

LETTERS FROM THE LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE LAW LIBRARY OF MISSISSIPPI

"There shall be ... a library ... known as the state library"

An Act to provide for a State Library – General Laws, 1838

December 2017

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State Library Hours

Monday – Friday
8am – 5pm

Library Staff

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Library Hosts Librarian of Congress

The State Law Library of Mississippi hosted Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, on Friday, August 18, 2017, to begin the Library's celebrations of its upcoming Bicentennial in January 2018. While officially established in 1838, the Library traces its history to January 1818, when the Mississippi Legislature passed a Resolution for the purchase of books and maps which led to the organization of the State Library, now commonly known as the State Law Library. Dr. Hayden was our special guest as appellate judges and law librarians from throughout the state gathered to socialize and view the original 1818 Resolution which was on display.

Dr. Hayden was sworn in as the nation's 14th Librarian of Congress in September 2016 after being nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate. She is the first female and first African-American Librarian of Congress. She is also only the third Librarian of Congress to actually have training as a librarian. Her visit to Jackson, Mississippi involved a whirlwind of activity as she not only visited the State Law Library but also served as the opening speaker of the Mississippi Book Festival.



In her remarks to the group at the State Law Library, Hayden spoke about the Library of Congress's origins as a Law Library. When the

nation's capital moved to Washington, D.C., it was recognized that Congress would need a special collection of legal materials. This collection of legal materials was what formed the Library of Congress in 1800. As the Library became a fashionable meeting place for tourists and locals, it was deemed necessary that the legal collection be pulled and separated from the main collection, and, in 1832, the

Law Library of Congress was created as a separate department within the Library of Congress. “Over time, it has grown to be what is arguably one of the biggest legal collections in the world,” Hayden remarked.



Hayden spoke highly of law librarians and commended those who push forward in obtaining both the law degree and library science degree. Hayden envisions law librarians as being on the front lines of legal knowledge, and she was pleased that she could start out her trip to Mississippi with a stop by the State Law Library to visit with those law librarians in attendance.

The State Law Library will continue its bicentennial celebrations in January 2018 when it will host presentations on the Library’s history and resources and will provide presentations on legal research for non-law librarians.

***Reprinted from a submission by Stephen Parks to the GLL News, the newsletter of the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.*

Librarian speaks at various events in Sept.

Over the past few months, Librarian Stephen Parks has spoken at various events around Mississippi and in Washington, D.C.

On September 9, he served as the Constitution Week speaker for the Brandon, MS-based Chief Red Jacket chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In his presentation, he compared the



United States Constitution with the 1817 Mississippi Constitution, tying in the state’s bicentennial this year. The chapter meeting was held in the home of Mary Alice Lee, the widow of the late Chief Justice Dan Lee of the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Picture: Parks with Mary Alice Lee

On September 19, he spoke to the Ripley Historical Society in Ripley, Mississippi. In his presentation to the Society, Parks

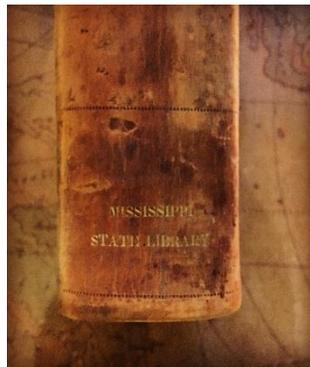
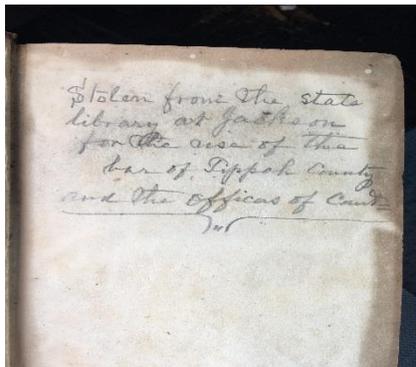
spoke on the history of the State Law Library and the services it offers. He even had the chance to answer a few reference questions while visiting with the group.

On September 26, Parks served as a witness before the Committee on House Administration in Washington, D.C. Chaired by Congressman Gregg Harper, the Committee on House Administration is looking into revising the law as it relates to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The FDLP assists libraries by providing federal government documents to libraries at no cost. In return, those participating libraries must make those documents readily accessible to the public. Other witnesses on the panel included Celina McDonald of the University of Maryland, Beth Williams of the Stanford University Law Library, and Mike Furlough of the HathiTrust Digital Library.



“Stolen” Book Recovered

The Tippah County Chancery Court recently contacted the State Law Library to see if we would be interested in old law books that were stored away in the courthouse in Ripley, Mississippi. When Stephen Parks traveled up to Ripley to pick up these books, he noticed a handful of books with our Library’s stamp on the spine of the books. One book in particular, however, had an even greater surprise on the first page of the book. Handwritten on the first page was the following: “Stolen from the State Library at Jackson for the use of the bar of Tippah County and the Officers of Court.” The book

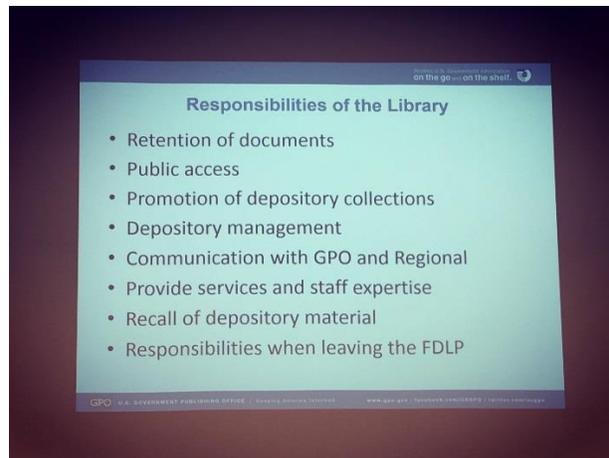


is Volume 3 of *Smedes and Marshall's* case reporter, including the cases of the Mississippi High Court of Errors and Appeals for the January and November Terms, 1844. Unfortunately, the “thief” provided neither a signature nor a date on which it traveled from Jackson to Ripley.

Library Staff Receives Training



The Library hosted Melissa Fairfield, Planning Specialist for Outreach and Support, from the Government Publishing Office in November. Fairfield was in Mississippi visiting libraries that are a part of the Federal Depository Loan Program. As a Selective Depository Library, the State Law Library must meet certain requirements to receive government publications such as the Code of Federal Regulation and United States Code free-of-charge. Fairfield spoke to the Library staff on the requirements of depository libraries and on the beta-version of www.govinfo.gov. GovInfo will eventually replace the GPO's Federal Digital System and will become the go-to resource for official, authenticated government publications in digital form.



Tech Tip: Google Alerts

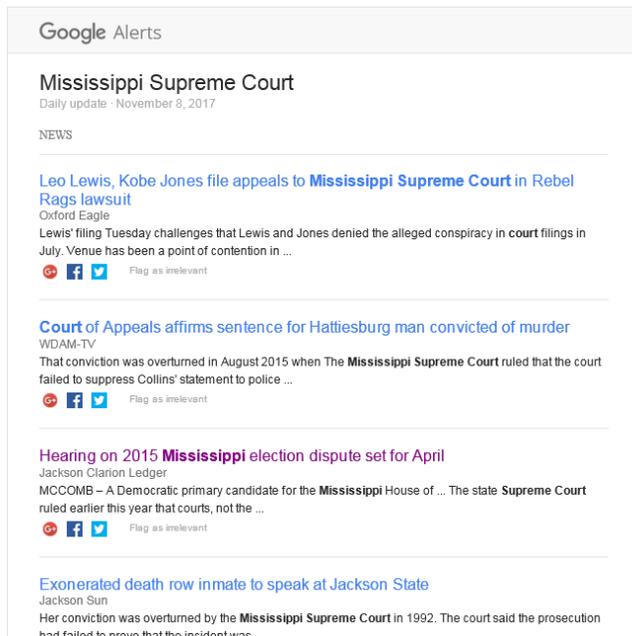
One thing about the Library that many may not know about is that we keep subject files on all Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges, and on the two courts themselves. These file folders are housed in our basement, but they are available for use. We get requests from historians from around the state/country and from family members of former Justices/Judges to look through the files. In the past, we would employ newspaper clipping services that would send to us clippings of any newspaper mention of the court or members of the courts. We still do this to some degree with the newspapers we receive from around the State. Once a week, I will go through the newspapers and cut out any mention I might come across.

However, with many papers moving to online versions only, such as the *Biloxi Sun Herald*, it's imperative to utilize other methods of searching the news. One such method that has become quite useful for this

project is Google Alerts. Google Alerts allows you to create a list of items of which you wish to receive email alerts when that item becomes a new result in Google Search.

So how does this work? I've set up alerts for each Justice and Judge and for the terms "Mississippi Supreme Court" and "Mississippi Court of Appeals." Any time the court is mentioned or a justice or judge is mentioned in a Google Search results, I will get an email alert with a link to that article. I can then access that article, print it, and add it to the correct file folder that we have.

Alerts are easy to set up and manage. Visit www.google.com/alerts. Type in the search term you wish to set up an alert for and provide the email address you want the alert sent to. It has various options such as how often to get alerts, the type of sites you want to see, how many results, etc.



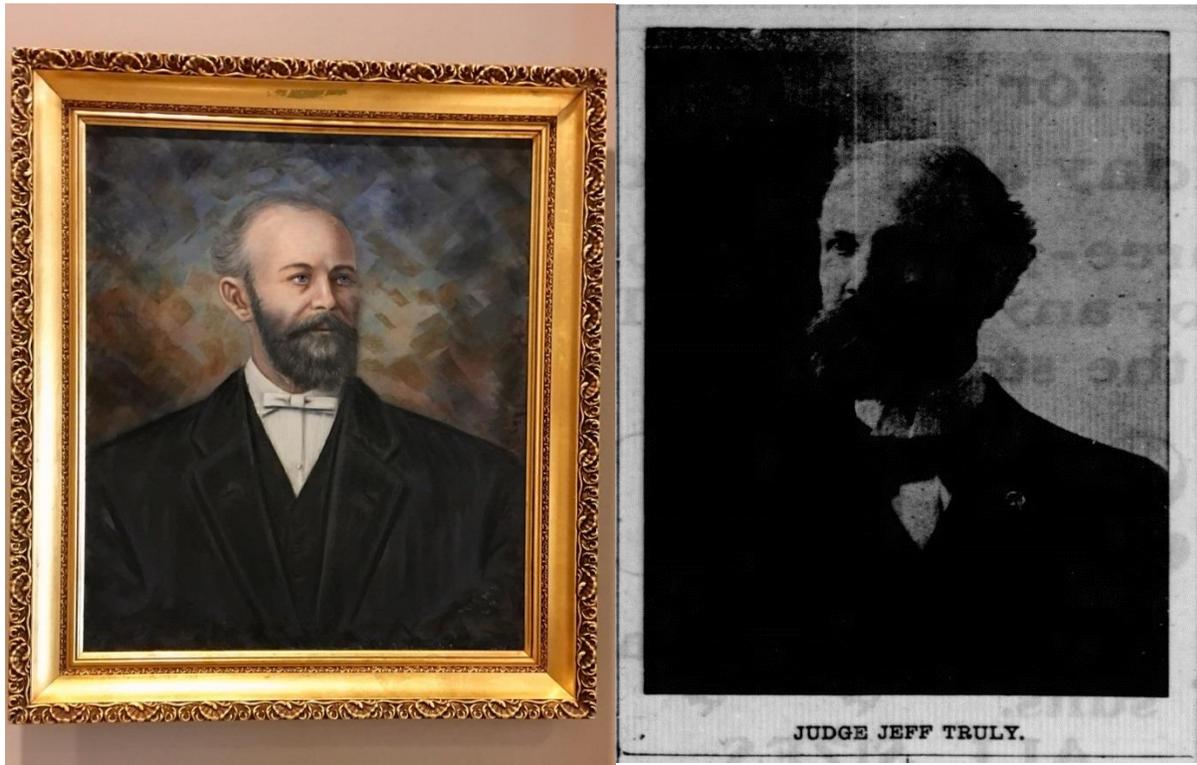
Picture: Example of a Google Alerts daily update

Mystery Solved: Supreme Court Justice Jeff Truly

In our August 2017 newsletter, we asked for help in identifying this portrait. Thank you to Gabe Goza and Hubby Saunders for pointing us in the right direction to discovering that the gentleman in this portrait is Supreme Court Justice Jeff Truly.

Truly was born in Fayette, Mississippi, on July 21, 1861. He served in the Mississippi House of Representatives, 1886-1888, and as a circuit judge, 1898-1903. He had a reputation for being one of the best circuit judges and lawyers in the State. He was appointed by Governor Andrew Longino to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1903, replacing the retiring Justice J.H. Price. Leaving the bench in 1906, he ran for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1907. He passed away in August, 1946.

Below: The portrait of Justice Truly on display on the first floor of the Gartin Building and a portrait of Truly as printed in the New Orleans Times-Democrat, August 14, 1903.



New Titles Added to the Collection

Local Government, Land Use, and the First Amendment: Protecting Free Speech and Expression, KF 5698 .L63 2017

Mississippi: The Sesquicentennial of Statehood. An Exhibition in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., December 10, 1967, to October 31, 1968, Z 1301 .U5

Nonprofit Law: A Practical Guide to Legal Issues for Nonprofit Organizations, KF 1388 .N665 2017

Pet Law and Custody: Establishing a Worthy and Equitable Jurisprudence for the Evolving Family, by Barbara J. Gislason, KF 390.5 .A5 G57 2017

Sowing the Wind: The Mississippi Constitutional Convention of 1890, by Dorothy Pratt Overstreet, KFM 7001 1890 .A29 P73 2018

State and Local Construction Projects: An Attorney's Handbook, KF 1950 .S734 2017

Telling our Stories: Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, F 338 .T45 2017

Unbundled Legal Services: A Family Lawyer's Guide, by Forrest S. Mosten, KF 299 .D6 M67 2017

Williams on Mississippi Evidence, by Parham Williams, KFM 7140 .A15 W55

Winning on Appeal: Better Briefs and Oral Argument, by Tessa L. Dysart, KF 9050 .A935 2017

We in the State Library Wish You All a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

