



# LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

Volume XVIII, Issue 3

## Special points of interest:

- Friends of the Library 2023 Sponsors (Pages 1 & 2)
- Summer Library Program is Underway! (Page 3)
- We Have Good Book Recommendations! (Page 3)

## The History of Library Service in Bolivar County

Library service in Bolivar County began when the Madame Hodnett Chapter of DAR created a public library in Cleveland in 1917. Having taken responsibility for the county’s library program in 1934, the Supervisors appointed Mrs. Lorene Goza as director of library services for West Bolivar County and Mrs. J. T. Robbins for East Bolivar County. Mrs. Goza was later appointed WPA District Director of Library Service for Bolivar, Coahoma, and Washington Counties.

On November 5, 1958, the Supervisors created the county-wide Bolivar County Library System and voted a half mil tax for its support. Requests for branches in Merigold, Shaw, Shelby, Rosedale, Gunnison, Mound Bayou, and Cleveland were received with other towns expressing a preference for regular bookmobile service. The first Board of Trustees were: Mrs. M. A. Bell, George Rodgers, Mrs. Jerome Lamensdorf, J. C. Box, and Mrs. Raynold Chiz.

In January 1959, the Library System borrowed a bookmobile from the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) and began bookmobile service. On April 3, 1961, the library purchased its own bookmobile, a 1960 Ford manufactured by Gerstenslager Company. Bobby Outlaw was the first Bookmobile Librarian until succeeded by Ira K. Harris in the fall of 1963. Future director Ronnie Wise started out as Bookmobile Librarian in 1976. Bookmobile service ended in 1982.



Shown here from left to right are LePoint Smith, Lura Currier (from the MS Library Commission), 2 unknowns, at the first library in the new Bolivar County Library System in 1958. It was on North Street near the old Chat and Chew.

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## Friends of the Library 2023 Sponsors

Thank you to all of our 2023 Sponsors for their generous support of the library system.

### Nobel

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### Pulitzer

Bucky & Maureen Brooks

Carol Tatum

### Pen/Faulkner

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### Newbery

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Dr. & Mrs. David Walt

# LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

## Friends of the Library 2023 Sponsors—Continued



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### Friends

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 Mr. & Mrs. John Edwin Hobbs, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Levingston

*That perfect tranquility of life, which is nowhere to be found but in retreat, a faithful friend and a good library.*  
 ~Aphra Behn

## Calendar

June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th—**STEM & MakerSpace Activities** from 3:45-4:45 p.m.—Open to Public at Robinson-Carpenter

June 21st, July 19th, September 20th—**Library Commission Meeting @ 10 a.m.**—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

June 21st, July 19th, September 20th—**Board of Trustees Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to

the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

**NOTE: No Boards in August**

**Summer Library Programs** at See BCLS Facebook Events for List of Programs in Cleveland, Shelby & Merigold in the Month of June

July 7th & 8th—**Friends' Book Sale** from 9-4 (F) & 9:30-12:30 (Sat.)—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter

August 8th, October 4th—**Seniors Day Out!** @ 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.—Open to the Public at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library

**Pre-School Storyhour has been suspended for the summer, but will return in September. Watch for flyers in library and on Facebook.**

## MS Author Hezekiah Watkins Visits Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library

BCLS was pleased to welcome Mississippi author, Freedom Rider, and Civil Rights leader Hezekiah Watkins to the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library for our Evening With Books program on May 18th. Mr. Watkins talked about his important book *Pushing Forward: the Story of Mississippi's Youngest Freedom Rider* (co-written with Andrea Ledwell), his experience being arrested as a Freedom Rider and sent to Parchman, and his subsequent work as a Civil Rights leader. A book signing and reception followed Mr. Watkins' presentation.



## Summer Library Program So Far...

The Summer Library Program got off to a great start with a good crowd for the special program by Comedy Juggler Wink Danenberg on June 5th at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland!

Wink dazzled the audience with his amazing juggling, but the show really got exciting when the audience was invited to participate!



Below: Thank you for our wonderful volunteers who helped set up the Founders Room.

## Looking for a Good Book?

**Rachel:** *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. This book follows Richard Pape, a Californian who transfers to a prestigious New England college, gets involved with a set of affluent students studying Greek classics, and gets into a lot more than he bargained for. The following quote pretty much sums up the entire book: "Does such a thing as 'the fatal flaw,' that showy dark crack running down the middle of a life, exist outside literature? I used to think it didn't. Now I think it does. And I think that mine is this: a morbid longing for the picturesque at all costs." This was my first Donna Tartt novel, and I came to it knowing absolutely nothing except that *The Secret History* is one of the quintessential dark academia novels. I love dark academia, but literary/contemporary mystery/thriller is not my normal genre, so it took a little while for me to get into the story, but once I did get into it, I loved it. I've heard this book described as

goofy, and honestly, it kind of is—but I still highly recommend *The Secret History*. (Fiction—Print)

**Martha:** *Between Two Strangers* by Kate White. Skylar Moore, a struggling collage artist, receives an unexpected call from a lawyer who wants to meet with her about an inheritance! She is shocked to find out the person who left her the inheritance is someone she doesn't know. After realizing that it is indeed real, the mystery begins! She finally figures out the person is someone she had a one-night stand with over 10 years ago—she never even knew his last name! Now she has to figure out—why her? There is also another mystery in this story that Skylar is trying to solve—what happened to her younger sister? This is a riveting book that will keep you up late turning the pages. A thoroughly entertaining read. This is suspense, not a romance novel! (Fiction—Print)

**Tamara:** *Elvis and the Dearly Departed (A Southern Cousins Mystery)* by Peggy Webb. This, the first in the cozy mystery series, introduces the zany cousins Callie, the narrator, and Lovie. Both Lovie and Callie work at the Eternal Rest Funeral Home that is run by Lovie's dad (Callie's dependable Uncle Charlie), with the help of Callie's mom (Lovie's beloved Aunt Ruth Nell). When she's not working as a make-up artist at the funeral home, Callie runs her own beauty shop. Things get a little dicey when the family of a recently deceased "guest" moves into Callie's home until the funeral, which is complicated by missing heirs that must be present at the reading of the will... Oh, and the fact that the "guest" goes missing from his casket! Callie and Lovie are soon on the trail of the missing corpse, which they are determined to find before the family finds out its missing. Thrown in the mix is Elvis, Callie's basset

*I go into my library  
and all history  
unrolls before me.*  
~Alexander Smith

hound, who thinks he's—you guessed it—the King himself, and Callie's almost ex, the mysterious Jack, whom Callie is having trouble moving on from—especially when Jack won't let her forget him. A fun and, yes, more than a little silly, romp—it had me laughing out loud. (Fiction—Print)



**Bolivar County Library System**

104 South Leflore Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9a.m.—6p.m.  
Friday 9a.m.—5p.m.  
Saturday 9a.m.—1p.m.  
Sunday Closed

All Branches Are Closed on All Legal Holidays (Except Columbus Day) and on Good Friday; note that If Friday is a Legal Holiday, the Saturday Following It Will Be Closed, Too.

Phone: (622) 843-2774  
Fax: (662) 843-4701  
Email: [info@bolivar.lib.ms.us](mailto:info@bolivar.lib.ms.us)

Individual phone numbers and email addresses may be found at our website.

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## Some Bolivar County History. . .

### “Rosedale by Florence Sillers Ogden”

*The last excerpt left off at the end of the paragraph ending: “Mr. Wilson was elected and has held the office up to the present time, except for a short time interim when his son, J. L. Wilson, Jr., served.”*

“1918: J.L. Wilson, mayor; E.R. Chaney, A.R. Shattuck, F.M. Scott, P.H. Joest, aldermen; Walter Silers [sic], Jr., attorney; Eva Joest, clerk; R.A. Linnell, marshal [sic]. E.R. Chaney served as mayor pro tem while J.L. Wilson was in Europe with the American Red Cross during World War I.

1920: J.L. Wilson, mayor; E.R. Chaney, A.R. Shattuck, W.F. Wall, F.M. Scott, aldermen; Walter Sillers, Jr., attorney; Pattie B. Yerger, clerk; C.E. Crawford, marshal.

1922: E.R. Chaney, A.R. Shattuck, J.E. Dattel, aldermen; John L. Pearson, attorney; Louise Chaney, clerk; C.E. Crawford, marshal.

1925-1936: The boards were the same except for the following changes: Mrs. Nellie B. Lewis, clerk, 1928. On the death of John L. Pearson, in 1928, W.C. Roberts was made attorney. E.R. Chaney died in 1931 and C.B. Black succeeded him. In 1932 F.G. Paden succeeded A.R. Shattuck, who had resigned. L.C. Brown and H. Schear succeeded J. E. Dattel and C.B. Black in 1933.

1937: F.G. Paden, H. Schear, L.P. Joest, Dr. H.D. Vardaman, aldermen; Mrs. Doris D. Goza, clerk.

1938: Mrs. Lenoir M. Priestley, clerk.

1939-1940: J.L. Wilson, Jr., was elected and served as mayor for that year. He resigned and J.L. Wilson, Sr., succeeded to the office. The board and other officials remained the same except for the following changes: Mrs. Mary B. Chaney, clerk, 1940; Walter Sillers, attorney, 1942, when W. C. Roberts entered the armed forces. Dr. Vardman [sic] died in 1944 and Leroy Jones succeeded him. (Footnote: Leroy Jones is the grandson of Colonel Jones and the nephew of O.G. McGuire, Rosedale’s first mayor.)

1945: J.L. Wilson, mayor; L.P. Joest, H. Schear, F.C. Paden, Leroy Jones, aldermen; Mrs. Mary B. Chaney, clerk; Charlie Crawford and Alex Yerger, marshals; Walter Sillers, attorney.”

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* (DAR, 1948) by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al.

**This excerpt will continue with Rosedale’s Postmasters in the next newsletter.**

## Bolivar County Library System Information

### Board of Trustees:

- Ms. Katherine Crump, Chair
- Ms. Anita Reginelli, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Nathaniel Grammer
- Ms. Lynn Shurden
- Ms. Lucille Holmes

### Cleveland Commission:

- Ms. Jurist Green, Chair
- Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Carol Tatum
- Ms. Heather Walker
- Ms. Corrinne Hegwood

### Library Staff:

- Emily Bell, Director
- Melissa Robinson, Office Manager
- Melanie Free, Systems Administrator
- Tamara Blackwell, Reference / Newsletter Editor
- Martha Lawson, Rosedale
- Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs
- Marie Shorter, Shelby
- Kevin Reed, Circulation
- Valency Rogers, Technical Svcs
- Anna Sims, Circulation
- Samantha Williams, Circulation
- Rachel Guerry, Circulation
- Yolanda Spearman, Merigold
- Linda Ricketts, Circulation
- Clara, Housekeeping
- Donny, Housekeeping

### Rosedale Public Library

(662) 759-6332/Fax: 734-0825  
702 Front Street  
Hours: M & W 10a.m.-5p.m.  
T & Th 1p.m.—5p.m.  
F 12p.m.—5p.m.  
Martha Lawson, Librarian

### Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Public Library (Shelby)

(662) 398-7748/Fax: 775-7002  
211 Third Street  
Hours M & W 10a.m.—5p.m.  
F 12p.m.—5p.m.  
Marie Shorter, Librarian

### Thelma Rayner Memorial Library (Merigold)

(662) 748-2105/Fax 748-2596  
201 Front Street  
Hours: T & Th—1p.m.-5p.m.  
Yolanda Spearman, Librarian