

2021

Introduction

Dennis J. Mitchell

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

Recommended Citation

Mitchell, Dennis J. (2021) "Introduction," *Journal of Mississippi History*. Vol. 83: No. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/jmh/vol83/iss1/2>

This Front Matter 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.

Introduction

This special edition had its origins in a conversation with Katie Blount, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and editor-in-chief of this journal, about Bob Moses's presentation in the Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series on June 2, 2014. She was so impressed with Moses's outline of Mississippi's history that she felt that it should be published in the *Journal of Mississippi History*. We later conceived the idea of using it as the lead article in a special issue in which scholars would review the status of the state's historiography. Moses challenged Mississippians to adopt an inclusive view of the state's past relying on his experience as a major agent of change during the Civil Rights Movement. His lecture illustrates the necessity of rethinking and rewriting our history. I have edited the original for this special edition, and Moses approved the version published here. Moses was welcomed by then MDAH director H. T. Holmes and introduced by civil rights veteran Leslie-Burl McLemore.

Originally, we intended to publish articles covering the entire historiography of Mississippi, but illness and other impediments among the authors left us with the three contained in this special edition. Tim Smith surveys the changed landscape of Civil War scholarship. Nicholas Lemann has allowed us to publish a lecture that he gave at the Old Capitol on February 7, 2017, which challenges Mississippians to rethink the treatment of Reconstruction. Again, this lecture was one that Blount felt should appear in the *Journal of Mississippi History* because it invites Mississippians to reassess the state's past. Finally, George Lewis covers the third most tumultuous period in the state's history from the end of the Second World War to 1970. We have been fortunate in the articles available for this special issue because they deal with the most controversial periods of our history.

Dennis J. Mitchell

Editor

Journal of Mississippi History

