

**Special points of interest:**

- Why is Digital Literacy Important (Page 2)
- What is the Endowment Fund? (Page 3)
- The Final Installment of Walter Sillers' account in the "Some Bolivar County History..." Column (Page 4)

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**Bolivar Book Club Continues**

Good news! The Bolivar Book Club began as the adult Summer Library Program in June, but due to its popularity, it will continue as a monthly program.

As you might recall, the Bolivar Book Club first met in June to discuss Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, in July to discuss Matthew Guinn's *The Resurrectionist*, and then in August to read John Kennedy Toole's Pulitzer Prizing winning *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

The program is open to all adults, aged 18 and up and is free of charge. Each month a new book is selected by Mike Emerson, the Discussion Leader, and is usually announced at the end of each program and is available for check-out that day. However, if you are new to the Bolivar Book Club, just stop the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library to sign-up and

check-out a book at anytime during the month.

Everyone is invited to read each month's selection and attend the meeting, which is the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. If you are shy about contributing to the discussion, don't worry—you won't be "called upon." If you want to contribute to the discussion, that's great, but if you feel more comfortable listening to the discussion, that's great, too.

The next book for the program is *Ever is a Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past*, a memoir by W. Ralph Eubanks. Eubanks was born and raised in Mount Olive, Mississippi, and now lives in Washington, D.C., where he is

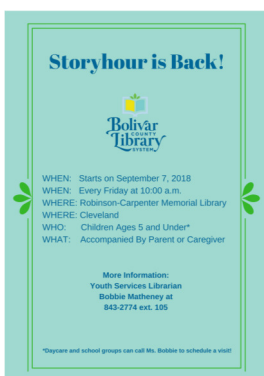


the Director of Publishing at the Library of Congress.

The Northwest Mississippi Journal said of the book, "Ralph Eubanks gives us a rare insight into growing up in a small segregated Mississippi town during the 1950s and 1960s."

Join us September 13th at 4 p.m. at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland and discuss W. Ralph Eubanks' critically acclaimed book. Admission and soft drinks are free.

**Preschool Storyhour Returns**



School is back in session and that means... Preschool Storyhour resumes! The first Preschool Storyhour is on September 7th at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland from 10-11 a.m. and unless otherwise noted, every Friday thereafter at the same time.

This free program is designed for children ages 5 and younger, but older children are welcome. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. If parents and/or caregivers have any questions or concerns, please call the Youth Services Librarian, Bobbie Matheny, at 662.843.2774 x105.

Please note the program is for individual children, not organized groups. Daycare and school groups may call Mrs. Bobbie at the above number to schedule a visit.

## The Mississippi Room Has Great Resources!



Have you visited the Mississippi Room in Cleveland? It houses our historical and genealogical collections with a special emphasis on Bolivar County and (as you probably guessed) Mississippi.

Most people know we have the *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* compiled by Florence Warfield Sillers and *Cleveland, a Centennial History, 1886-1986* by Linton Weeks. What they don't know is the wealth of information among the other offerings. Here is a very small sample of what's available:

*Early Mississippi Records: Bolivar County, Mississippi* (Vols. I, II, III) by Katherine Branton and Alice C. Wade. Abstracts of early courthouse records from 1836 to 1904.

The [Bolivar Commercial](#) newspaper from inception through (currently) 2005 on microfilm.

*The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and the Supplement* (69 volumes) by the U.S. War Department.

*History of Rosedale, Mississippi, 1876-1976* edited by Curt Lamar.

*The Final Rolls of Citizens and*

*Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory. and the Index -to the -Final Rolls* by the Dawes Commission.

*Bolivar County Post Offices, 1836-1965; Coahoma County Post Offices, 1836-1960; and Washington Post Offices, 1832-1960* by Broox Sledge.

We invite you explore all the wonderful resources available in the Mississippi Room.

Please note that materials in the Mississippi Room are non-circulating and may only be used in the Mississippi Room.

“A library could show you everything if you knew where to look.”

~Pat Conroy~

### Calendar

**Note: No September Saturday Storyhour program**

September 3rd—**Labor Day**—All Libraries CLOSED

August 31st, September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, October 5th & 12th—

**Friday Preschool Storyhour**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

September 13th—**Lunch With Books featuring John M. Floyd @ 12 Noon**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

September 13th—**Bolivar Book Club @ 4 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

September 19th—**Cleveland Commission @ 10:00 a.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

September 19th—**Board of Trustee Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

October 2nd—**Seniors Day Out! @ 10:00**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

October 6th, November 3rd—**Saturday Preschool Storyhour @ 11 a.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland.

October 8th—**Columbus Day**—Library System is OPEN

October 11th—**Lunch With Books featuring Charlie Spillers @ 12 Noon**—Cleveland

October 11th—**Bolivar Book Club @ 4 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

## Digital Literacy—A Necessary Set of Skills

Have you tried to apply for social security or unemployment benefits lately? If you have, then you know that you must now apply for these types of benefits (and most jobs!) online. Some states now even require you to register to vote online (luckily in Mississippi you still have a choice to do this in person—for the time being, anyway).

What if you don't know how to use a computer or don't know how to use one well? **Take online tutorials at the library!** From our website, hover over

“Services” on the main menu bar, then under “Digital Resources & Online Resource” on the left-hand side, click on “Digital Learning/Computer Classes.” Here you'll find some great computer training tutorial and videos:

—**DigitalLearn.org** offers self-paced tutorials on a variety of basic computers skills.

—**GCFLearnFree.org** and **GCFaprendelibre.org** includes more advanced classes on Microsoft Office, Facebook, and more.

—**EveryoneOn.org** also has a locator tool to find computer training classes.

—**ProjectEndeavor.org** offers tutorials for the deaf or hard of hearing (the tutorials also have audio, as well, though).

And don't forget we also have **LearningExpress Library** (access from our homepage). It has a Computer Skills Center with video courses, in addition to test prep, job skills, high school & adult core skills, etc.

Don't know where to begin? Just ask and we'll be happy to help you get started!

## The BCLS Endowment Fund

In November 1984, a group of concerned citizens joined together to organize the Bolivar County Library Endowment Fund for the purposes as stated in the Charter:

—To enhance the Bolivar County Library System by providing enrichment to its program.

—To develop and carry out projects to aid the Bolivar County Library System, but not to assume the responsibility of its capital, operating, and maintenance expenses.

—To serve as a medium through which members of the public can

contribute funds and property for use in aid of the above purposes.

The Charter of Incorporation by the State of Mississippi is dated December 14, 1984. In the beginning, funds were received from the Gift & Memorial Fund of the Cleveland Library Commission and the Friends of the Library. Additional gifts and memorials have been received.

Recent Endowment purchases include easy book shelving in the Children's Room and display furniture to display books and highlight the library's collections.

Endowment Officers are:

Priscilla Aguzzi, President  
Wilma Wilbanks, Vice-President  
James I. Tims, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mark Hargett  
Nan McGarrh

The Director of the BCLS serves as an ex-officio member.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:

Bolivar County Library  
Endowment Fund  
104 South Leflore Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732



“You want weapons?

We're in a library.

Books are the best  
weapon in the world.

This room's the  
greatest arsenal we

could have. Arm  
yourself!”

~Russell T. Davies~

(as “Doctor Who”  
from *Tooth and Claw*,  
Season 2)”

## Did You Know?

**If we don't have an item you want to check-out and you don't want to wait two weeks for ILL, you may have the option of checking out the item from another library?**

Yes, if you have a library card with us in good standing, you can ask for a “Dancing Rabbit” library card that you can then use to go to any library in the Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium and check out materials. Libraries include:

*Roberts-LaForge Library, DSU*  
*Carnegie Public Library of*  
*Clarksdale and Coahoma County*  
*Sunflower County Library System*  
*Washington County Library System*  
*Greenwood-Leflore Public Library*  
*System*

*Stanny Sanders Library, MDCC*  
*James Herbert White Lib., MVSU*  
*Dickerson-Johnson Library, CCC*

For a full listing of member libraries, go to our website. Want more details? Just ask us!

**You can access and read eBooks on more than one device on the same account?**

Yes, you may access the Magic Wall and check-out and read eBooks from up to five devices using the same account's login info. Note that you will still only be able to check-out three books at a time and you cannot open the same book simultaneously on more than one device, however. Questions? Give us a call.

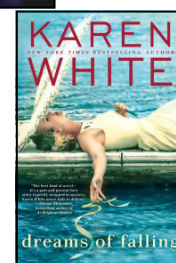
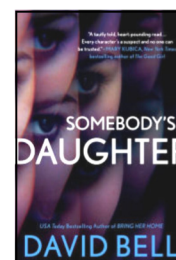
## Looking for a Good Book?

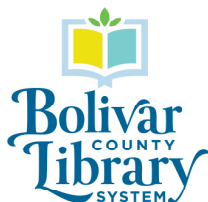
**Martha:** *Somebody's Daughter* by David Bell. As usual with David Bell, the book is full of twists and turns! A knock on the door surprises Michael and his wife, but Michael is even more surprised when his ex-wife tells him that a daughter he never knew of is missing! He feels compelled to help his ex-wife... so begins the mystery! Who is the man who shows up later and how does he

know Michael's ex-wife? What does Michael's mother and sister know? Another fast paced thriller that keeps you reading and guessing right up to the very end! I thoroughly enjoyed this and just wish he wrote more than 1 book a year. (Fiction—Print)

**Martha:** *Dreams of Falling* by Karen White. I loved this book!! When Larkin Lanier left her hometown for New York, she

vowed never to return. Then she gets the call that her mother has gone missing and that she needs to come home. Told from alternating points of view, the author seamlessly weaves the storylines of the lifelong friendship of CeeCee, Bitty, and Larkin's now-deceased grandmother Margaret in the 1950s with Larkin's story in 2010. Another great book by Karen White. (Fiction—Print)





## Some Bolivar County History..

“Incidents of the War in Bolivar County, As Experienced by a Ten-Year-Old Boy, and as Given by Him  
By Walter Sillers”—Continued

**Our last newsletter ended with the author detailing how his and other families lived during the war and finding unexploded shells after the war.**

“About this time, bandits, composed of men who saw the end was at hand, had deserted the Confederacy and were going west across the Napoleon trail. They had become so numerous that Montgomery's battalion of the Cameron company, of which my father was 1st lieutenant, was stationed in the Delta to protect those who were still living here from their deprivations [sic]. We had not seen my father for weeks, as this company was kept busy with these marauding bandits and raiding Federals. One day, my father's body servant, who attended him throughout the war, galloped up with the news, “The Yankees are coming!” The Negroes, with our help, drove the mules and horses to the cane and woods to save them from capture. This boy then told of my father's capture by the Federals. He had stopped by at the home of F. A. Montgomery, when it was suddenly surrounded and he was taken prisoner. My mother immediately went up to her sister's, Mrs. Montgomery, and learned that the Federals had taken my father immediately to the mouth of the White River, where they maintained a marine station and a reconcentrado camp for Negroes.

My brother and I accompanied our mother next day to the home of Colonel Lafayette Jones on the river just south of this marine station. Colonel Jones told us that a transport, under convoy of a gunboat, would land at this, the Rosedale Landing, the next day to take on some cotton that had been scrapped up, and he was sure the captain would allow my mother to see my father. The captain of this gunboat was very kind, knew of my father, and not only gave her a permit to see him, but gave her passage on his boat. My brother and I rode up to “Waxhaw,” the home of Mrs. John Kirk, to wait there for my mother's return. We saw a transport steaming north as we waited. About 4 P.M. a yawl landed my mother beside us. She was too late to see my father. He had been sent North, and we never saw him again. He was sent to Vicksburg for exchange in the spring of 1865, where he died. Weeks after, we heard a rumor of his death, and my uncle went to Vicksburg to ascertain the truth and to locate his grave, but failed. We never knew the particulars of his death, nor where he was buried. Such are the tragedies of war.”

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al (Spartanburg: SC: 1976 [1948])

**This concludes Walter Sillers' exciting story. Next month we'll feature Blanche Kelso Bruce, the first African-American sheriff of Bolivar County and later a U.S. Senator from Mississippi.**

### Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00—6:00  
Friday 9:00—5:00  
Saturday 9:00—1:00

Closed Sundays & All Legal Holidays

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.

“Like” us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lbcls](http://www.facebook.com/lbcls); you may also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:  
Phone: (662) 843-2774  
Email: [lshurden@gmail.com](mailto:lshurden@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

<http://bolivar.lib.ms.us>



## Bolivar County Library System Information:

### Board of Trustees

Ms. Natalie Peeler, Chair  
Ms. Rebecca Lewis, Vice Chair  
Mr. John Raymond Bassie, Secretary  
Mr. Nathaniel Grammer  
Ms. Maggie Crawford

### Cleveland Commission:

Ms. Jurist Green, Chair  
Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Weegie Walker, Secretary  
Ms. Carol Tatum  
Ms. Cheryl Line

### Library Staff:

Jennifer Wann, Director  
Sharon Williamson, Assistant Director  
Melanie Free, Systems Administrator  
Terrye Jackson, ILL / Special Services  
Tamara Blackwell, Reference Svcs / Newsletter Editor  
Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs  
Martha Lawson, Rosedale  
Marie Shorter, Shelby  
Evelyn Brown, Merigold / Circ.  
Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs  
Tina McGee, Benoit/Circulation  
Shelby Lee, Circulation  
Jelisa “Lisa” Hatcher, Circulation

Kevin Reed, Circulation  
Mike Emerson, Circulation  
Clara, Housekeeping

### Branch Information:

Benoit (662) 742-3112  
Hours M & Th 1—5  
Merigold (662) 748-2105 (ph) / (662) 748-2596 (fax)  
Hours M, T, W & Th 1—5  
Rosedale (662) 759-6332  
Hours M & W 10—5, T & Th 1—5, F 12—5  
Shelby (662) 398-7748  
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5