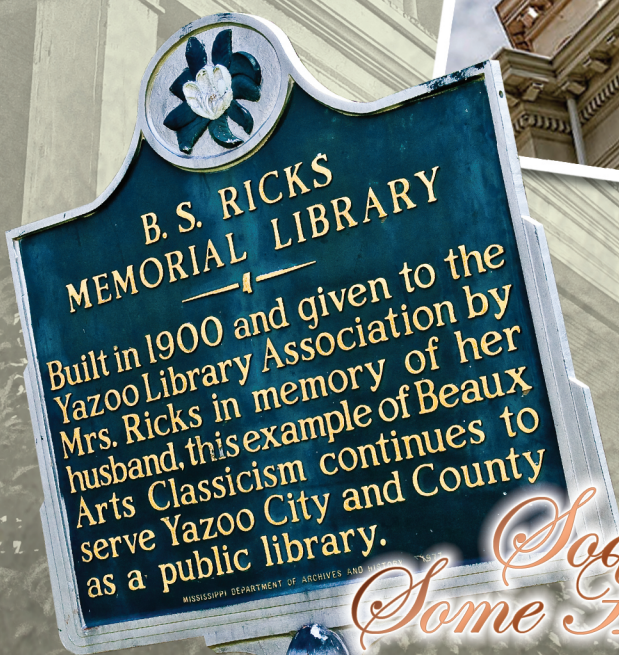


Yazoo's Top Historic Sites and Events

Your guide to

Historic Sites and Events



*Soak up
Some History*

YAZOO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Historical Markers

Bank of Yazoo City

Corner of Main St. and Broadway

The bank was formed in 1876 by Yazoo County businessmen to aid in recovery of the area's cotton planters after the Civil War. It is the oldest financial institution in Yazoo County.

Benton

Benton, Mississippi

Yazoo County seat, 1829-50. Settled by Wm. Y. Gadberry in 1828, first court being held in his log home. Chartered in 1836. Nearby Cedar Grove Plantation was home of Col. John Sharp and of famed U.S. Senator John Sharp Williams.

Bethel A.M.E. Church

214 S. Monroe St., Yazoo City

Organized in 1868, Bethel is the oldest African American congregation in Yazoo City. After affiliating with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the congregation moved to this site in 1890. Designed by A.S. King, Bethel A.M.E. is one of the earliest brick churches built by African Americans in Mississippi, and is the only downtown Yazoo City church building left standing after the fire of 1904. Although the building has had alterations, Bethel retains its historic Romanesque Revival tower, whose steeple is clad in sheet metal panels stamped to resemble shingles.



B.S. Ricks Memorial Library

310 N. Main St., Yazoo City

Built in 1900 and given to the Yazoo Library Association by Mr. Fanie Ricks in memory of her husband, this example of Beaux Arts Classicism continues to serve Yazoo City and County as a public library. The



Ricks Memorial Library was the first property in Yazoo County and the first public library in Mississippi entered on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the oldest public library building in the state still in use, and has also been designated a Mississippi Literary Landmark in recognition of its association with author Willie Morris.

Mississippi Historical Markers

Capture of the Union Tinclad Petrel

Hwy 149 near junction of Schaefer and Carter Roads

On April 22, 1864, about two and a half miles above Yazoo City, on the west bank of the Yazoo River, Col. John Griffith of the 11th and 17th Consolidated Arkansas Infantry led a Confederate cavalry and artillery detachment to attack the Union tinclad Petrel. The Petrel, commanded by Acting Master Thomas McElroy, responded with its eight 24-pound Howitzer cannons. A solid shot from the Confederates Parrott gun tore through the stern, puncturing a steam pipe and exploding the boilers. The Petrel was then surrendered and burned.

Casey Jones

One mile north of Vaughan, Mississippi, on the Pickens to Vaughan Road

A famous ballad, the folklore of American railroading, and a postage stamp commemorate the colorful and courageous engineer who was killed in a wreck here in 1900.



Civil Rights March

In front of Oak Grove A.M.E. Church, Hwy 16 East beyond Benton, Mississippi

In June 1966 a march for voting rights, en route from Yazoo City to Jackson, camped here while passing through Benton. The marchers, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were provided food and water by members of the Oak

Grove A.M.E. Church and by members of the Woods family, who owned property next to the church.

C.S.S. Arkansas

W. Broadway

Launched on July 14, 1862 from the Navy Yard in Yazoo City, the ironclad ram "Arkansas" commanded by Lt. Isaac N. Brown successfully engaged the combined Union fleets on the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers. She met the Union vessels "Queen of the West," "Tyler," and "Carondelet" on July 15, 1862. The "Arkansas" ran past thirty-nine Union vessels on her way to Vicksburg, helping to end the first exclusively naval siege of Vicksburg. The ironclad was scuttled north of Baton Rouge on Aug. 5, 1862, to prevent capture by Union forces.



Painting by Bob Coleman

Mississippi Historical Markers

Confederate Navy Yard

Hwy. 3 at Lake Yazoo

Established in 1862, the yard contained five saw and planing mills, machine shop, and carpenter and blacksmith shops. The ironclad ram "Arkansas" was launched here on July 14, 1862. Burned by direction of Lt. Isaac Brown, C.S.N., the yard was occupied on May 21, 1863, by Federal forces, who also seized the vessels "Mobile" and "Republic."

Fletcher's Chapel

Fletcher's Chapel Road

Organized in 1849, Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church was named for John Fletcher, a contemporary of John Wesley. The original church, built in 1856 on four acres of land donated by M. C. Cheatham during the pastorate of Francis M Featherston, was the site of Civil War skirmishing. The wooden structure was replaced in 1965, with much of the old lumber used in the new parsonage. The adjacent cemetery was established in 1863 and was later expanded.

Mississippi's First High School Football Game

In front of Woolfolk Middle School, Yazoo City

On Dec. 9, 1905 the state's first organized high school football game took place between Winona and Yazoo City high schools on what was known as the Delta League baseball park grounds. Yazoo City, coached by H.M. Ivy, scored the only touchdown of the game against Coach Arthur Howze's Winona High School team. Yazoo City missed the extra point attempt, resulting in a 5-0 score.

The Oakes House

In front of Oakes African-American Cultural Center 208 S. Monroe St., Yazoo City

This home was built in stages 1866-1910 by John and Mary Oakes, free blacks who had moved to Yazoo City by the late 1850s, and by their first son, Augustus J. Oakes, an educator and builder, who had established the Oakes Lumber Yard by 1900. The Oakes House was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.



Mississippi Historical Markers

St. Francis Mission School

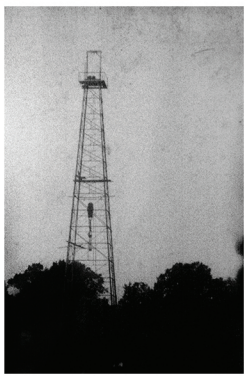
735 E. Powell St., Yazoo City, in front of the High School

Established by the Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee and Father Peter DeBoer, SVD, to minister to the African American children of Yazoo City, the school opened in Sept. 1940 with 80 children enrolled. The high school held its first and last graduation in 1947 and 1969 respectively and closed in 1970. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church was dedicated in 1942, joining St. Francis School. The church was designed by Jackson architect James P. Canizaro. This location had been a rugged bluff where Confederate cannons had guarded the Yazoo River.

Starling –Wilburn House

1461 Bell Road

Historically known as the Mosely-Woods house, this house was built ca. 1860 and purchased by William Mosely in 1880. It is one of the oldest African American residences continuously owned by the same family in the Yazoo City area. This house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



Tinsley Oil Field

On Hwy. 49 at Little Yazoo, 5 miles east of Tinsley Oil Field

Oil was first discovered in Mississippi just west of here on Sept. 5, 1939. Tinsley was the first oil field east of the Mississippi River in the Gulf Coast region. The discovery of oil at Tinsley Field in Yazoo County marked the beginning of commercial production of petroleum products in Mississippi. During its first 50 years, 220,000,000 barrels of oil were produced.

Town Creek

At the corner of Broadway and Custer St.

Town Creek, one of Yazoo City's earliest residential areas, is located within Town Center National Register Historic District, noted for the uniformly constructed buildings in the business district.

Yazoo Expedition

In front of the Yazoo City Police Dept., Mike Espy Drive

Early in 1864, a Union task force under the command of Col. James H. Coats occupied Yazoo City. The garrison included African American troops of the 1st Mississippi Cav. and 8th Louisiana Inf. (African Descent). Attacked by Confederates on March 5, the Federals were engaged on the Benton Road and in the main streets of Yazoo City.

Historic Sites & Events

The Bull Homestead and Cemetery Hwy. 16 near the Big Black River

The Bull Homestead consists of an early vernacular hall-and-parlor galleried cottage, built circa 1835 and enlarged about 1848, several adjacent outbuildings and barns, and a family cemetery. Situated on a knoll, the house faces north and is surrounded by large magnolia trees. This house and farmstead, dating from the settlement period of Yazoo County, has remained in the same family for five generations. The house is remarkably well preserved and a rare survivor of this type of architecture in central Mississippi. The Bull Cemetery is one of the earliest in eastern Yazoo County.



Dalton House

214 N. Monroe St., Yazoo City

Possibly the oldest remaining house in Yazoo City, the Dalton House is much altered in its present form. This house is recorded as having been sold with the property in 1837. The windows and the siding of the present structure are replacements of around 1900, but two original windows with blinds

remain, relocated to the attic gables. The in-set porch probably had rectangular section box columns, at some time replaced by the present turned-Victorian posts.

Stubblefield Plantation Black Jack Rd.

The Stubblefield Plantation house was built circa 1872 by Simon P. Stubblefield. The story goes that he returned from the Civil War wounded but made a crop and set about building the house. The actual planning and work was done by "Old Mory," an ex-slave who had built many of the homes in the area. Still the original house in many respects, Stubblefield features grand double entry doors with sidelights and six towering boxed columns supporting the front of the house. It is the third residence to occupy the land patented to William Henry Stubblefield, a pioneer settler of Yazoo County, in 1832 on original land grants signed by Andrew Jackson.



Historic Sites & Events



Home Place

Midway community

For at least five generations, the Swayze Home Place has been farmed by the same family. Richard Swayze received an original land grant in 1832. His first home still stands and is used as a tool shed today. The present home was built in the 1850s. This farm has been recognized nationally for

its conservation practices.

Mechanicsburg, MS

This former village was located south of Yazoo City on Hwy 433. Mechanicsburg got its name because of a small farm tool manufacturer's location. There was also a tannery in the area. During the Federal Army's campaign to capture Vicksburg in the spring and summer of 1863, Mechanicsburg's citizens were subjected to several raids by Union forces. There were no military installations here, rather the raids often involved the collection of foodstuffs for the Union in and around Vicksburg. Mechanicsburg was destroyed during the war but oddly came back to life and business activity resumed only to totally disappear in the era before World War II.

No Mistake Plantation Near Satartia on Hwy. 3

No Mistake was established in 1833 by John William N. A. Smith. He wrote his brothers about the land and they advised that "we would make no mistake buying that land." The exterior of the one-and-a-half story cottage has a sloping dormered roof supported by eight columns on the broad veranda. This farm became known for its gardens and became a bed and breakfast in the 1990s. Today it is Emmaus Retreat Center.



P-Line House (Kinkead Plantation)

On the banks of the Yazoo River, about 11 miles from Yazoo City

Built in 1849 by architect James Galtney, this Greek Revival farmhouse has been in the Dent/Kinkead family for seven succeeding generations. The house became known as the P-Line House because it served as headquarters for the Parisot steamboat line, owned by Sherman Parisot and James Dent. The P-Line House is a true four-room, center hall home with a dog-trot hallway which opens to the Yazoo River. A full-front gallery is supported by six, square Doric columns. Originally the house was a full two-story building but a storm wrecked the top and it was built back with dormer windows just as it is today.

Historic Sites & Events

Payne-Seward House 118 Grand Ave.

This Victorian home in the Queen Anne Style was designed by Elijah E. Myers, a leading proponent of public architecture and known as the greatest builder of state capitols in the latter half of the 19th century. A. M. Payne, the son of the owner of Koal-uns-a, a plantation overlooking the Yazoo River, built this house in 1891.



The Ponds

Hwy. 16 at Sunny Lane Rd.

This location in Yazoo County near Benton was the scene of several Civil War skirmishes in 1864 and 1865.

Also, during an offensive against Yazoo City and other operations on the Yazoo River in March, 1864, the West Tennessee Brigade of the Confederate Army camped at the Ponds.

Riot at the Dover Crossroads, 1869

Dover, Mississippi

The Reconstruction Era from about 1866 to the election of 1876 was a violent period in the South following the Civil War. Major Gibbs, owner of Woodbine Plantation in Bentonia, was the leader of the Democrats, while A. T. Morgan, Sheriff and Tax Collector of Yazoo County, was the Republican carpetbag leader. Morgan is best remembered for his book YAZOO: ON THE PICKET LINE OF FREEDOM which gave us the best account of Reconstruction in Yazoo County. Major Gibbs suggested to Morgan a public debate be held between the two foes for discussing the issues of the day. The debate was to be held in 1869 at the Dover Crossroads. The public attended in large numbers: some 500 supporters of Morgan and 40-50 there for Gibbs. A riot broke out but amazingly there was only one fatality but many were injured. After 1869 the political and military activities burgeoned into full bloom. The violence continued until election day in Mississippi, 1876.

Sinking of the Baron DeKalb

Lake Yazoo (formerly a part of the Yazoo River)

An historic event occurred on July 12, 1863, when one of the first underwater mines was used to sink the Union ironclad, the USS Baron DeKalb, which was on its way to attack Yazoo City. It still rests on the bottom of the Yazoo River just south of town.

Historic Sites & Events

Skirmish at Concord Church, Dec. 1, 1864

Concord Church Rd., near Little Yazoo

As part of the Vicksburg Campaign, Union soldiers had been raiding throughout eastern Yazoo County in late 1864.

Heading back toward Vicksburg, the Federals reached the area of Concord Church where they found the Confederates had fortified the road, just a short distance from the church building. Charging the Rebels, twenty Union soldiers were left dead on the field and some twenty-six of their men captured. The Rebels lost only one man and six captured.

With only five months left, the Civil War was coming to an end and the "Battle of Concord Road" was one of the last major actions.

Triangle Cultural Center 332 N. Main St., Yazoo City

This building, Yazoo's Main Street School from the time it was built in early 1904, was purchased in 1977 by the Yazoo Library Association through the civic and monetary efforts of citizens and businesses of Yazoo. It now be-



longs to the city of Yazoo City.

The Main Street front is notable for its monumental portico of gigantic modified Ionic columns. The Sam Olden Yazoo Historical Society Museum, the Yazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau, its theater, its displays and its history make it an educational and cultural center for local citizens and for tourists.

Wash Rose Building 431 S. Main St., Yazoo City

Wash Rose, a former slave, came to Yazoo City from South Carolina in 1866 and started a blacksmith shop in this two-story brick building, circa 1870. With its heavy, tall arched and shaped parapet

and denticulated cornice, this is one of the oldest remaining commercial buildings in Yazoo City, having survived the Fire of 1904.

Historic Sites & Events

Wilson-Gilruth House 326 E. Madison St., Yazoo City

The largest surviving house of the pre-Civil War period in Yazoo City, the Wilson-Gilruth House was probably built soon after the site was purchased in 1846. The front of the house comprises two levels of porches with rectangular section columns and turned balustrades. The original Greek

Revival character is somewhat masked by decorative wooden icicles inserted between the columns, probably about 1881. However, many of the architectural details from the 1846 construction remain intact. It is believed that the house was pre-cut and shipped down from Cincinnati, Ohio. In the 1990s, a screened porch addition earned a “most sympathetic addition” award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Woodbine Hwy. 433, 2 miles west of Bentonla

Built in 1841, this antebellum house has been completely restored to its original splendor. Woodbine was built by John and Louraine Johnson and named for the profusion of Virginia creeper that grows in the surrounding

woods. This impressive house is set far back on a rise in a beautiful woodland. Woodbine Plantation was home to famed bluesman Nehemiah “Skip” James.

Yazoo County Courthouse Corner of Broadway and Washington St.

A three story, hip roof, stuccoed brick structure, the current county courthouse was completed in 1872. This building replaced an 1849 Greek Revival structure designed by William Nichols, the architect of the Old Capitol Building and the Governor’s Mansion. That building was burned in 1864 by Union soldiers. An octagonal cupola housing the town clock is a notable feature of this Beaux Arts Classical building.

Other Yazoo Treasures



Bell Road was once an Indian trail. This sunken roadway later served ox-drawn carts. The road, still in use, is so narrow only one vehicle can pass through at a time. At one time a bell was located at both ends to warn that someone was entering and so it became known as Bell Road.



Black Jack Church, near Deasonville, was founded by early settlers after the Choctaw Indians ceded their lands at Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. It was organized in 1843. The cemetery, with graves dating back to 1858, is at the site of the original church building. The present church was built across the road in 1924.

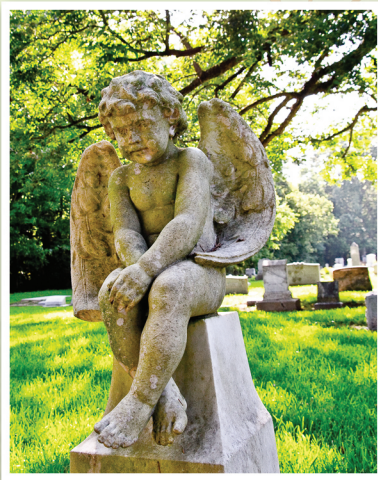
Indian Mounds, located near **Holly Bluff**, have been extensively explored and many artifacts have found their way into local and university museums.



The President slept here—the former Owen Cooper home located on Grand Ave. in Yazoo City is where President Jimmy Carter was a guest during one of his grassroots Town Meetings. Owen Cooper was president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation.

Other Yazoo Treasures

Afro-American Sons & Daughters Hospital, founded by Thomas Hudleston and located at the corner of 8th St. and Webster Ave. in Yazoo City, is a one-story brick structure and was constructed in 1928. It was the state's first hospital owned and operated by and for African Americans. The Afro-American Sons and Daughters Foundation is seeking funds to restore it to house a museum, healthcare hall of fame and community center.

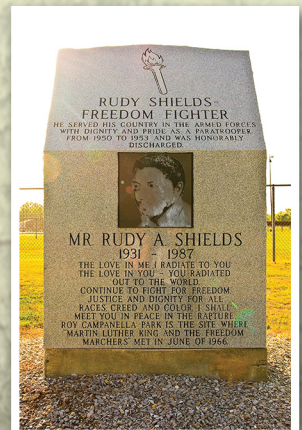


Glenwood Cemetery, located in Yazoo City, dates back to at least 1856. A stone marker notes the cemetery property was given to the city by Capt. John Willis and his wife Annie. A simple marker is placed before a large plot near the creek where the bodies of many Confederate soldiers are buried. An early newspaper article says they died in the Civil War hospital located on South Main Street. Located not far from the fountain in Glenwood is a grave surrounded by chain links. This is known as "The Witch's Grave." The legend of the Witch that burned Yazoo City in 1904 became famous in a book

written by Willie Morris. Morris' grave is located 13 steps south of the Witch's grave.

The Rudy Shields Memorial, located at Campanella Park at the corner of 7th and Martin Luther King Drive, in Yazoo City, honors the civil rights activist responsible for over 30 boycotts in the state, including one in Yazoo City. He was also active in voter registration. Shields is buried in the New Hope Church Cemetery in Benton.

The Deasonville Archaeological Site is named for a prehistoric Indian phase of the Baytown Period (300-700 A.D.). It is believed that the Deasonville was a hill culture with its prehistoric peoples making periodic visits to the Yazoo bottoms for shell-fishing.



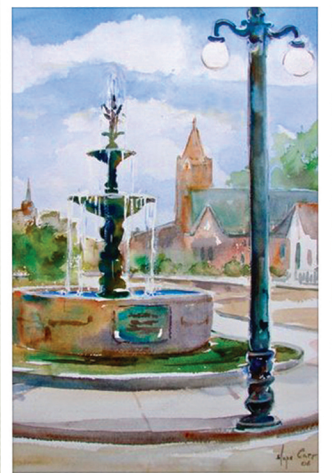
Other Yazoo Treasures



The Pugh-Blundell House, at 333 E. Powell St., Yazoo City, is a fine raised cottage in the Greek Revival style, probably erected shortly after the property was acquired in 1849. Square columns with applied lattice mold ornamentation support the inset porch roof with a full basement at the ground level, masked somewhat by a

partial fill terrace at the front lawn. Monumental two-panel, Greek Revival doors open directly into double parlors across the front that retain their original mantel pieces.

Crump Fountain, at the corner of Main and Washington St. in Yazoo City, honors George Crump whose estate provided funding for school purposes. At the base of the cast iron fountain, a bronze tablet acknowledges the gift of Crump and the services of Mr. E. Drenning in securing it.



Original art by Hope Carr.



Confederate Monument, located on the Triangle Grounds in Yazoo City, is 24 feet tall on a base and pedestal of granite with bronze figures featuring a Confederate soldier and a woman holding a flag. The unveiling took place in 1909 during a daylong celebration and parade. This memorial is erected to perpetuate the memory of the noble courage and self-sacrificing devotion of the women of the Confederacy.

Other Yazoo Treasures

Big John Hart House, on Castle Chapel Road, was originally located in Hart-town but moved to its current location. Built by Big John Hart in 1843, the house represents a typical antebellum vernacular Greek Revival planter's cottage. A distinctive feature of the house is its original trompe l'oeil decorative wall paintings that have been preserved in their entirety.



Quekemeyer House on North Washington St. in Yazoo City is a one-story hip roof frame house which was the home of the Quekemeyer family who came to live here after the Fire of 1904 destroyed their earlier home. Major John George Quekemeyer graduated from the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, in 1906. He was personal Aide-de-Camp to General Pershing and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Appointed Commandant at West Point, Quekemeyer died before he could take command.



The Hollies is an old but elegant cottage dating back to the days when Yazoo City was named Manchester. The arrangement of the front, with a pediment over the three central bays of an inset porch and square staged columns with graceful brackets, achieves a certain monumentality. French doors across the

front are a 20th century alteration. The house was built of sturdy cypress, wooden pegs, and square nails by Dr. Washington Dorsey, one of the city's first physicians. Records show that the land on which the house was built was divided into lots in 1830, when the original settlement of Haines Bluff on the river bank branched out into the city of Manchester. At that time Polly Johnston sold 800 acres, including the two lots on which the house is located. Four years later Dr. Dorsey bought one of the two lots and built the house that now stands, making its 1834 construction date one of the earliest in Yazoo City.

Mississippi Blues Trail in Yazoo

Mississippi Blues Trail markers honor over 100 historic sites and individuals related to blues music in Mississippi. Bentonia is recognized by blues fans around the world for the unique style of music that originated there.



Blue Front Café

The Blue Front Café is an historic old juke joint made of cinder block in Bentonia, MS, which has played an important role in the development of the blues in Mississippi. Located in the southern part of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, field hands from surrounding cotton plantations gathered at the Blue Front Café for relaxation and entertainment. This is the birthplace of a blues style known as the "Bentonia Blues" and is considered the oldest active juke joint in the state.

Jack Owens

Owens lived his entire life in Bentonia but made several recordings and became quite famous late in life. He won the W. C. Handy Award and often performed for visitors on the front porch of his farmhouse. One of his most unique performances was a 1995 Levi's jeans commercial performed at the Blue Front Café.



Skip James

James grew up in Bentonia and learned the Bentonia Blues from Henry Stuckey. He became a master Blues guitarist, renowned for his fingerpicking, and became world famous and toured worldwide. First recorded in 1931, James is known for songs such as "Hard Time Killing Floor Blues," "Devil Got My Woman," and "I'm So Glad."

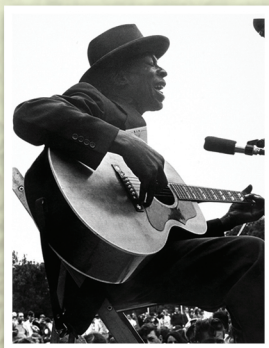


Photo by Dick Waterman

"Gatemouth" Moore

Rev. Dwight Arnold "Gatemouth" Moore is recognized for some of his blues compositions - "Did You Ever Love A Woman", "I Ain't Mad at You, Pretty Baby," "Somebody's Got To Go." Blues greats such as B.B. King, Rufus Thomas, and Jimmy Witherspoon also recorded some of his tunes. In 1930, Moore moved from Memphis to Kansas City, where he worked with several jazz bands during the 30s and 40s. Moore became the first bluesman to go from Beale Street to Broadway, and was honored with a music note on Beale Street in Memphis. Moore retired to Yazoo City many years before his death in 2004. He was honored by a resolution from the Mississippi state legislature, commending him for his illustrious career in blues and gospel.





Yazoo Historical Society

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This project is funded by the



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Yazoo's Top Historic Sites and Events



"A LIST OF NEEDED MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL MARKERS FOR YAZOO COUNTY"

1. Concord Church Civil War Skirmish
2. U. S. Senator John Sharp Williams and Cedar Grove Plantation
3. Yazoo City Streetcars
4. Sinking of the Baron DeKalb by Underwater Mine in the Yazoo River
5. Manchester/Yazoo City
6. Holly Bluff Indian Mounds
7. Yazoo County Courthouse
8. 1904 Fire
9. 1st Boy Scout Troop in Mississippi
10. Yazoo Indians
11. St. Clara Convent and School
12. Civil War Redoubt at top of Broadway
13. Wash Rose Blacksmith Shop
14. George Quekemeyer House on Washington St.
15. Flood of 1927

2010

YAZOO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI