

2017

Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, March 4, 2017

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

Recommended Citation

(2017) "Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, March 4, 2017," *Journal of Mississippi History*. Vol. 79: No. 3, Article 7.

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/jmh/vol79/iss3/7>

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.

**MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 4, 2017**

The annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society was held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Gulfport, Mississippi. William “Brother” Rogers, president, Mississippi Historical Society, called the meeting to order and presided.

Elbert R. Hilliard, secretary-treasurer, acted as secretary for the meeting. Timothy Davis, administrative technician, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), recorded the minutes.

The following business was transacted:

I. The secretary-treasurer moved that the minutes of the March 4, 2016, annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Deanne Nuwer and unanimously approved.

II. The secretary-treasurer presented for the information of the members the following financial report for the year ending December 31, 2016:

BANK BALANCES

As of December 31, 2016

Regions Bank

Heritage of Mississippi Series	39,965.09
Daily Interest Operating Account	

Trustmark National Bank

Halsell Prize Endowment	0.00
Transferred to operating account pending investment	

Certificate of Deposit Due March 9, 2018 (0.45%)	11,894.67
Certificate of Deposit Due April 19, 2018 (0.45%)	5,300.00
Certificate of Deposit Life Membership Account Due March 26, 2018 (0.45%)	45,970.77
Glover Moore Prize Fund Certificate of Deposit Due March 8, 2018 (0.45%)	10,999.56
John K. Bettersworth Award Fund Money market account	4,266.09
Mississippi Historical Society Daily Interest Operating Account	48,231.56
Mississippi History NOW Adine Lampton Wallace Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due March 24, 2018 (0.45%)	15,001.48
Frank E. Everett, Jr., Award Certificate of Deposit Due March 26, 2018 (0.45%)	3,729.47

BanCorpSouth Bank

Mississippi History NOW Money Market Account	767.83
---	--------

Origin Bank

Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award Transferred to operating account pending investment	0.00
---	------

Heritage of Mississippi Series Money Market Account	20,363.10
William E. Atkinson Civil War History Award Endowment Money Market Account	11,193.93
TOTAL	\$217,683.55
Restricted	\$106,286.55
Unrestricted	\$111,397.00

Operating Account
Summary Report
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

INCOME

Annual Meeting	14,105.00
Bettsworth Award Contributions	578.41
CD Interest Earned	
Glover Moore Prize CD	74.38
Contributions	
Willie D. Halsell Prize	200.00
Donations	
Bettsworth Award CD	50.00
General Fund CD	50.00
Glover Moore Prize Fund CD	50.00
Halsell Prize Endowment CD	50.00
MHS General CD	50.00
Wallace Endowment CD	<u>50.00</u>
Total Donations	300.00
ERH Oral History Award	
Transfer from Origin Bank to be invested	4,252.78
Interest Earned	246.60
Membership:	
College	600.00
Contributing	300.00

Corporate	500.00
Federation	125.00
Joint	455.00
Life-New Life Members	1,200.00
Single	4,985.00
Student	5.00
Supporting	200.00
Total Membership	8,370.00
Willie D. Halsell Prize Endowment Transferred from Trustmark to be invested	8,351.77
Endowment Interest	<u>56.01</u>
TOTAL INCOME	36,534.95
EXPENSES	
Accounting Fees	1,500.00
Adine Lampton Wallace-Transfer to CD	50.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	16,402.64
Bettsworth Award	482.52
Bettsworth Award-Transfer to CD	50.00
Everett Award	300.00
General Fund-Transfer to CD	100.00
Glover Moore Prize	300.00
Glover Moore Prize-Transfer to CD	50.00
Grant Awards –	
Junior Historical Society	1,000.00
Mississippi History Now	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Grant Awards	3,000.00
Halsell Prize-Transfer to CD	50.00
Hilliard Oral History Award	300.00
Honoraria –	
History is Lunch Lecture Series	150.00
Journal of Mississippi History	4,820.74
McLemore Prize	700.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	
Bus Transportation for MDAH Teacher Workshop	425.00
Refreshments for Board Meetings	<u>48.77</u>

Total Miscellaneous Expenses	473.77
Office Expense	461.77
Riley Prize	500.00
Postage	975.00
Website Expense	<u>159.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	29,849.84
TRANSFERS	
From 2015 Operating Account	<u>41,546.45</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	48,231.56

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NOW

Summary Report

1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

INCOME

Donations	10,240.00
Grants –	
Mississippi Historical Society	2,000.00
Interest Earned	<u>101.78</u>
TOTAL INCOME	12,341.92

EXPENSES

Annual Meeting Expense	106.16
Authors' Fees	1,250.00
Bank Service Charge	10.00
Lesson Plans	1,500.00
Professional Fees	<u>15,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,866.16

TRANSFERS

From 2015 Mississippi History NOW Account	<u>6,292.07</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	767.83

The secretary-treasurer thanked Sherry Norwood for her assistance in preparing the financial statements and in maintaining the Society's membership and financial records. He reported that the Society had 1,336 members at the end of the 2016 calendar year.

III. Page Ogden gave a brief update on the work of the Investment Committee that is comprised of himself, Ann Simmons, Marshall Bennett, and Fred Miller.

IV. The president expressed his appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee: Jim Miller, chair; Elbert R. Hilliard, Rebecca Kremer Kajdan, Sherry Norwood, Deanne S. Nuwer, Lolly Rash, Betty Hancock Shaw, and Philip W. Shaw for their outstanding work in planning and coordinating arrangements for the annual meeting.

V. The president expressed his appreciation to the members of the Program Committee: William "Brother" Rogers, chair; Daphne R. Chamberlain, John F. Marszalek, Dennis J. Mitchell, Deanne S. Nuwer, Christian Pinnen, James "Pat" Smith, and Charles L. Sullivan for their splendid work in organizing and implementing the annual meeting's interesting and informative program.

VI. The president expressed thanks to the following individuals for their generous financial support in helping fund the 2017 annual meeting: Coast Transit Authority; David Delk, ABC Rental Center, Gulfport; FEB Distributing, Gulfport; Nona Flagg, Durham, North Carolina; Claire and Elbert Hilliard, Madison; Jim Miller, Gulfport; Mitchell Distributing, Gulfport; and Ann Atkinson Simmons, Columbia.

VII. The president recognized and expressed appreciation to the following individuals who were completing their three-year terms of service on the board of directors of the society: Ann Abadie, Craig Gill, Jim Miller, Page Ogden, David Slay, and Robert Walker.

VIII. Dr. John Marszalek, chair, Publications Committee, presented the following report:

The Publications Committee for the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* consists of former Governor William F. Winter, Dr. John F. Marszalek, Elbert Hilliard, Peggy Jeanes, Dr. William Scarborough, Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson, Crissy Wilson, and Katie Blount.

As of this time, through the cooperation of the Mississippi Historical Society and the University Press of Mississippi, the following volumes have been published: Patti Carr Black's volume on art; Dr. Randy Sparks's volume on religion; Dr. Steve Cresswell's volume on 1877-1917; the late Dr. Michael Ballard's volume on the military history of the Civil War; Dr. Timothy Smith's volume on the Civil War home front; and James Barnett's book on Mississippi's Native Americans. Lori Watkins Fulton's manuscript on the literary history of Mississippi should be in print by the end of 2017. In total, we will have seven volumes published in the series.

There are seven other authors under contract who are working on their manuscripts:

Dr. Connie Lester of the University of Central Florida has outlined the entire manuscript and has completed the introduction and first chapter of her volume on the Economic History of Mississippi.

Dr. Bo Morgan of the University of Southern Mississippi has completed a prologue and chapters 1 to 10 of his 1917-1941 volume. He has two more chapters to write, one covering 1936 to Pearl Harbor and the final one on general culture for the entire 1917-1941 period. He will also provide an epilogue. He hopes to have all but the culture chapter completed by the end of summer and the manuscript, less the culture chapter, ready to go to readers in the fall.

Jere Nash, free-lance writer, has completed his research on the Reconstruction volume. He sent four chapters of his manuscript to Elbert Hilliard and to me this January and has sent the same chapters to Dr. William Harris, who is consulting on the volume. He expects to have the manuscript completed by the end of the summer.

Dr. Max Grivno of the University of Southern Mississippi is working on the volume concerning slavery. He has made important progress on his manuscript and will be meeting with Elbert Hilliard and me during this meeting to establish final deadlines.

Mike Bunn now of Historic Blakeley State Park, Alabama, and Clay Williams of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History indicate that, despite their "day jobs," they have made

significant progress on their manuscript dealing with frontier Mississippi, 1800-1840. They lack just a few chapters and are aiming for completion of the manuscript by the end of 2017.

Charles Weeks, retired, and Christian Pinnen of Mississippi College have drafts of eight chapters of the manuscript entitled "A Borrowed Land, Colonial Mississippi." Cambridge University Press has expressed interest in publishing Dr. Pinnen's dissertation which could be essential in his movement towards tenure. Dr. Weeks estimates that the Colonial Mississippi manuscript will be completed by May 2018.

William Jeanes, retired magazine editor, is making progress on his World War II in Mississippi volume. He hopes to have a completed manuscript by August/September 2017, a year from the time he signed his contract. He feels confident that the manuscript will certainly be ready by November/December 2017.

Volumes yet to be assigned an author are three: the pre-Civil War years (1840-1860), the Jim Crow era, and the Civil Rights era. We have received interest in all three volumes, but we have, as yet, not found an author for any one of them.

Thus, we have: seven volumes that have been published; seven under contract with many near completion; and three volumes as yet not assigned to an author. Hopefully this will be the year when we will experience a major breakthrough in publications and also have three new authors under contract.

Finally this annual meeting program included a panel session yesterday morning, on the Heritage of Mississippi Series with myself as moderator and Jim Barnett, Randy Sparks, and Tim Smith as speakers.

We are also planning to have a panel on this series at the Mississippi Literary Festival in August.

IX. Missy Jones, editor, *Mississippi History NOW*, reported on the status of *Mississippi History Now* (MHN). She stated that last year's publication series is finished. All six articles have been published. The final project report has been submitted to the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), and the Society is awaiting MHC's grant funding for the prior year. The Mississippi Humanities Council has renewed the grant for an additional six articles for 2017. The president thanked Missy Jones for her dedicated work with MHN.

X. Deanne Nuwer, Junior Historical Society, presented the following report on the Junior Historical Society:

During 2016, the Junior Historical Society co-hosted the National History Day (NHD) competition at the University of Southern Mississippi. The theme was “Taking a Stand in History.” Students competed in research paper, performance, display boards, and website development categories on both junior and senior high school levels. At this competition, 112 students from schools across Mississippi — Pass Christian High, Colmer Middle, Long Beach High, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Cleveland High, Forrest AHS, Oak Grove Middle, Tupelo Middle, Gautier High, Armstrong Middle, Pascagoula High, Starkville High, as well as Mississippi Home School students — participated. Fifty volunteers, including USM faculty and students, MDAH personnel, and others helped make the 2016 NHD event a success. The co-coordinators of National History Day were Dr. Allison Abra and Mr. Al Wheat. Dr. Rebecca Tuuri is the incoming University of Southern Mississippi co-coordinator, along with Mr. Al Wheat for 2017.

Three workshops around Mississippi in 2016 at Gulfport, Jackson, and Columbus, funded by a Mississippi Humanities Council mini-grant, introduced best practices and information to area teachers regarding NHD as Dr. Tuuri and Mr. Wheat organized the informational events. These were successful programs that introduced the advantages of NHD participation in the classroom, as good research and writing skills are essential. Partnerships were vital to these workshops with Dr. Jennifer Brannock, Ms. Hayden McDaniel, Ms. Jane Shambra, Ms. Stacey Everett, Dr. Robby Luckett, Ms. Elizabeth Green, Ms. Mona Vance, Mr. Chuck Yarborough, and Mr. Neil Guilbeau contributing valuable information and assistance to make these events successful.

In addition, for the past several years, a Mississippi student or teacher has been recognized by NHD to participate in the Normandy Sacrifice for Freedom Program. This is an opportunity for participants to learn more about history in an engaging and hands-on environment that explores critical historical events that shaped the history of the United States.

Dr. Tuuri and Mr. Wheat also presented the NHD program

information at the Mississippi Council for Social Studies annual meeting in Jackson on November 4, 2016. We wish to thank the Mississippi Historical Society and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for their continued support of this exciting and educational event to which the Junior Historical Society remains committed. Mississippi students continue to place well at the NHD national competition held each June at the University of Maryland as well as learning valuable skills that will benefit them as they move into higher education.

XI. On behalf of Dr. Chuck Westmoreland, chair, Meeting Sites Committee, the secretary-treasurer reported that the Society's 2018 annual meeting will be held in Jackson at the new Two Mississippi Museums and that the 2019 annual meeting will be held in Natchez. He further reported that the Society's board of directors had voted at its meeting on Thursday evening, March 2 to accept the Meeting Sites Committee's recommendation that the 2020 meeting be held at Delta State University.

XII. The secretary-treasurer presented the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Elizabeth "Libby" Shaifer Hollingsworth of Port Gibson departed this life July 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, "Libby" Hollingsworth, along with her devoted husband, Al, was a longtime and faithful member of the Mississippi Historical Society, having served on the Society's board of directors and a number of Society committees and attended innumerable annual meetings where she brought joy to everyone with whom she had contact; and

WHEREAS, "Libby" was an active supporter of historic preservation on the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, "Libby" was an active supporter of the Mississippi Main Street program, a board member and faithful advocate of the Mississippi Heritage Trust, the Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, a founding member of the Port Gibson Heritage

Trust, and champion of the preservation of the historic Shaifer House and the Port Gibson Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, “Libby” was a dedicated supporter of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and one whose love of history was unsurpassed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society assembled on March 4, 2017, in Gulfport, Mississippi, mourns the death of Elizabeth “Libby” Shaifer Hollingsworth and expresses its sympathy to her family.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Michael B. Ballard departed this life on October 11, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Professor Ballard was a longtime and faithful member of the Mississippi Historical Society, having served on the Society’s board of directors and on innumerable committees during the years of his association with the Society; and

WHEREAS, Professor Ballard served for many years as an archivist in Mississippi State University’s Mitchell Memorial Library, serving successively as associate university archivist, university archivist, and university archivist and coordinator of the Congressional Collection and Political Research Center; and

WHEREAS, Professor Ballard was noted for his scholarly research and writing that resulted in the publication of eleven books, twenty-five articles and more than seventy-five book reviews; and

WHEREAS, Ballard’s books, *A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy*; *Pemberton: A Biography*; and *Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi* were History Book Club selections; and

WHEREAS, Ballard contributed to the Mississippi Historical Society’s *Heritage of Mississippi Series* through his writing of the volume, *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles*; and

WHEREAS, Ballard’s scholarly research on the Civil War

led to numerous speaking appearances before Civil War Round Tables across the nation, historical societies and associations, and civic groups; and

WHEREAS, Ballard ably assisted Dr. John Marszalek in the transfer and relocation of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers to the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University (MSU) and in the planning for the Ulysses S. Grant Library at MSU;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society assembled on March 4, 2017, in Gulfport, Mississippi, mourns the death of Michael B. Ballard and expresses its sympathy to his family.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Jerome “Jerry” Hafter of Greenville departed this life on September 23, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Jerry, along with his devoted wife, JoCille Dawkins Hafter, was a longtime member and faithful supporter of the Mississippi Historical Society and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hafter was a distinguished legal scholar, whose thesis on the legislative history of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 won the Sara Norton Prize as the best master’s thesis on a topic in American history or political science and who served while earning his degree at the Yale University Law School as the associate editor of the Yale Law Journal; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was one of a small number of Mississippi attorneys with an extensive international practice, having served as outside general counsel to Delta and Pine Land Company, one of Mississippi’s oldest and largest publicly traded companies; and

WHEREAS, Jerry served effectively for some eleven years as a member of the Foundation for Mississippi History and played an invaluable role in assisting the Foundation in its campaign to raise private monies to support the construction and operation of the Two Mississippi Museums (Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum) that will be dedicated

on December 9, 2017, to culminate the state of Mississippi's observance of its bicentennial;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society assembled on March 4, 2017, in Gulfport, Mississippi, mourns the death of Jerome "Jerry" Hafter and expresses its sympathy to his family.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Historical Society is aware that the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Jim Miller of Gulfport and the Program Committee, chaired by William "Brother" Rogers of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, invested a considerable amount of time, thought, and effort in planning the annual meeting of the Society; and

WHEREAS, the Local Arrangements Committee succeeded in hosting an enlightening, entertaining, and memorable annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Program Committee assembled and organized informative and scholarly sessions for the annual meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 4, 2017, in Gulfport, Mississippi, that the Local Arrangements Committee and Program Committee be formally recognized and commended for their splendid efforts.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, Alison Collis Greene, assistant professor of history and specialist in American religious history, Mississippi State University, was honored in November of 2016 with the Southern Historical Association's prestigious Charles S. Sydnor Award for the best book in Southern history published in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Greene's book, *No Depression in Heaven: The Great Depression, the New Deal, and the Transformation of Religion in the Delta*, which was published by Oxford University

Press, documents the suffering and travails of the poor citizens of the Mississippi and Arkansas Delta region during the Great Depression and the inability of churches to provide needed assistance; thereby influencing church leaders to seek help from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this shift from local to national assistance, according to Professor Greene, generated significant anti-government backlash from religious and political leaders due to its threatening their authority and the traditional racial hierarchy in the Delta regions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society assembled on March 4, 2017, in Gulfport, Mississippi, commends Alison Collis Greene for her scholarship and noteworthy contribution to American historiography.

The secretary-treasurer asked if there were any other resolutions. There being no resolutions from the floor, the president's motion to adopt the aforementioned resolutions was seconded by Page Ogden and unanimously approved.

XIII. On behalf of Peggy Jeanes, chair, Nominations Committee, the president reported that the committee recommended the following slate of officers and board members:

Officers for the term 2017-2018

President – Susannah J. Ural, Ph.D., Charles W. Moorman Distinguished Alumni professor of the humanities, and co-director of the Dale Center for the Study of War and Society, University of Southern Mississippi.

Vice President (president-elect) – Page Ogden, Natchez, former president & CEO, Britton & Koontz Bank.

Secretary-Treasurer – Elbert Hilliard, director emeritus, Mississippi Department of Archives & History.

Brother Rogers will serve as immediate past president.

The following six individuals are nominated to serve three-year terms on the Society's Board of Directors (2017-2020).

Toby Bates, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, Mississippi State University, Meridian campus.

Will Bowlin, New Albany, professor of history and political science, Northeast Mississippi Community College.

Chad Daniels, director, Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg.

Paul Jermyn, Long Beach, lead test operations engineer at NASA's Stennis Space Center and avid collector of historical images.

Erin Kempker, Columbus, Ph.D., department chair and associate professor of history, Mississippi University for Women.

Deanne Stephens Nuwer, Ph.D., associate professor of history and associate dean, arts and letters, University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast campus, and executive director of the Gulf South Historical Association.

The following nominee is to serve a one-year term to complete the three-year term of a board member who moved out of state and can no longer attend board meetings:

Walt Grayson, WLBT-TV weatherman and producer and narrator of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's "Mississippi Roads."

The committee voted to ask the two individuals serving on the Board of Publications whose terms expire this month to continue to serve: Walter Howell (Clinton) and Jeanne Lockett (Jackson); both have agreed to serve for the 2017-2020 term.

Al Hollingsworth moved that the aforementioned slate of nominees be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Jim Miller and unanimously approved.

XIV. Katie Blount, director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, briefly reported on the various activities of the department and highlighted accomplishments from the past year such as the Mississippi Mound Trail, the Mississippi Digital Newspaper Project, the acquisition of the Randazzo Post Card Collection, and the quinquennial Hall of Fame election.

XV. In the matter of other business, Dr. Marszalek reported on the progress of the construction of the Ulysses S. Grant presidential library at Mississippi State University. He stated that the shell of the fourth floor of the Mitchell Memorial library is near completion and that the dedication of the library is planned for October 2017.

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

William "Brother" Rogers, President
Elbert R. Hilliard, Secretary-Treasurer