

2022

## Program of the 2022 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting

Rebecca Tuuri  
*University of Southern Mississippi*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/jmh>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tuuri, Rebecca (2022) "Program of the 2022 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting," *Journal of Mississippi History*. Vol. 84: No. 3, Article 6.

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/jmh/vol84/iss3/6>

This Annual Meeting Minutes and Summary is brought to you for free and open access by The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Mississippi History by an authorized editor of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact [aquilastaff@usm.edu](mailto:aquilastaff@usm.edu).

## Program of the 2022 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting

*By Rebecca Tuuri*

The Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) held its annual meeting March 10–11, 2022, in Hattiesburg. The program began on Thursday morning, March 10, with the board meeting and annual business meeting. All sessions on Thursday took place at the Trent Lott National Center on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). All sessions on Friday took place at the museum of the Historic Eureka School, which opened in 1921 and has served as a focal point of history and heritage for African Americans in the Hattiesburg community.

The opening session and luncheon started with a welcome by MHS president Stephanie Rolph, associate professor of history and director of experiential learning at Millsaps College, and Toby Barker, mayor of Hattiesburg. The keynote speaker was Patricia Boyett, director of the Women's Resource Center and a visiting assistant professor of history at Loyola University New Orleans, who gave an overview of the civil rights movement in Hattiesburg.



*Patricia Boyett of Loyola University New Orleans delivered the keynote address.*

The first afternoon session was titled “Mississippi Religion, Race, and Violence” and featured three presentations: “Foundations of Mississippi: Slavery, Christianity, and Crisis” by Andrew Gardner, curator of education at the Two Mississippi Museums and a graduate

student in history at Jackson State University (JSU); “Theosophical Endeavors in the Magnolia State,” by Thomas M. Kersen, associate professor of sociology at JSU; and “Murder in a Small Town: The Forgotten Story of Mack Charles Parker,” by Alan Wheat, director of education at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and a graduate student in history at JSU. Jeff R. Rosenberg, a MHS board member and historic preservation coordinator at the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, moderated the session.



*MHS board member Carter Burns presented USM professor of history Susannah Ural and her students with the Excellence in History Award for *The Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Project*.*

The second afternoon session was titled “Digital History and Archival Projects.” It featured three presentations: “Digital Snapshot Projects,” by Joseph Jarrell, graduate assistant in the Center for Digital Humanities and a graduate student in history at USM; “Digital Collections of Historical Resources,” by Elizabeth La Beaud, assistant director at the Mississippi Digital Library and digital lab manager at USM; “The Lantern Project: Legal Records of Enslaved Persons,” by Jennifer McGillan, MHS board member and coordinator of manuscripts at Mississippi State University; and “Dear Mr. Meredith: Mapping Responses to the Integration of the University of Mississippi” by Abigail Norris, Digital Initiatives Librarian and assistant professor in the University Libraries, and Adam Clemons, research and instruction librarian and assistant professor, at the University of Mississippi. Susannah Ural, director of the Center for Digital Humanities and professor of history at USM, moderated the panel.

The President’s Happy Hour was held at the Trent Lott Center

followed by the banquet and best book award ceremony. Daphne Chamberlain, MHS vice president, presided. Katie Blount, director of MDAH, updated the group on the activities of the state historical agency, such as the upcoming exhibit, *The World of Marty Stuart*. The banquet speaker and winner of the Book of the Year Award was Christian Pinnen, author of *Complexion of Empire in Natchez: Race and Slavery in the Mississippi Borderlands* and associate professor of history at Mississippi College. Pinnen's book weaves together legal history, race, and gender to show how the interplay of Native Americans, people of African descent, and European and American settlers created the changing landscape of slavery in early Mississippi.

The first morning session on Friday, March 11, was called "Mississippi Change Agents." It featured three presentations: "A Catt Among the Pigeons: Southern Suffrage Rivalry, 1917," by Bernadette Cahill, independent scholar; "Fred Clark Chaney, Hodding Carter, Jr., and the Whitfield Editorials," by Bo Bowen, independent scholar; and "Exploring the Influence and Importance of Middle-Class Black Women in Mississippi" by Jessica O'Connor, exhibits content specialist at MDAH. Kelly Cantrell, MHS board member and instructor of history at East Mississippi Community College, moderated the session.



*MHS board member Carter Burns presented members of the Dancing Rabbit Genealogical and Historical Society of Carthage with the Outstanding Local Historical Society Award.*

The second morning session was titled "Commemorating and Preserving Local African American History." It featured four presentations: "African American Military History" by Latoya



Norman, director of the African American Military History Museum; "Preserving School History" by Stella Mackabee, representative of the Eureka, Rowan, and Hattiesburg High School (EUROHA) Education Committee; "Mobile Street Renaissance Festival" by Deborah Delgado, festival founder and Hattiesburg City Councilwoman; and "Teaching and Preserving Our History," by local historian and attorney Glenda Funchess. Rebecca Tuuri, associate professor of history at USM, moderated the panel.

MHS president Stephanie Rolph presided over the awards luncheon. Incoming president Daphne Chamberlain, adjourned the meeting. Afternoon activities continued with tours of the African American Military History Museum, Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby, Freedom Summer Driving Tour, and a walking tour of downtown Hattiesburg.

The following members of the program committee deserve thanks for an informative and engaging program: chair Rebecca Tuuri; Latoya Norman; Ryan Schilling, instructor of history at Mississippi Gulf Coast College Perkinston; Deanne Stephens, professor of history at USM; and Susannah Ural. In addition, MHS secretary-treasurer William "Brother" Rogers, MDAH assistant to the director Emma McRaney, and other staff at MDAH are to be commended for organizing and implementing the many details that made the annual meeting a success.



*MHS president Stephanie Rolph of Millsaps College (left) passed the gavel to incoming president Daphne Chamberlain of Tougaloo College.*