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RIPLEY MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

Ripley Main Street Association hosts:

Faulkner Heritage Festival, November 2-3, 2012

An exploration of William Faulkner's Tippah County connection

Nobel Prize winning author William Faulkner has deep roots in Tippah County. Two of his great-grandfathers lived and died in Tippah County and both had a profound effect on Faulkner as a man and as a writer. The more infamous of the two grandfathers was Colonel W.C. Falkner, who was fatally wounded on the Ripley courthouse square on November 5, 1889 by his former business partner R.J. Thurmond. The Colonel's story is retold by William Faulkner in Flags in the Dust and The Unvanquished with the Colonel appearing as the character Colonel John Sartoris. The Faulkner Heritage Festival seeks to explain to Ripley natives and visitors alike the importance of the Colonel's story on William Faulkner's writing.

The 2012 Faulkner Heritage Festival will begin on Friday, November 2nd at the Dixie Theatre on Main Street in Ripley where the movie adaptation of Faulkner's Two Soldiers will be shown. After the movie, participants are invited to a reception one block north of the theatre. The festival will continue Saturday morning at 8:30 am at the Ripley Public Library. The highlight of the day will be a luncheon at one of the historic homes on Jackson Street featuring Dr. Ted Atkinson as the keynote speaker. The afternoon will be spent with Falkner historian, Bruce Smith. Smith leads a fascinating two hour walking tour of the homes and buildings in historic downtown Ripley that figure into the Colonel Falkner saga. The tour continues at the Ripley Cemetery with Ripley High School Honor students in period costume telling the story from the point of view of the "Spirits of Falkner." The focal point of the cemetery tour is of course the forty foot tall Italian marble statue of Colonel Falkner that stands majestically in the cemetery.

If you are interested in attending the festival visit Ripley Main Street on the web at www.mainstreet.ripley.ms or e-mail event coordinator, Melinda Marsalis, at mismelmar@dixie-net.com.