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Program of the 2019 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting

by *Jim Barnett*

The Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) held its annual meeting February 28-March 2, 2019, in Natchez at the Convention Center and Grand Hotel. The program began on Thursday afternoon, February 28, with a meeting of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies and a reception at the Historic Natchez Foundation. Afterward, MHS members and guests attended a house tour and dinner at the Monmouth Inn and Restaurant.

The program sessions began on Friday, March 1, with a welcome by Page Ogden, president, MHS; Darryl V. Grennell, mayor of Natchez; and Katie Blount, director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH).

The morning program began with concurrent sessions. Kathleen Bond, superintendent, Natchez National Historical Park, moderated presentations on Protection, Development, and Expansion of Natchez Area Sites. Bond discussed the Fort Rosalie Site. Other sites discussed were the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, by its site director Lance Harris, and the White Earth Concession, by Jessica Crawford, southeastern regional director, The Archaeological Conservancy. In addition, Carter Burns, executive director, Historic Natchez Foundation, moderated presentations on the National Register Designation of the Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson House. Presenters were Bill Gatlin, author of the house's National Register nomination; Darryl Grennell, mayor of Natchez; and Stanley Nelson, editor of the *Concordia Sentinel* and author of *Devils Walking: Klan Murders Along the Mississippi in the 1960s*.

Concurrent sessions followed the morning break. Frederick Briuer, retired research archaeologist and director, Center for Cultural Site Preservation Technology, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, moderated presentations on the French Fort Saint Pierre Tercentenary. Presenters were Nancy Bell, executive director, Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation; Gail Buzhardt, retired teacher, author, and historian; Max Garriott, retired teacher, musician, and composer; and Lisa Marie Malischke,



*2018 MHS President Page Ogden (right) passes the gavel to
2019 MHS President Chuck Westmoreland.*

professor of anthropology, Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA. In addition, Rebecca Tuuri, assistant professor of history, University of Southern Mississippi, moderated presentations on Club Women's Work as Politics. Presenters were Kaimara Herron, M.A. student, University of Mississippi; Daniella Kawa, M.A. student, University of Southern Mississippi; and Anna-Morgan Leonards, Ph.D. candidate in history, Tulane University.

Chuck Westmoreland, vice president, MHS, presided over the luncheon. Jim Barnett, retired division director, MDAH, delivered the invocation. Rex Jones, documentary filmmaker, Southern Documentary Project, University of Mississippi, presented a film titled "Preview of Hurricane Camille Documentary" to mark the 50th anniversary of the devastating 1969 hurricane.

Concurrent with the luncheon, Al Wheat and Shira Muroff, both of MDAH, conducted a teacher workshop on how to incorporate National History Day into the classroom.

Following the luncheon, Charles Sullivan, professor emeritus and archivist, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Da-

vid Thornton, president, Live Oak Films, presented a program titled “Building the Old Spanish Trail: The Story of a Modern American Highway from Mobile to New Orleans.”

Afternoon activities continued with a downtown walking tour through the Old Spanish Quarter, with stops at the Mississippi River, the William Johnson House, and Stratton Chapel gallery of historic photographs. Kathleen Bond led the tour, along with staff members of the Natchez National Historical Park.

The MHS President’s Reception coincided with annual Krewe of Phoenix Mardi Gras Parade. Society members watched the parade from the balconies of the Natchez Convention Center.

The evening banquet followed the parade, with Page Ogden, president of the MHS presiding. Stuart Rockoff, executive director, Mississippi Humanities Council, led the invocation. Banquet speaker and McLemore Prize Winner Stephanie R. Rolph, associate professor of history, Millsaps College, discussed her award-winning book *Resisting Equality: The Citizens’ Council, 1954-1989*.

On Saturday, March 2, the MHS board meeting and annual business meeting were held at the Natchez Grand Hotel. For the final



The Mount Olive Cemetery Project receives an Award of Merit for outstanding work to restore and preserve that previously neglected historic African American cemetery near Jackson State University.

program session, Melody Golding, photographer, artist, and writer, moderated a discussion based on her forthcoming book, *Life Between the Levees: America's Riverboat Pilots*. Presenters were Captain Todd Hundley, Captain Rudy Ward, and Steve Golding, president, Golding Barge Line.

Page Ogden, president, MHS, presided over the awards luncheon. Missy Jones, Mississippi College, delivered the invocation. Incoming president Charles Westmoreland, adjourned the meeting.

The following members of the program committee deserve thanks: Melody Golding, Jessica Crawford, Kathleen Bond, Frederick Bruier, Erin Kempker, Susannah Ural, James Hill, and Otis Pickett. In addition, secretary-treasurer William "Brother" Rogers, MDAH staff, and local arrangement chairs Nancy Hungerford and Janet Sullivan are to be commended for organizing and implementing the many details that made the annual meeting a success.