

Famous Mississippians

Actors/Actresses

Dana Andrews (1909-1992)—Covington County
Lacey Chabert (born 1982)—Purvis
Wyatt Emory Cooper (1927-1978) Broadway actor—Quitman
John Dye (born 1963)—Amory
Morgan Freeman (born 1937)—Greenwood
M. C. Gainey (born 1948), film/television actor—Jackson
Cynthia Geary (born 1965)—Jackson
Gary Grubbs (born 1949)—Amory
Beth Henley (born 1952), dramatist/actress—Jackson
Jim Henson (1936-1990), creator of The Muppets—Leland
Anthony Herrera (born 1944)—Wiggins
Eddie Hodges (born 1947), former child actor—Hattiesburg
Thelma Houston (born 1943), actress—Leland
James Earl Jones (born 1931)—Arkabutla
Robert Earl Jones (1910-2006)—Senatobia
Diane Ladd (born 1935)—Meridian
Tom Lester (born 1938)—Jackson
Gerald McRaney (born 1947)—Collins
Mary Ann Mobley (born 1939)—Brandon
Parker Posey (born 1968)—Laurel
Thalmus Rasulala (1939-1991)—Arkabutla
Beah Richards (1920-2000), stage/screen/tv actress—Vicksburg
Eric Roberts (born 1956)—Biloxi
Stella Stevens (born 1938)—Yazoo City
Tonea Stewart (born 1947)—Greenwood
Ray Walston (1914-2001)—Laurel
Sela Ward (born 1956)—Meridian
Oprah Winfrey (born 1954)—Kosciusko

Artists

James McConnell Anderson (1907-1998), potter/painter—Ocean Springs
Peter Anderson (1901-1984), potter—Ocean Springs
Walter Inglis Anderson (1903-1965), painter—Ocean Springs
Bill Beckwith, sculptor—Taylor
Marshall Bouldin III, portrait painter—Clarksdale
Andrew Bucci (born 1922), painter—Vicksburg
William Dunlap, painter—Webster County
Theora Hamblett (1895-1977), painter—Oxford
Ethel Wright Mohamed (1906-1992), stitchery artist—Belzoni
George E. Ohr (1857-1918), potter—Biloxi
Glennray Tutor (born 1950), painter—Oxford
Dick Waterman (born 1935), photographer/blues promoter—Oxford

Broadcast media personalities

Red Barber (1908-1992), sportscaster—Columbus
Campbell Brown (born 1968), CNN anchor—Natchez
Robin Roberts (born 1960), newscaster—Pass Christian
Tavis Smiley (born 1964), talk show host—Gulfport
Shepard Smith (born 1964), Fox News anchor—Holly Springs
Oprah Winfrey (born 1954), talk show host—Kosciusko

Comedians

Jerry Clower (1926-1998)—Liberty

Filmmakers

Charles Burnett (born 1944)—Vicksburg
John Fortenberry, film/television director—Jackson
Lawrence Gordon (born 1936), producer of Die Hard/other films—Yazoo City
Patrik-Ian Polk (born 1973)—Hattiesburg
Larry A. Thompson (born 1944), television/film producer—Clarksdale
Chuck Gordon—Belzoni

Musicians and performers

3 Doors Down, band—Escatawpa
Mose Allison (born 1927), jazz musician—Tallahatchie County
Steve Azar (born 1964), country singer—Greenville
Glen Ballard (born 1953), songwriter/record producer—Natchez
Lance Bass (born 1979), member of pop group 'N Sync—Laurel
Robert Belfour (born 1940), blues musician—Holly Springs
The Blackwood Brothers, gospel singers—Choctaw County
James Blackwood (1919-2002), one of The Blackwood Brothers—Choctaw County
Blind Melon, Alternative rock and jam band—Starkville
Blue Mountain, alternative country band—Oxford
Big Bill Broonzy (1898-1958), blues singer-songwriter and guitarist—Scott County
Jimmy Buffett (born 1946), multi-genre singer-songwriter—Pascagoula
R. L. Burnside (1926-2005), blues singer-songwriter—Harmontown
Jerry Butler (born 1939), soul singer/songwriter—Sunflower
Ace Cannon (born 1934), tenor/alto saxophonist—Grenada
The Chambers Brothers, soul music group—Lee County
Sam Chatmon (1897-1983), blues singer, brother of Bo Carter—Bolton
Hank Cochran (born 1935), country music singer/songwriter—Isola
Sam Cooke (1931-1964)—Clarksdale
James Cotton (born 1935), blues harmonica player/singer-songwriter—Tunica
Olu Dara (born 1941), jazz musician—Natchez
Paul Davis (1948-2008), singer-songwriter—Meridian
Bo Diddley (1928-2008), rock & roll/R&B singer-songwriter—McComb
Willie Dixon (191-1992), blues bassist/singer-ongwriter/record producer—Vicksburg
Lehman Engel (1910-1982), composer/conductor—Jackson
Charlie Feathers (193-1998)—Holly Springs
Five Blind Boys of Mississippi, gospel singers—Piney Woods
Steve Forbert (born 1955), pop music singer-songwriter—Meridian
Bobbie Gentry (born 1944), singer-songwriter—Greenwood
Mickey Gilley (born 1936), country singer/musician—Natchez

Caroline Herring, bluegrass musician—Canton
Faith Hill (born 1967), country/pop singer—Jackson
Milt Hinton (1910-2000), jazz double bassist—Vicksburg
John Lee Hooker (1917-2001), singer-songwriter/blues guitarist—Clarksdale
Son House (1902-1988), blues singer and guitarist—Riverton
Thelma Houston (born 1943), R&B singer-songwriter—Leland
Guy Hovis (born 1941), big band singer—Tupelo
Cary Hudson, lead singer and guitarist for alternative country band Blue Mountain—Sumrall
Mississippi John Hurt (c.1893-1966), country blues singer and guitarist—Teoc
Elmore James (1918-1963), blues guitarist and singer-songwriter—Richland
Skip James (1902-1969), Delta blues guitarist/pianist/singer-songwriter—Benton
Robert Johnson (1911-1938), blues and Delta blues musician—Hazlehurst
Junior Kimbrough (1930-1998), blues artist—Hudsonville
Albert King (1923-1992), blues guitarist and singer—Indianola
B.B. King (born 1925), blues guitarist and singer-songwriter—Itta Bena
Fred Knoblock (born 1953), country singer-songwriter—Jackson
Sonny Landreth (born 1951), blues musician and slide guitar player—Canton
Denise LaSalle (born 1939), urban contemporary and contemporary R&B singer-songwriter/record producer—Belzoni
Fred McDowell (1904-1972), blues singer and guitarist—Como
Little Milton (1934-2005), blues and soul vocalist and guitarist—Inverness
Mississippi Mass Choir, gospel choir—Jackson
Dorothy Moore (born 1947), pop/R&B/gospel singer—Jackson
Charlie Musselwhite (born 1944), blues-harp player and bandleader—Kosciusko
North Mississippi Allstars, blues-rock/jam band—Hernando
Brandy Norwood (born 1979), R&B singer-songwriter/record producer—McComb
Paul Overstreet (born 1955), country music singer-songwriter—Newton
Charley Patton (1891-1934), Delta-/Country-/Gospel blues musician—Edwards
Elvis Presley (1935-1977), multi-genre musician—Tupelo
Leontyne Price (born 1927), opera singer—Laurel
Charley Pride (born 1938), country music singer—Sledge
LeAnn Rimes (born 1982), country and pop singer—Pearl
Jimmie Rodgers (1897-1933), country singer—Meridian
David Ruffin (1941-1991), former lead singer of The Temptations—Whynot
Jimmy Ruffin (born 1939), soul and R&B singer—Collinsville
Bobby Rush (born 1940), blues and R&B musician/composer/singer—Jackson
Saving Abel, rock band—Corinth
Britney Spears (born 1981), pop singer—McComb
Roebuck "Pop" Staples (1914-2000), founder of The Staple Singers—Winona
William Grant Still (1895-1978), classical composer—Woodville
Marty Stuart (born 1958), country music singer—Philadelphia
Hubert Sumlin (born 1931), blues musician—Greenwood
James "Son" Thomas (1926-1993), blues musician—Leland
Rufus Thomas (1917-2001), R&B/funk/soul singer—Cayce
Ike Turner (1931-2007), multi-genre musician/record producer—Clarksdale
Conway Twitty (1933-1993), country singer-songwriter—Friars Point
Freddie Waits (1943-1989), hard bop and post-bop drummer—Jackson
Muddy Waters (1913-1983), Electric blues and Chicago blues musician—Rolling Fork
Jim Weatherly (born 1943), country and pop singer-songwriter—Pontotoc

Hayley Williams (born 1988), pop punk and alternative rock singer-songwriter—Meridian
Sonny Boy Williamson II (died 1965), blues harmonica player and singer-songwriter—Glendora
Al Wilson (1939-2008), singer and drummer—Meridian
Cassandra Wilson (born 1955), jazz singer-songwriter—Jackson
Mary Wilson (born 1944), singer and founding member of The Supremes—Greenville
Howlin' Wolf (1910-1976), blues singer/guitarist/harmonica player—West Point
Tammy Wynette (1942-1998), country music singer-songwriter—Tremont

Writers

Frederick Barthelme (born 1943)
Larry Brown (1951-2004)—Oxford
Craig Claiborne (1920-2000), food writer—Sunflower
Mart Crowley (born 1935), playwright—Vicksburg
David Herbert Donald (1920-2009), historian—Goodman
Ellen Douglas (Josephine Haxton) (born 1921), novelist—Greenville
John T. Edge, food writer—Oxford
William Faulkner (1897-1962), Nobel laureate—New Albany
Bill Fitzhugh (born 1957)—Jackson
Shelby Foote (1916-2005), historian and novelist—Greenville
Richard Ford (born 1944), Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and short story writer—Jackson
Ellen Gilchrist (born 1935), novelist/poet/short story writer—Vicksburg
John Grisham (born 1955), legal thrillers novelist—Southaven
Barry Hannah (born 1942), novelist and short story writer—Clinton
Charlaine Harris (born 1951), mystery author—Tunica
Thomas Harris (born 1940), author who created the character Hannibal Lecter—Rich
Beth Henley (born 1952), playwright and screenwriter—Jackson
Greg Iles (born 1960), novelist—Natchez
Willie Morris (1934-1999), author, editor—Jackson
Lewis Nordan (born 1939)—Forest
Walker Percy (1916-1990)—Greenville
William Alexander Percy (1885-1942)—Greenville
William Raspberry (born 1935), public affairs columnist—Okolona
Kevin Sessums (born 1956), magazine editor—Forest
Elizabeth Spencer (born 1921), novelist—Carrollton
Kathryn Stockett, novelist—Jackson
Donna Tartt (born 1963), novelist—Greenwood
Clifton Taulbert (born 1945), author and speaker—Glen Allan
Natasha Trethewey (born 1966), 2007 Pulitzer Prize poet—Gulfport
Eudora Welty (1909-2001), novelist, short story writer—Jackson
Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)—Columbus
Richard Nathaniel Wright (1908-1960)—Roxie
Stark Young (1881-1963), playwright/novelist/literary critic/essayist—Como