

2016

Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, March 4, 2016

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**MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 4, 2016**

The annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2016, at the historic King Edward Hotel/Hilton Garden Inn, Jackson, Mississippi. Dennis J. Mitchell, president, Mississippi Historical Society, called the meeting to order and presided.

Elbert R. Hilliard, secretary-treasurer, acted as secretary for the meeting. Sherry Norwood, accountant specialist senior, 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 6, 2015, annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Al Hollingsworth and unanimously approved.

II. The secretary-treasurer presented for the information of the members the following financial report for the year ending December 31, 2015:

BANK BALANCES

As of December 31, 2015

Regions Bank

Heritage of Mississippi Series	44,932.12
Daily Interest Operating Account	

Trustmark National Bank

Halsell Prize Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due February 29, 2016(.450%)	8,249.73
Certificate of Deposit Due September 2, 2016(.450%)	11,844.67
Certificate of Deposit Due October 10, 2016(.499%)	5,250.00
Certificate of Deposit Life Membership Account Due September 26, 2016(.450%)	45,970.77
Glover Moore Prize Fund Certificate of Deposit Due November 8, 2016(.450%)	10,949.56
John K. Bettersworth Award Fund Certificate of Deposit Due April 24, 2016(.450%)	4,135.25
Mississippi Historical Society Daily Interest Operating Account	41,546.45
Mississippi History NOW Adine Lampton Wallace Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due February 14, 2016(.450%)	14,951.48
Frank E. Everett, Jr., Award Certificate of Deposit Due September 26, 2016 (.450%)	3,704.30

BanCorpSouth Bank

Mississippi History NOW	6,292.07
Money Market Account	

Community Trust Bank

Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award	4,184.01
Certificate of Deposit	
Due March 4, 2016(.400%)	

Heritage of Mississippi Series	20,310.58
Money Market Account	

William E. Atkinson Civil War History	11,110.09
Award Endowment	
Money Market Account	

TOTAL	\$233,331.08
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Restricted	\$128,719.19
Unrestricted	\$104,611.89

Operating Account

Summary Report

1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015

INCOME

Annual Meeting	12,699.39
Bettsworth Award Contributions	610.55
Donations	
Atkinson MS Civil War History Award	2,450.00
Everett Award CD	1,400.00
General Fund CD	50.00
Glover Moore Prize Fund CD	50.00
Miscellaneous Contributions	40.00
Interest Earned	279.72
Membership Dues:	
College	300.00
Contributing	4,450.00

Corporate	2,600.00
Federation	510.00
Gift	120.00
Joint	2,905.00
Lifetime Memberships	2,500.00
Patron	600.00
Single	9,825.00
Student	20.00
Supporting	1,425.00
Total Membership	<u>25,255.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **42,834.66**

EXPENSES

Accounting Fees	1,800.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	11,370.78
Atkinson Award-Transfer to Money Market Acct	5,850.00
Atkinson Award	200.00
Bank Charges	72.76
Bettsworth Award	651.30
Contributions –	
Foundation for Mississippi History	500.00
Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award	300.00
Everett Award Contributions -	
Transfer to CD	1,400.00
General Fund Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
Glover Moore Prize – Transfer to CD	50.00
Grant Awards –	
Junior Historical Society	1,000.00
Halsell Prize	200.00
Honoraria –	
History is Lunch Lecture Series	300.00
Journal of Mississippi History	7,259.79
Lifetime Membership –	
Transfer to CD	3,200.00
McLemore Prize	700.00
Miscellaneous Expense –	

Bus Transportation for MDAH Teacher Workshop	425.00
Office Expense	299.60
Postage	975.00
Web Page Design	<u>106.34</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,059.27
TRANSFERS	
From 2014 Operating Account	<u>34,771.06</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	41,546.45

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NOW

Summary Report

1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015

INCOME	
Donations	4,230.00
Grants –	
Department of Archives & History	10,000.00
Mississippi Humanities Council	2,750.00
Interest Earned	<u>.78</u>
TOTAL INCOME	16,980.78
EXPENSES	
Annual Meeting Expense	97.01
Authors' Fees	1,250.00
Digital Copies	28.00
Lesson Plans	1,500.00
Professional Fees	<u>15,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,875.01
TRANSFERS	
From 2014 Mississippi History NOW Account	<u>7,186.30</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	6,292.07

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 concluded his report by emphasizing the need for continued financial support for *Mississippi History Now*.

III. The president expressed his appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee: Elizabeth Coleman, co-chair; Diane Mattox, co-chair; Timothy Davis, Laney Grantham, Elbert R. Hilliard, Larry Johnson, Rita Johnson, Sherry Norwood, and Trey Porter for their outstanding work in planning and organizing the annual meeting.

Dr. Mitchell also expressed appreciation to the members of the Program Committee: William "Brother" Rogers, chair; Toby Bates, Jennifer Ford, Velvelyn Foster, Jeanne Luckett, K. C. Morrison, and Stuart Rockoff; and to the staff members of the Department of Archives and History who assist the Society: Sherry Norwood, Chris Goodwin, and Stephenie Morrisey.

IV. The president expressed thanks to the following individuals for their generous financial support in helping fund the 2016 annual meeting: Marshall Bennett, Jackson; David R. Bowen, Jackson; Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P. A., Jackson; Claire and Elbert Hilliard, Madison; Rita and Larry Johnson, Madison; and the Mississippi State University Department of History.

V. Dr. Mitchell 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: Daphne R. Chamberlain, Thomas D. Cockrell, Marco Giardino, E. Avery Rollins, Susannah J. Ural, and Charles R. Westmoreland, Jr.

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

The Publications Committee for the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* consists of Governor William F. Winter, Dr. John F. Marszalek, Dr. Dernoral Davis, Elbert Hilliard, Hank Holmes, Peggy Jeanes, Dr. William Scarborough, Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson, and Chrissy Wilson.

Several of our members are now in retired status, so we will have to work with incoming president Brother Rogers to discuss the make-up of the committee in the future.

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. Stephen Cresswell's volume on 1877-1917; 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 Native Americans.

We have other authors under contract who are working on their manuscripts:

Dr. Connie Lester of the University of Central Florida has continued work on her Mississippi Economic history volume. Her working title is "Making Do: Poverty, History, and the American Economy in the Twentieth Century." Despite her heavy teaching and professional load, she expects to have her manuscript completed by the end of 2017.

Dr. Chester "Bo" Morgan of the University of Southern Mississippi has been delayed in the completion of his 1917-1945 volume for many years because of other commitments. He has reported that he has written eight chapters and hopes to have the entire book in manuscript by the end of the year.

Jere Nash, the driving force behind the Mississippi Literary Festival, is receiving the advice of Dr. William Harris of North Carolina State University, on his Reconstruction manuscript. He says that "I will be a shell of my former self by July, but I am moving heaven and earth" to make a deadline of summer 2016 for 2017 publication.

Dr. Max Grivno of the University of Southern Mississippi has a draft of 200 pages on his slavery in Mississippi manuscript. He believes he will have the manuscript completed by the spring of 2016. "Excited by the progress," he says.

Mike Bunn now of Historic Blakeley State Park in Alabama and Clay Williams of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History indicate that, despite their "day jobs," they have made real progress on their manuscript dealing with frontier Mississippi, 1800-1840. They are determined to have their

manuscript completed by 2017 and believe they are on track to do that.

Lori Watkins Fulton of William Carey College is editor of the multi-author history of Mississippi literature. She and her authors have the manuscript completed, and the manuscript has been favorably evaluated by two outside readers. Two authors are still revising their chapters, but she will have the manuscript ready for publication and to us by the summer of 2016.

Charles Weeks and Christian Pinnen have completed three chapters of their Mississippi Colonial History volume plus a number of others well underway. They hope to have the entire manuscript ready by this summer of 2016 and the manuscript ready for publication by the May 2017 deadline. Charles is retired, but Christian is carrying a heavy load at Mississippi College because of the retirement of two senior professors in the History Department.

Thus we have seven volumes with authors under contract, and we are optimistic that their progress will result in publication soon.

Volumes yet to be assigned an author remain the following four: the pre-Civil War years (1840-1860), the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights era, and World War II.

There is no way that we can have the entire series completed by Mississippi's bicentennial year, but we believe that we can have a representative number in press.

Please contact us with any suggestions for possible authors of the remaining volumes.

VII. Melissa Janczewski Jones, editor, *Mississippi History Now*, presented the following report:

Thank you to the officers and Board of Directors of the Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) for giving me the opportunity to provide you with an update on Mississippi History Now (MHN).

MHN successfully completed its re-launch year with the publication of six new articles between December 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015. I am happy to report that the Mississippi Humanities Council renewed our annual \$3,000.00 grant for the 2015-2016 publication season, and we are currently

working on six new articles and lesson plans, which we plan to have published prior to November 30 of this year. This year's proposed articles and authors are: "Joseph Emory Davis: a Mississippi Planter Patriarch" by Dr. Lynda Lasswell Crist, former director and editor of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* at Rice University; "The 1964 Mississippi Freedom Schools" by Dr. William Sturkey, assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; "The Story of Gilbert Metz: The Last Survivor of Auschwitz in Mississippi" by Kay Metz, history teacher at Clinton Junior High School; "The Life of Blewitt Lee" by Dr. James Giesen and Whit Waide, professors of history and political science, respectively, at Mississippi State University; "Beauvoir's Veterans and their Wives" by Dr. Susannah Ural, professor of history, University of Southern Mississippi; and "Religion in Mississippi During the Great Depression" by Dr. Alison Collis Greene, assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University.

Karla Smith continues to prepare the MHN lesson plans, and Dr. Deanne Nuwer continues to serve as the site's historical consultant. Chris Goodwin is currently serving as the site's webmaster in the absence of an IT Director at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). Due to some software incompatibility following a recent system upgrade at MDAH, MHN is currently unable to publish new content to the website. However, Chris Goodwin and the technology department at MDAH are working to address the problem. In the meantime, we are continuing to prepare the upcoming articles according to schedule so that we are ready to publish new content as soon as the software issues are resolved.

Traffic to the MHN site remains steady topping 2,000 each month. Our number of Facebook page followers has grown to more than 650.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your editor. As always, I eagerly welcome all of your comments and suggestions.

VIII. Avery Rollins, chair, Membership Committee, presented the following membership report as of December 31, 2015:

Contributing	87
Corporate	31
Exchange	26
Gift	77
Honorary	6
Joint	115
Life	171
Single	614
Student	5
Supporting	20
College	29
Federation	51
Patron	4

TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 1,236

Mr. Rollins stated that he had enjoyed his tenure as a member of the Society's board and chair of the Membership committee. He stressed that the commitment to find ways to encourage involvement in the Society by African Americans and young people should continue and challenged the members of future Membership committees to explore new ways of recruiting members.

IX. On behalf of Lucy Allen, chair, Meeting Sites Committee, the secretary-treasurer reported that the Society's 2017 annual meeting will be held in Gulfport and that the 2018 meeting would be held in Jackson. He further reported that the Society's board of directors had voted at its meeting on Thursday evening, March 3 to accept the Meeting Sites Committee's recommendation that the 2019 meeting be held in Natchez.

X. On behalf of Ann Atkinson Simmons, chair, Resolutions Committee, the secretary-treasurer presented the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Jack Raymond Reed, Sr. departed this life on January 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, at age eighteen, Reed enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps, stationed in Australia and occupied Japan; and

WHEREAS, Reed received a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree from New York University; and

WHEREAS, in 1950 Reed married the former Frances Camille Purvis of Corinth and had four children: Jack Raymond Reed Jr., Frances Camille Reed Sloan, Catherine Dale Reed Mize, and George Scott Reed; and

WHEREAS, Reed was elected President of the Mississippi Retail Merchants Association in 1966; and

WHEREAS, while living in Tupelo, Reed began a life-long commitment to community service, supporting many local organizations in Tupelo and North-East Mississippi, culminating with being chosen Tupelo's Outstanding Citizen in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Reed served as chairman of Governor William F. Winter's 1982 Blue Ribbon Committee on Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 Reed was the Republican nominee for Governor of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Reed was appointed by President George H. W. Bush as the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on Education; and

WHEREAS Reed was a longtime member and ardent supporter of the Mississippi Historical Society and Mississippi History Now;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 4, 2016, in Jackson, Mississippi, mourns the death of Jack Raymond Reed, Sr. and expresses its sympathy to his family.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Historical Society is aware that the Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Elizabeth Coleman and Diane Mattox, and the Program Committee, chaired by William “Brother” Rogers, invested a considerable amount of time, thought, and effort in planning the 2016 meeting of the Society in Corinth; and

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

WHEREAS, the Program Committee succeeded in planning informative and scholarly meeting sessions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 4, 2016, in Jackson, Mississippi, that the Local Arrangements Committee and Program Committee be officially recognized and commended for their splendid efforts.

The president asked if there were any other resolutions. There being no resolutions from the floor, Dr. Mitchell’s motion to adopt the aforementioned resolutions was seconded by Donna Dye and unanimously approved.

XI. Ann Abadie, chair, Nominations Committee, thanked Michael Ballard, Katie Blount, Robert Luckett, and Charles Westmoreland for serving on the committee and reported that the committee recommended the following slate of officers and board members:

Officers for the term 2016-2017

President – William “Brother” Rogers, Stennis
Center for Public Service, Starkville

Vice President – Susannah J. Ural, University of
Southern Mississippi

Secretary-Treasurer – Elbert R. Hilliard, Director
Emeritus, Department of Archives and History

Board of Directors for the term 2016-2019

Marshall Bennett, Jackson
Rolando Herts, Delta State University
Otis W. Pickett, Mississippi College
Brian A. Pugh, Brandon
Alysia Burton Steele, University of Mississippi
Mona Vance-Ali, Columbus

For the unexpired term 2016-2017

David Slay, Vicksburg

Board of Publications for the term 2016-2019

Robert Fleegler, University of Mississippi
William Parrish, Mississippi State University

The president asked if there were any other nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, Jim Miller moved that the aforementioned slate of nominees be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded by John Marszalek and unanimously approved.

XII. Katie Blount, director, Department of Archives and History, distributed and commented briefly on the following written report highlighting some of MDAH's accomplishments during the past year:

I am pleased to be here with my dear friends in the Mississippi Historical Society. I have worked with the Society now for twenty years, under Mr. Hilliard's steady guidance. I look forward to continuing the strong partnership between the Society and the Department of Archives and History.

Two Mississippi Museums

I am pleased to report that the 2MM construction project is on track. The building shell was completed in fall 2015, and work has begun on interior construction. Then exhibits will be installed, and the museums will open in December 2017 as the centerpiece of the bicentennial of Mississippi's statehood. This is the most significant public building project underway in Mississippi and the first state-operated civil rights museum in the nation.

We are also on track with the fundraising. The Mississippi Legislature has required that MDAH raise a dollar-for-dollar match

for the cost of the exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History has raised over \$13.3 million to date. The Foundation recently launched the campaign's public phase at the Mississippi Economic Council's annual Capital Day event.

We are working now to secure the rest of the public funds — an estimated \$16 million for furnishings/equipment and exhibit fabrication/installation — to complete the project, and just under \$1,000,000 for twenty-four staff positions needed for the museums. We have had dozens of conversations with legislators about the project and have been very encouraged by the response. We welcome your help in conveying to our public officials the importance of the project.

We are working with partners, including the Mississippi Development Authority's Visit Mississippi, the Mississippi Tourism Association, and convention & visitors bureaus to launch a major marketing initiative to put the museums on the map and to lift the profile of our current sites and other tourist attractions across the state. The Two Museums will be a boost to the entire tourism industry in Mississippi.

Legislative Agenda

We are seeking funding to establish career ladders for our employees to help address the longstanding problem of salaries at MDAH that are not competitive. The Department's outstanding and dedicated staff members deserve to be fairly compensated.

The legislature authorized a Community Heritage Preservation grant round for 2015, and in December the Board of Trustees awarded over \$3 million to twenty-two preservation and restoration projects. We are optimistic that we will have another Community Heritage Preservation Grant round in 2016.

Other News

MDAH recently completed the first cycle of the NEH-funded Mississippi Digital Newspaper Project and has begun work on a second cycle. So far over 104,000 pages have been mounted on the Library of Congress website "Chronicling America."

Biloxi native Randy Randazzo recently donated over 4,300 postcards and 751 negatives depicting the Gulf Coast and south Mississippi—the premier image collection of the Coast.

In June 2016, we will complete inventories of pre-1920 records in all county courthouses.

Historic Sites

We are working every day to maintain and improve our historic sites.

Major repairs are underway at Historic Jefferson College—new roofs, structural stabilization, and improved drainage.

At Winterville Mounds in partnership with the Delta Council, work has begun on a series of landscape improvements. We are especially indebted to Chip Morgan, executive director, Delta Council, for his support and assistance.

We are about to begin exterior repairs to the Manship House visitor center and plan to have limited operating hours once work is completed.

We are grateful to Governor Phil Bryant and First Lady Deborah Bryant for their generous hospitality and extraordinary commitment to preserving and maintaining the Governor's Mansion.

We are indebted to members of the Mississippi legislature and Liz Welch, secretary, Mississippi Senate, for their leadership and commitment to preserving the architectural integrity of the State Capitol.

Finally, if you're in Jackson on Wednesdays at noon, please join us for our popular "History Is Lunch" speaker series.

I know you all keep up with us through the Mississippi History Newsletter and our website. Please feel free to call me anytime for an update. We are grateful to all of you for your interest in Mississippi history and your leadership in the Mississippi Historical Society.

XIII. In the matter of other business, and in response to Ken Shearer's question about the Society's participation in the 200th anniversary of Mississippi's Statehood in 2017, the secretary-treasurer reported that the Department of Archives and History is actively involved in planning the bicentennial celebration. He further reported that MDAH will be coordinating the display of the 20-star flag and the 1817 Constitution at various sites throughout the state and that the dedication and opening of the 2 Mississippi Museums in December 2017 constitutes what the state's current legislative body considers one of its most important contributions to the state's bicentennial celebration.

The secretary-treasurer further reported that the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies will be launching a project to encourage local historical societies to collect photographs pertaining to their

respective communities and partner with MDAH to digitally archive the photos.

Marshall Bennett suggested that consideration be given to the issuance of a medallion commemorating the bicentennial anniversary, as was done for the sesquicentennial of Mississippi Statehood.

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

Dennis J. Mitchell
President

Elbert R. Hilliard
Secretary-Treasurer

