV's Sesame Street. They were the creation of Greenville's Jim Henson, seen here in Muppet form.



new Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in New York City. She sang the lead role in *Antony and Cleopatra*, an opera composed especially for her by Samuel Barber.

The Delta Music Institute

Established at Delta State University at Cleveland in 2003, the Delta Music Institute (DMI) began offering a bachelor of science degree in music industry studies in 2011. The DMI also offers a bachelor of arts with an emphasis on sound recording technology and a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on the music and entertainment industries.

Tricia Walker, the executive director of the Delta Music Institute, is an award-winning recording artist, publisher, and songwriter whose music has been performed by Debby Boone, Faith Hill, Patty Loveless, and many others. Alison Krauss's performance of Walker's "Looking in the Eyes of Love" won a Grammy in 1998. Born in Fayette, Mississippi, Walker is the owner of Big Front Porch Productions in Cleveland. Her CD, *The Heart of Dixie*, has been an enduring favorite.

Television and Movie Stars

There are many Mississippi television and movie stars who are not featured in this section, simply because there are too many to be covered in a single chapter on the performing arts. This discussion should make you aware of the enormous contribution Mississippians have made to the cultural enrichment of our nation.

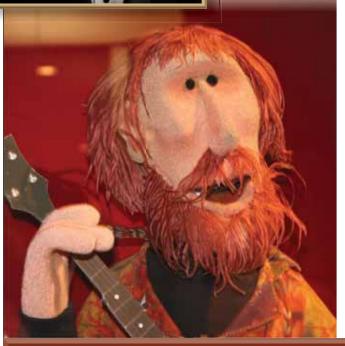
Guy Hovis

One of Mississippi's most popular and beloved performing artists is Guy Hovis of Tupelo. His forty-year career on the *Lawrence Welk Show*, one of the longest-running and most-successful shows in television history, has

made him a household name across America. In addition to his musical career, Hovis also served for several years as director of the Mississippi office for his lifelong friend, Senator Trent Lott. At President George W. Bush's inauguration in 2005, Guy Hovis performed "Let the Eagle Soar," from his *One Nation under God* CD. Hovis was also one of the stars of "Mississippi Rising," a nationwide television special in 2005 that raised millions of dollars for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. At the 2012 inauguration of Governor Phil Bryant, Hovis delivered an *a cappella* (without instrumental accompaniment) version of "The Lord's Prayer."

Jim Henson (1936-1990)

Perhaps the most widely known puppeteer in history was born in Greenville. Jim Henson created some of the world's most lovable characters, includ-



ing Kermit the Frog. In the early 1950s, Henson began creating the Muppets, who later became the famous characters on *Sesame Street*, the popular public television children's show. The Jim Henson Exhibit, a museum that features a large collection of Henson memorabilia, is located in Leland.

Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Winfrey was born in poverty and a broken home at Kosciusko in 1954. After winning the Miss Black Tennessee beauty pageant when she was seventeen years old, she began a career in radio, television, and motion pictures. She was nominated for an Oscar—an Academy Award given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—for her role as Sofia in the 1985 movie *The Color Purple*. In

1986, her television program that originated in Chicago, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, was broadcast nationally and soon became the number-one talk show in America. In January 2011, Winfrey launched her own television network called the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). Oprah Winfrey has achieved

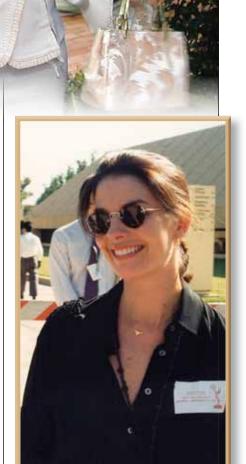
fame and fortune that is unparalleled in American history. *Time* magazine has called her "the world's most powerful woman."

Something Extra!

The Emmy is a statuette of a winged woman holding up an atom. It was first called an Immy, for an early type of television camera. The name was later modified to Emmy, which was more appropriate for a female symbol. The origin of the name Oscar is less clear. One story tells of its resemblance to someone's Uncle Oscar.



Although she has starred in several motion pictures, Sela Ward, who was born in Meridian, is best known for her leading role in several popular television programs. She played Teddy Reed in Sisters (1991-1996) and Lily Manning in Once and Again (1999-2002). Sela Ward won an Emmy-an award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences—for best actress in a television drama series for Sisters in 1994. She also won an Emmy in 2000 and a Golden Globe Award in 2001 for best actress in a television drama series for Once and Again.



Top: Television talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, from Kosciusko, is one of the most widely watched women in the world. Above: Sela Ward, from Meridian, is the winner of two Emmy Awards for best actress in a TV drama.



Sela Ward published a popular autobiography, *Homesick: A Journey*, in 2002. In 2010, she began playing the lead role in the CBS production *CSI: NY*.

James Earl Jones

Born in Arkabutla in 1931, James Earl Jones was abandoned by his parents. When he was five years old, his grandparents adopted him, joined the Great Migration, and moved to Michigan. About his unhappy childhood, Jones has said, "No matter how old the character I play those deep childhood memories, those furies, will come out." Jones began his illustrious career on Broadway, where he starred in *The Great White Hope* in 1968. He also starred in the movie version in 1970. He did the *voice-over* (the voice of an unseen person speaking) for Darth Vader in *Star Wars* and King Mufasa in *The Lion King*. Jones played the role of Alex Haley in *Roots: The Next Generations*, which was a sequel to the 1977 popular television series *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*.



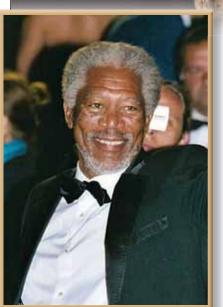
Movie critics agree that Morgan Freeman is a natural-born actor. Freeman was born in Memphis but lived in Charleston and Greenwood during his early childhood. He was in his first play at nine and won his first drama award when he was twelve. He has achieved fame with his ability to portray such varied characters as a soldier, a policeman, a crook, a cowboy, and a chauffeur. His major movies include Glory, The Shawshank Redemption, Driving Miss Daisy, and his 2005 Oscar-winning performance in Million Dollar



Baby. Because of his strong and melodious voice, he is one of America's favorite narrators. One of his most popular voice-over performances was as the narrator in *March of the Penguins*. Morgan Freeman lives in Clarksdale.

Sam and Mary Donnelly Haskell

Two of Mississippi's most popular and influential stars in the field of entertainment are Sam and Mary Donnelly Haskell. For many years, Sam was executive vice president and worldwide head of television for the William Morris Agency. In 2007, *TVWeek* named Sam Haskell one of the twenty-five most innovative and influential people in television during the last twenty-



Top: James Earl Jones provided the voice of Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* movies. Above: Morgan Freeman won an Oscar as best supporting actor in *Million Dollar Baby*. Opposite page, above: Sam and Mary Donnelly Haskell, both graduates of Ole Miss, host Stars Over Mississippi, an annual charitable event in Amory.

five years. Mary Donnelly Haskell, Miss Mississippi in 1977, also enjoyed a highly successful career as an actress and singer. Since his mother's death in 1987, Sam and Mary Haskell have held an annual gala in Amory called Stars Over Mississippi. Many of their friends in show business have participated in the gala to honor his mother and to raise money for the underprivileged in Haskell's hometown. In 2010, Sam and Mary Donnelly came back home to Oxford. Both are graduates of Ole Miss.

Dancing in the Global Village

Mississippi may not have taught the world to dance, but every four years the world of dance comes to Mississippi. Designated as the official USA competition by a 1982 Joint Resolution of Congress, the **USA International Ballet Competition** in Jackson showcases the world's most talented young dancers, who compete for medals, cash awards, and scholarships. In addition to the Mississippi ballet competition, two other international competitions are held in Varna, Bulgaria, and in Moscow, Russia.







Above: Kathy Thibodeaux founded Ballet Magnificat, the world's first professional Christian ballet company, in 1986. In 2008, she received the Peavey Award for Excellence, and in 2011, the company celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Kathy Thibodeaux and Ballet Magnificat

Kathy Thibodeaux began dancing at the age of six in the Jackson Ballet School. She was a featured performer in the Jackson Ballet Company for several years. After winning the silver medal at the 1982 USA International Ballet Competition, she formed her own company, Ballet Magnificat. In recognition of her contributions to dance in Mississippi, Governor William Winter proclaimed a Kathy Thibodeaux Day in 1983. In 2008, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and Hartley Peavey awarded her the Peavey Award for Excellence.

Reviewing the Section

- 1. Define in sentence form: spiritual, diddley bow, Mississippi Blues Commission.
- 2. Who was the "Singing Brakeman" and why is he famous?
- 3. Which Mississippi native has been called "the world's most powerful woman"?

Of Special Interest

Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield: The Black Swan

Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield was born in

obscurity and bondage c.1819 in Natchez. She died free and famous in 1876 in the City of Brotherly Love. In 1852, a contemporary historian wrote, "Miss Eliza Greenfield, the Black Swan, is among the most extraordinary persons of the present century." The flight of the Black Swan, out of slavery into world celebrity, is one of the most remarkable stories of the nineteenth century. Elizabeth's father was a native-born African. He may also have been a free man of color, as several sources identify him by the surname of Taylor, a name the Black Swan kept throughout her life.

Around 1824, a Quaker named Elizabeth Greenfield, the widow of a wealthy Natchez planter, freed her slaves and paid for their passage back to Africa. Although she freed the talented young child that she named Elizabeth, Mrs. Greenfield did not send her back to Africa, but took the child with her back to her home in Philadelphia. Elizabeth's musical gift was discovered by the daughter of a physician who heard her sing in Mrs. Greenfield's parlor. The records are silent for the years between that performance and her professional debut in Buffalo, New York.

In its October 10, 1851, announcement of her professional debut, a Buffalo newspaper called her the "Black Swan" and assured its readers that they would "be astonished by the debut of a young lady of African extraction." After her performance, a Buffalo music critic predicted that Elizabeth Greenfield "will rank among the very first vocalists of the age." Her

Buffalo debut was followed by a whirlwind tour through the Northeast and Midwest.

After this successful tour, the Black Swan gave several concerts in England and Ireland, for which she received rave reviews, and gave a command performance before Queen Victoria on May 10, 1854. After her return to America, during an 1855 tour, she sang in Baltimore, Maryland, which was her only performance in a slave state. A correspondent reported that the Black Swan "succeeded triumphantly ... and was frequently encored."

Miss Greenfield's activities during the Civil War are not known, but she does resurface in 1865, appearing on a program with Frederick Douglass in Philadelphia, where he lectured on "Equality Before the Law." Two years later, she was again singing in Buffalo for the Freedmen's Aid Society.

In the last years of her life, Miss Greenfield lived in Philadelphia and gave voice lessons to the city's young African American vocalists. The Black Swan's graceful and noble flight ended on May 2, 1876. Her passing was noted in a lengthy obituary in *The New York Times*.

It is unfortunate that the remarkable achievements of this gifted performer were lost in the last centuries, when black history was disregarded as unworthy of note. But her achievements and contributions to American culture, like those of many other African Americans, are now being rediscovered. The current interest in her and the research being conducted on the Black Swan will establish her place in history and enrich our cultural memory.

Section 2

Visual Artists

Below: Although the origin of basket weaving was the practical need for durable containers, a decorative element soon wove its way into the process. Choctaw basket makers still practice this ancient craft.

As you read, look for

- the origins of the crafts of basketry, quilting, and needlework;
- the many sculptors, potters, and painters who are native to Mississippi;
- terms: Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, folk artist, visionary art.

The visual arts include a wide variety of

artistic expressions—such as crafts, sculpture, pottery, and painting—that are primarily visual in nature. After reading the last chapter and the first part of this chapter, it should not surprise you that Mississippi has a rich heritage in the visual arts.

Mississippi Craftsmanship

Craftsmanship is the art of making decorative and useful objects by hand. The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi was established in 1973 to promote both historical and contemporary crafts in our state. The guild sponsors a variety of educational programs and maintains two galleries. One gallery is located at the Jim Buck Ross Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson, and the other is on the Natchez Trace just north of Jackson. Two of the most popular crafts are basketry and needlework.

Basketry

The ancient art of basket weaving is still practiced by Choctaw Indians in Mississippi. Choctaw baskets are famous for the *intricacy* (complexity) of their design and the beauty of their workmanship. The weavers first collect swamp cane from the marshy areas of east central Mississippi. They then trim off the outer layers, which they weave into various shapes.

The traditional weaves range from simple circles to complex diamonds and squares. Today, the vivid colors used in the baskets are derived from commercial dyes. In the early years of Choctaw basketry, the colors were derived from berries, roots, and barks of trees and plants. Mississippi basket makers also use split oak and hickory to create larger baskets. The large, heavy-duty split-wood baskets may be used as clothes hampers or picnic baskets. The size and shape of baskets are determined by their intended use.

The process of acquiring the material for making baskets is *arduous* (difficult). The trees must be cut, the bark removed, the logs split, and the layers separated and peeled into thin *splints* (strips). After the splints are removed, they are split into smaller sections that are then woven together.

Quilting and Needlework

Not long ago, sewing and needlework were necessary arts that produced practical items like dresses, shirts, and pants. Quilting began as a way of turning old scraps of fabric into bedding. Like many other useful arts, sewing and needlework have become decorative arts and a means of artistic expression. Turning old pieces of scrap cloth into beautiful works of art requires

many hours of patience and hard work. Traditional quilt designs are often passed down through families and communities and have changed very little over the years. Traditional African American quilts tend to be more imaginative and less *symmetrical* (balanced) than other quilts. Quilts featuring birds, fish, and human shapes are believed to have originated in West Africa.

Pecolia Warner (1901-1983)

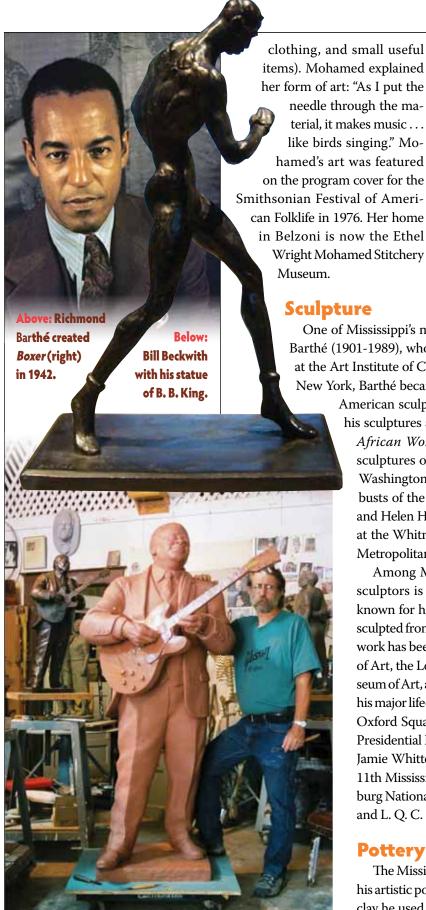
The bold, contrasting colors and unbalanced designs of Pecolia Warner's quilts reflect the African roots of quilting. Born in Yazoo City, Warner began quilting after seeing her mother's friends having so much fun at *quilting bees* (social events where people get together to make quilts). She began stitching when she was ten years old. Her *Pig Pen Quilt* (1982) is housed in the American Folk Art Museum in New York City. The *Pig Pen Quilt* was also featured in the *Ancestry and Innovation: African American Art* exhibition at the Delaware Art Museum in 2009.

Ethel Wright Mohamed (1906-1992)

Embroidery is another form of artistic expression. The Mississippian who is most famous for this form of art is Ethel Wright Mohamed of Belzoni. Ethel Mohamed embroidered elaborate pictures of cotton pickers, farm animals, birds, church scenes, and her husband's *dry goods store* (a shop that sells cloth,

Below: Ethel Wright Mohamed was Mississippi's foremost practitioner of the craft of embroidery. Her Belzoni home is preserved as the Ethel Wright Mohamed Stitchery Museum.





Something Extra! The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum complex and research

organization, composed

of nineteen museums,

nine research centers,

and the National Zoo.

Sculpture

One of Mississippi's most renowned sculptors is Richmond Barthé (1901-1989), who was born in Bay St. Louis. Educated at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students League in New York, Barthé became one of the most important African

> American sculptors in the twentieth century. Among his sculptures are The African Dancer, African Man,

African Woman, and Singing Slave. He also did sculptures of famous people, including Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, and busts of the distinguished actors Laurence Olivier and Helen Hayes. Barthé's work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Among Mississippi's most prominent modern sculptors is Bill Beckwith of Taylor. He is widely known for his portrait busts. Many of his busts are sculpted from photographs of deceased subjects. His work has been exhibited at the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Louisiana World's Fair, the National Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution. Among his major life-size statues are William Faulkner on the Oxford Square and Jefferson Davis at his Beauvoir Presidential Library. He also sculpted Congressman Jamie Whitten in his hometown of Charleston, the 11th Mississippi Infantry Monument at the Gettysburg National Military Park, B. B. King in Indianola, and L. Q. C. Lamar at the Lamar House in Oxford.

Pottery

The Mississippian who is perhaps best known for his artistic pottery is George E. Ohr (1857-1918). The clay he used in his pottery came from the Tchouta-



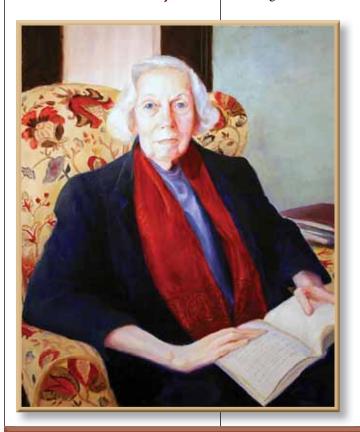




Above: During her long career, Marie Hull moved from realism (American Citizen, left) to abstraction (Bright Fields, right). Below: Mildred Wolfe's portrait of writer Eudora Welty hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

Painting

Like its writers and performers, Mississippi's painters are so numerous that we can highlight only a few of them in this brief discussion. Among Mississippi's many accomplished artists are William Dunlap, Ke Francis, Sam Gilliam, Randy Hayes, Valerie Jaudon, Ed McGowin, Fred Mitchell, James Seawright, Sam Gore, and the list goes on and on.



Marie Hull (1890-1980)

Known for her landscape and *still life paintings* (paintings of an arrangement of objects, like fruits, flowers, silverware, etc.), Marie Hull was a prolific and influential painter. She is acknowledged by some as the "dean" of Mississippi artists. During much of her career, Marie Hull gave private lessons to young artists in her home for two dollars a lesson.

Karl (1904-1980) and Mildred (1912-2009) Wolfe

Few people did more to make art a part of life in Mississippi than Karl and Mildred Wolfe. Not only were they instrumental in establishing an art colony at Allison's Wells, they produced some of Mississippi's finest art. In addition to painting, they also produced sculpture and stained glass.

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)

Although born in New Orleans, Walter Anderson and his family established Shearwater Pottery



in Ocean Springs in the early 1900s. Some art critics see the influence or the inspiration of the ancient Mayan Indians of Central America in the art of Walter Anderson. His favorite themes were from nature, and he is considered one of America's premier watercolorists. Anderson spent much of his time on Horn Island, a barrier island just offshore from his home in Ocean Springs. Many of his finest works were done on Horn Island. He also



painted several murals at the community center and the high school in Ocean Springs. A large body of his work is on display at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs. After Anderson's death, his family discovered over 7,000 watercolors that he had kept from public view. The discovery of those paintings has established Anderson as one of Mississippi's most accomplished artists and one of its most *prolific* (productive) painters.

M. B. Mayfield

In 1950, the editor of the Ole Miss student newspaper wrote an editorial supporting the admission of blacks to the university. A few days later, a cross was burned in front of his dormitory. While some students were gathering materials for a cross burning, other Ole Miss students were quietly shar-

Top: For the last twenty years of his life, Walter Anderson lived in this cabin at Shearwater Pottery. He decorated one room, which he kept locked, with these vivid murals. They were not discovered until after his death, and are now preserved at the Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs. Above: Walter Anderson painted thousands of watercolors including a painting of frigatebirds (left) and a self-portrait (right).

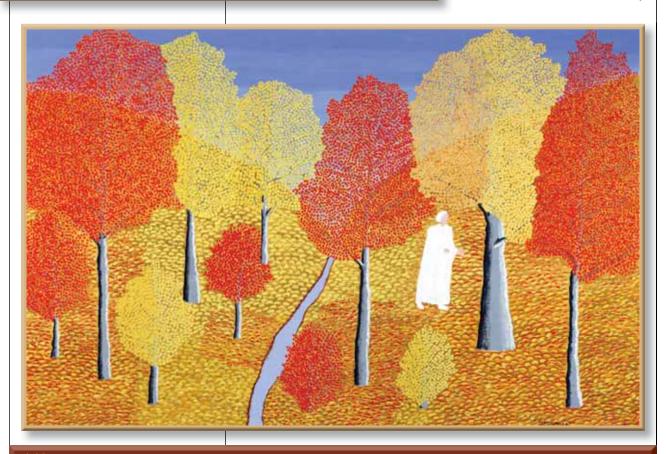
Below: M. B. Mayfield's painting of Professor Purser's Drawing Class tells the story of how he studied art from the closet of Professor Stuart Purser's classroom at Ole Miss. Bottom: Theora Hamblett, Mississippi's bestknown visionary artist, was born on a farm near Paris, Mississippi, in 1895. Her paintings were inspired by her dreams, memories, and everyday life. ing their art supplies with M. B. Mayfield, an African American artist who worked as a janitor in the fine arts building.

Mayfield was discovered by Professor Stuart R. Purser, chairman of the art department, who arranged for him to move to Oxford in 1950. Professor Purser would leave the door to his classroom open, and Mayfield would sit in his broom closet listening and taking notes during his lectures. Many of the art students knew of the arrangement and shared their supplies with Mayfield. William Faulkner also knew of the arrangement and bought art supplies for him. In appreciation for Faulkner's support and encouragement, Mayfield produced a portrait of the Nobel Laureate driving a jeep, which he titled *There Goes Faulkner*. Mayfield became one of Mississippi's most

popular folk artists. A **folk artist** is an artist who has received no formal training and whose art reflects his or her cultural environment. Mayfield published *The Baby Who Crawled Backwards: An Autobiography* in 2003.

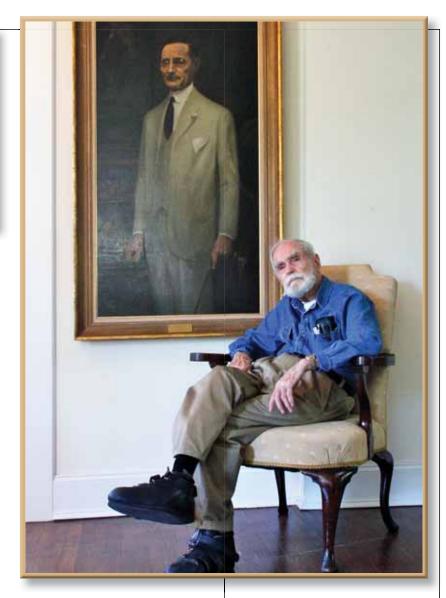
Theora Hamblett (1895-1977)

One of Mississippi's bestknown painters is Theora Hamblett of Oxford. She is the only



Marshall Bouldin's son Jason Bouldin has followed in his father's footsteps. He too is a portrait artist.

Mississippi painter whose works are exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Her paintings were done in an artistic style known as visionary art and were artistic expressions of her dreams and visions. Visionary art is any art, often by a person without formal training, that seeks to represent or explore mystical or spiritual experiences. In 1958, her painting The Vision was displayed at the World's Fair in Brussels, Belgium. Although Theora Hamblett's active career was relatively short, she produced a significant number of paintings.



Marshall Bouldin III

The New York Times identifies Marshall Bouldin III as "the South's fore-most portrait artist." This Delta artist from Clarksdale has painted more than eight hundred portraits of businessmen, politicians, and private citizens. Bouldin was the first painter inducted into the National Portrait Artist Hall of Fame. In 2009, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.

Reviewing the Section

- 1. Define in sentence form: Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, folk artist, visionary art.
- 2. How are traditional African American quilts different from other quilts?
- 3. How did M. B. Mayfield learn to be an artist?

Above: Marshall Bouldin III, one of America's premier portraitists, poses by his first commission, a portrait of his grandfather. To see another example of his work, look at the portrait of Governor Winter on page 302.

Section 3

Sports Heroes

Below: Tailgating at football games is a family tradition at Mississippi colleges and universities. In 2011, Tailgater Monthly named Ole Miss the number-one tailgating campus in America. Opposite page, above: The Sumrall High School baseball team was ranked first in the nation by USA Today in 2010. Opposite page, below: Wide receiver Jerry Rice played most of his career for the San Francisco 49ers, winning three Super Bowls. In 2010, a poll of players and experts named him the greatest player of all time.

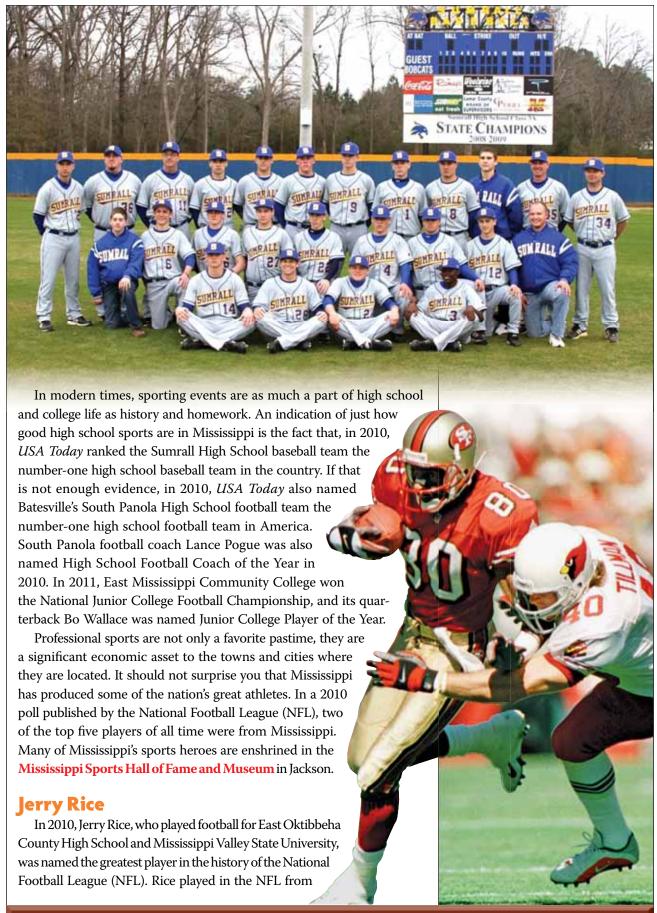
As you read, look for

- why sports have always been an important tradition in Mississippi;
- Mississippi's outstanding football players;
- Important Mississippians in baseball, basketball, and track and field;
- terms: Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Negro National League.

Like our literary and artistic heritage, we have an old and honored

sports tradition in Mississippi. As we learned in our study of Native Mississippians, chunkey and stickball were part of their way of life. In old Natchez, horse racing and *jousting* (fighting on horseback, as knights did) tournaments were popular pastimes for the aristocrats. Among the common folks, mule racing and boxing were popular alternatives to the drudgery of everyday life.





1985 to 2005. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2010, the first year of his eligibility. The **Pro Football** Hall of Fame is an organization with a two-building complex in Canton, played in 3 Super Bowls and 13 Pro Bowls, and was named to 10 All-Pro Teams. Rice is also a member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Above: In 2010, Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton was voted the fifth greatest NFL player of all time. In 1984, he set the record for most career rushing yards, a record that stood for eighteen years. Every year, the NFL recognizes outstanding community service by a player with the Walter Payton Man of the Year award.

Walter Payton (1954-1999) Born in the year of the Brown decision in 1954, Walter Payton was a member of Mississippi's first integrated high school class. Payton and his classmates transferred from the Marion County black high school to Columbia High School in the spring of 1970. He and other black football players were disappointed that their coach was named assistant to the white coach rather than head coach. But Payton and his teammates accepted the situation and led Columbia High School to an 8-2 record. As a young high school student, Walter Payton's leadership and character helped his hometown make the tran-

sition from a segregated to an integrated society. He was

Ohio, that honors the outstanding participants and preserves the history of professional football. Jerry Rice holds the NFL record for the most receptions (with 1,549), the most yards (with 22,895), and the most touchdowns (with 197). During his 15 years with the San Francisco 49ers (1985-2000), Rice

justly rewarded when Governor Bill Waller declared November 20, 1973, Walter Payton Day throughout the

state of Mississippi.

During his college years at Jackson State University, Payton set several National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) records and was a two-time All-American. Payton was drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1974 and played his entire NFL career in Chicago, where he set many rushing records. The 2010 poll that named the greatest one hundred players in NFL history named Walter Payton the fifthgreatest player of all time.



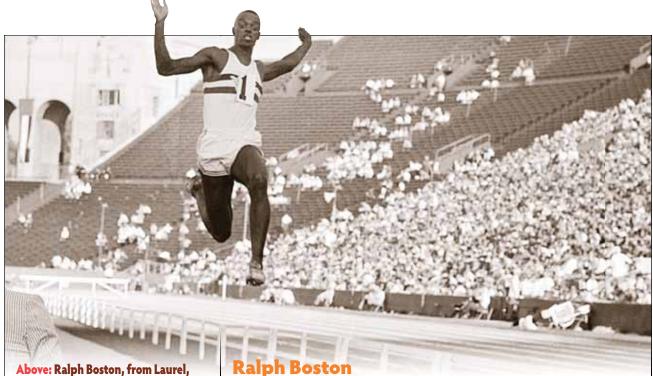


The Manning family, which includes Archie and his wife Olivia, and the families of their three sons Cooper, Peyton, and Eli, is known as America's First Family of Football. Archie, a native of Drew, was a two-time All-American quarterback at Ole Miss and played professional football for the New Orleans Saints. Cooper, the oldest son, showed great promise but was injured early in his career. Peyton was an All-American quarterback at the University of Tennessee. As quarterback of the Indianapolis Colts, Peyton won the 2007 Super Bowl and was named Most Valuable Player. In 2012 Peyton signed with the Denver Broncos. Eli was an All-American quarterback at Ole Miss. As quarterback for the New York Giants, he won the 2008 Super Bowl and was named Most Valuable Player. In 2012 the Giants won another Super Bowl and Eli was again named Most Valuable Player.

James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell (1901-1991)

James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell is generally considered to be baseball's fastest player. In 1920, Bell joined the Great Migration, moving from his birthplace near Starkville and joining four of his brothers who had already moved to St. Louis, Missouri. After playing semipro ball for a few years, Bell was signed in 1922 by the St. Louis Stars of the **Negro National League** (the first black professional baseball league, formed in 1920). As a switch-hitter, Bell maintained a batting average of over .300 during much of his career. Bell is best known for his speed on the bases, and he claimed that he stole 122 bases during a stretch of 200 games. In 1951, Bell retired from baseball after 29 years. In 1974, "Cool Papa" Bell became the first native-born Mississippian to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the organization with a museum in Cooperstown, New York, that preserves baseball's history and honors its excellence. In 1987, the street he lived on for many years in St. Louis was renamed James "Cool Papa" Bell Avenue.

Top: The Manning family—(left to right) Peyton, mother Olivia, Eli, and Archie—celebrate the 2004 NFL draft. A third Manning son, Cooper, showed great promise but was injured early in his athletic career. Above: James "Cool Papa" Bell played for 29 years in the Negro National League, where he was known as the fastest player in baseball.



Above: Ralph Boston, from Laurel, is one of the greatest long jumpers of all time, and the first man to jump over 27 feet. He set a new world record three times, and won the gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games, where he set a new Olympic record.

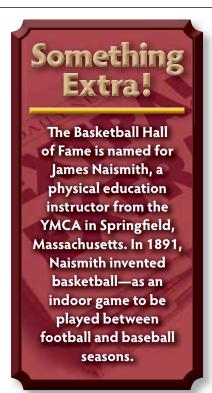
Below: Delta State University women's basketball coach Lily Margaret Wade finished her high school and college coaching career with a .845 winning percentage. Her Delta State teams won three consecutive AIAW national championships, and at one point, had a 51-game winning streak.

Ralph Boston, one of America's most famous track and field athletes, was born in Laurel and graduated from Tennessee A&I (now Tennessee State University). On August 12, 1960, Boston set a new world record in the long jump of 26 feet, 11-1/4 inches, breaking the 25-year-old record held by Jesse Owens. In the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome a month later, Boston won a gold medal and broke Jesse Owens's Olympic record with a jump of 26 feet, 7-3/4 inches. A year later, Ralph Boston became the first man in the history of track and field to long jump more than 27 feet. He set a new world record of 27 feet, 1/2 inch. A year later, he lengthened his own world record to 27 feet, 2 inches. Boston won a silver medal in the 1964 Olympics and a bronze medal in 1968. In 1974, Boston was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. In 1985, he was named to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. In 2007, the Ralph Boston Wellness Center at Tennessee State University was named in his honor.



Lily Margaret Wade (1912-1995)

By any definition of the word, Lily Margaret Wade is a legend, and few people have had greater impact on a sport than she had on women's basketball. She retired from coaching high school and college women's basketball with a career record of 464 wins and 85 losses. She coached the Lady Statesmen of Delta State University to 3 consecutive Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national championships with a winning percentage of .789. Her record is one of the greatest of all time in women's college sports. Her first Lady Statesmen team in 1973-1974 went 16-2. Over the



next 3 seasons, the Lady Statesmen went 93-4 and had a 51-game winning streak.

To honor this great lady, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association named the annual award given to the nation's most outstanding player the "Lily Margaret Wade Trophy." She presented the first trophy in 1978. In 1985, Margaret Wade became the first woman and the first women's coach inducted in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This organization, with a museum in Springfield, Massachusetts, honors excellence in college basketball.

Davey L. Whitney

As a student at Kentucky State University, Davey L. Whitney let-

tered in four sports and was named an all-star in two different sports. After a brief career in professional baseball, Whitney began a long and distinguished career as a college basketball coach. After a five-year stint at Texas Southern University, Whitney was named head basketball coach at Alcorn State University at Lorman. While coaching at Alcorn State from 1969-1988 and 1996-2003, Dave Whitney won 501 games and 11 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles, and was named SWAC Coach of the Year 10 times. In 1979, Coach Whitney and Alcorn State made history as one of the first historically black colleges to win a berth in the National Invitational Tournament. In the opening round, Alcorn defeated Mississippi State 70-68, but lost to Indiana in the second round. In 1980, Alcorn made its first of 6 appearances in the NCAA Tournament under Coach Whitney. The 7,000-seat multipurpose auditorium at Alcorn State University is named

for Whitney. In 2010, Coach Davey L. Whitney was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

The End of Our Journey

We have at last come to the end of our long journey through the fascinating history of Mississippi. We can be proud of our state for many things. And now that we know our past, we can chart our future.



Above: In 26 years coaching the Alcorn State University men's basketball team, Davey L. Whitney won more than 500 games and 11 SWAC championships, and made 6 appearances in the NCAA basketball tournament.

Reviewing the Section

- Define in sentence form: Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Negro National League.
- 2. As a high school student, how did Walter Payton help his hometown?
- 3. In which track and field event did Ralph Boston excel?

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1 Performing Artists

- The blues, country music, and rock and roll all have roots in Mississippi.
- African American-influenced music includes spirituals, gospel music, and rhythm and blues.
 Hymns have roots in British folk songs.
- The blues were born in the Delta, perhaps at Dockery Farms, where Charley Patton lived.
- B. B. King, perhaps Mississippi's greatest blues artist, won many awards with his guitar Lucille.
- The Mississippi Blues Commission identifies and preserves blues sites. The University of Mississippi's Blues Archive contains recordings, photographs, books, and videos.
- Jimmie Rodgers, Faith Hill, and Charley Pride are well-known country and western musicians.
- Elvis Presley, born in Tupelo, changed the sound, style, and beat of American music.
- Leontyne Price of Laurel is a great prima donna of the opera.
- Popular television and movie stars from Mississippi are Jim Henson, Oprah Winfrey, Sela Ward, James Earl Jones, and Morgan Freeman.
- Sam and Mary Donnelly Haskell have had successful careers in entertainment.
- The USA International Ballet Competition comes to Jackson every four years. Kathy Thibodeaux, a silver medalist there, formed her own company, Ballet Magnificat.

Section 2 Visual Artists

- Basket weaving is still practiced by the Choctaw Indians in Mississippi.
- Pecolia Warner's quilts reflect African roots;
 Ethel Wright Mohamed embroidered Delta scenes.
- Two renowned Mississippi sculptors are Richmond Barthé and Bill Beckwith.
- The artistic pottery of the eccentric George E. Ohr was only really discovered after his death.

- Still life painter Marie Hull is the "dean" of Mississippi artists.
- Karl and Mildred Wolfe established an art colony at Allison's Wells and produced painting, sculpture, and stained glass.
- Walter Anderson, a famous watercolorist, painted many of his best works on Horn Island.
- M. B. Mayfield, an Ole Miss janitor, was allowed to observe art classes and was given supplies.
 He became a popular folk artist.
- Theora Hamblett is famous for her visionary art and Marshall Bouldin III for his portraits.

Section 3 Sports Heroes

- Mississippi's traditional sports include Native American chunkey and stickball, horse and mule racing, jousting, and boxing. Today, high school, college, and professional sports are popular.
- Jerry Rice, from Mississippi Valley State
 University, was named the greatest player in NFL
 history in 2010.
- Walter Payton played football at Jackson State University and professionally for the Chicago Bears. He was named the fifth-greatest NFL player of all time.
- Archie Manning and sons Peyton and Eli have all starred as quarterbacks with successful NFL careers, Archie and Eli played at Ole Miss, and Peyton at Tennessee.
- James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell of the Negro National League was the first native-born Mississippian in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Ralph Boston set world and Olympic records in the long jump.
- Lily Margaret Wade, coach of Delta State's Lady Statesmen, was the first woman and first women's coach in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- Davey L. Whitney was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts

- 1. What three *genres* of American music have roots in Mississippi?
- 2. With what geographic area of Mississippi is the blues associated?
- 3. What was Elvis Presley's first number-one hit?
- 4. What lovable characters did Jim Henson create?
- **5.** Who performed the voice-over for the *Star Wars* character Darth Vader?
- 6. What artistic craft is associated with Choctaw
- 7. Whose famous sculptures included *Boxer* and *The African Dancer*?
- 8. Prior to becoming a legend in the National Football League, what university did Jerry Rice attend?
- 9. What are the Manning family's Mississippi connections?
- **10.** What unique honor did James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell receive in 1974?

Developing Critical Thinking

- **1.** Compare and contrast African American spirituals with the blues.
- 2. Explain the origin of the name Muddy Waters.

Writing across the Curriculum

Research the titles of the songs recorded by one of Mississippi's prominent musical performing artists, such as Faith Hill, B. B. King, Elvis Presley, Charley Pride, or Jimmie Rodgers. Identify a song title clearly connected with the artist's Mississippi roots. Write down the lyrics of this song, underline the passages that reflect Mississippi influences, and then explain the connections with the state.

Exploring Mississippi on the Internet

- 1. Go to www.msmuseumart.org/themississippi-story.html and view this art collection. Which piece of art do you find most visually appealing? Why?
- Go to www.msfame.com/hof_inductees. html. Who is your favorite Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame inductee? List five of the athlete's most important achievements.

Building 21st-Century Skills: Creating a Concept Map

A concept map is a special form of web diagram. Concept maps are used to develop an understanding of an important concept and/or to explore relationships between ideas. Major ideas in a concept are often represented by a single word or short phrase enclosed in a rectangle. These rectangles are connected to other ideas, terms, and descriptive words by arrows. In creating a concept map, you might ask yourself the question: What are the important events, ideas, people, and terms connected with this concept?

In this chapter there are three sections, each involving a major concept. Review Section 1. There you will find several styles of music described, and artists associated with each musical style. In fact, some artists cross over from one music style to another. Instruments are also listed; some instruments belong to one music style while many others are shared across styles. There are also several terms mentioned in this section.

Now, create a concept map diagram incorporating the events, ideas, people, and terms from this section while also showing their interconnections.