

2022

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Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting March 10, 2022

The annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society was held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022, on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Stephanie Rolph, president, Mississippi Historical Society (MHS), called the meeting to order and presided. William “Brother” Rogers, secretary-treasurer, acted as secretary for the meeting. Emma McRaney, assistant to the director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), recorded the minutes.

The following business was transacted:

I. The president called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

II. The president suggested that the minutes of the March 5, 2021, annual business meeting be approved as distributed. A motion to approve the minutes by acclamation was made by Maria Bowser, seconded by Joyce Dixon-Lawson, and unanimously approved.

III. Brother Rogers presented the financial report for the Society. He shared that the largest expense is the *Journal of Mississippi History* and that the Society’s finances are in good shape thanks to timely payment of dues.

IV. Page Ogden gave an update on the work of the Finance/Investment Committee and shared that while the Fidelity account has decreased lately, overall the investment strategy of the Society has had positive results. The president expressed his gratitude for the committee’s work.

V. The president expressed her appreciation for the Local Arrangements Committee, annual meeting sponsors, and the Program Committee.

VII. The president recognized and expressed appreciation for the following individuals who were completing their terms of service on the

board of directors: Carter Burns, Wilma Clopton, Angela Cockerham, Missy Jones, Jennifer McGillan, and Angela Stewart.

VII. Rogers gave an update on the *Journal of Mississippi History* on behalf of Dennis Mitchell. After years of being behind, the Journal is back on schedule, although still publishing two joint issues per year. He stated that a new issue, Spring/Summer 2022, will be published soon. This special edition about the legislature adopting a new state flag will feature color photos, which is rare for the journal.

VIII. Rogers gave a report from the Publications Committee on behalf of John Marszalek. He stated that a new *Heritage of Mississippi Series* book, *Colonial Mississippi: A Borrowed Land* by Christian Pinnen and Charles Weeks, was published in 2021, and another book in the series, *Frontier Mississippi, 1798–1840* by James Michael Bunn and Clay Williams, will be ready in 2023.

IX. Rogers gave an update on *Mississippi History Now*. He stated that the Mississippi Humanities Council awarded a grant to MHS to modernize the MHN website. This work was finished in the fall of 2021, and he encouraged all members to browse the website: www.mississippihistorynow.mdah.ms.gov.

X. Rogers stated that the 2023 annual meeting will be held in Jackson at the Two Mississippi Museums, and then it will be in Oxford in 2024. It will be in Jackson again in 2025.

XI. Al Wheat gave an update on National History Day, which is again happening online due to the pandemic. He also reminded the membership that MDAH is the official sponsor for Mississippi History Day.

XII. Immediate past president Marshall Bennett presented the Nomination Committee Report. He presented officers and board members for consideration. On a motion by Carter Burns, seconded by Marcus Ward, the Nominations Committee recommendations were unanimously approved. The nominations are listed below.

Officers for the term 2022–2023

President—Daphne Chamberlain, Associate Professor of History and Vice President for Special Initiatives and Social Justice,

Tougaloo College

Vice President—William J. Bowlin, Instructor, Government and History, Northeast Mississippi Community College

Secretary-Treasurer—Brother Rogers, Director of Programs and Communication Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Immediate Past President—Stephanie Rolph, Associate Professor of History, Millsaps College

The following five individuals are nominated to serve three-year terms on the Society's Board of Directors (2022–2025):

Roscoe Barnes III, Cultural Heritage Tourism Director, Visit Natchez

Barbara N. Boschert, Coahoma Community College

Keena Nichelle Graham, Superintendent, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument

Anne Marshall, Executive Director, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Mississippi State University

Perry Sansing, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Government Affairs, University of Mississippi

TJ Taylor, Executive Director, Mississippi Cable Telecommunications Association

XIII. Carter Burns presented the Awards Committee Report. The awards are listed below.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ellie J. Dahmer, widow of Vernon Dahmer

Book of the Year Award

Christian Pinnen—*Complexion of Empire in Natchez: Race and Slavery in the Mississippi Borderlands*

***Journal of Mississippi History* Article of the Year Award**

Stuart Levin—"Beeson Academy/Hattiesburg Prep: A History in Context" from *The Journal of Mississippi History*, Vol. 82, No. 3 and No. 4—Fall/Winter 2020

Outstanding Local Historical Society Award

Dancing Rabbit Genealogy and Historical Society

Teacher of the Year Award

Steven R. White, Pearl High School

Awards of Merit

Edwina Carpenter: Retired after serving for 23 years as the director of the Mississippi's Final Stands Interpretive Center in Baldwin.

Deborah Delgado: Councilwoman Delgado is recognized for being the founder and director of the Historic Mobile Street Festival, which for 17 years has raised awareness about the historical importance of Mobile Street as a hub for civil rights activism.

Glenda Funchess: For keeping civil rights history alive by leading the effort to erect four historical markers (Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Vernon Dahmer home, Rev. W.D. Ridgeway, and *Peay v. Cox* federal court case).

Russell Guerin: Researched and published history in Hancock County, including *Early Hancock County, A Few of Her People and Some of Their Stories*. Documented the early families at Pearlinton, Logtown, and Gainesville along the Pearl River.

Friends of Raymond: Provided funding to secure almost 44 acres at Raymond in March, a substantial addition to the total preserved land at the site of the Battle of Raymond in 1863. The site of a major portion of the Union advance, the tract will be transferred to Friends of Raymond after a conservation easement is put into place.

Institute of Southern Jewish Life: Virtual Vacation program from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life: The series of 18 videos covers the South more generally, but there are many Mississippi-specific stories told. Some Mississippi-specific episodes include "Visit Natchez, Mississippi," "The Movement in Mississippi," and "Visit the Mississippi Delta." In addition, "Summer (Camp) Magic," "Southern Jewish Cemeteries," "Holiday Shopping in the Jewish South," and "Southern Jewish Restaurants" also include stories about Mississippi businesses and landmarks.

Historical Society of Gulfport: For the digitization of the Ralph Bean Architectural Collection as the Gulfport Museum of History's initial entry in the Mississippi Digital Library

Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County: For their excellent virtual programming featuring history during the pandemic and for being featured on *CBS This Morning*.

African American Military History Museum: For recognizing and celebrating the service and sacrifice of the African American soldier through programs and exhibits. The museum also preserves the only remaining USO Club constructed (in 1942) specifically for African American soldiers.

Mississippi Armed Forces Museum: For serving as the military history museum for the state of Mississippi. The museum honors the service and sacrifice of Mississippi veterans from all military branches.

Visit Hattiesburg: For creating the Freedom Summer Driving Tour.

The Academy Stories: An online project on how private academies have shaped the South. It contains firsthand accounts of the segregation academy experience, especially in Mississippi.

XIV. Rogers stated that Katie Blount would provide the MDAH report at the awards banquet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the president.

Stephanie Rolph, President
William "Brother" Rogers, Secretary-Treasurer

