

2015

Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, March 6, 2015

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**MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 6, 2015**

The annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society was held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015, at the Weaver Center, Corinth, Mississippi. Ann Atkinson Simmons, 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 7, 2014, annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Tom Cockrell and unanimously approved.

II. The secretary-treasurer presented for the information of the members the following financial report for the year ending December 31, 2014:

BANK BALANCES

As of December 31, 2014

Regions Bank

<i>Heritage of Mississippi Series</i>	45,334.78
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%)	11,794.67
Certificate of Deposit Due October 10, 2016(.499%)	5,250.00
Certificate of Deposit Life Membership Account Due March 16, 2015(.450%)	42,770.77
Glover Moore Prize Fund Certificate of Deposit Due April 30, 2015(.450%)	10,826.44
John K. Bettersworth Award Fund Certificate of Deposit Due April 24, 2016(.450%)	4,135.25
Mississippi Historical Society Daily Interest Operating Account	34,696.06
<i>Mississippi History NOW</i> Adine Lampton Wallace Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due February 14, 2016(.450%)	14,951.48
Frank E. Everett, Jr., Award Certificate of Deposit Due March 16, 2015 (.450%)	2,288.84

BanCorpSouth Bank

<i>Mississippi History NOW</i>	7,186.30
Money Market Account	

Community Trust Bank

Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award	4,167.34
Certificate of Deposit	
Due March 4, 2015(.400%)	

<i>Heritage of Mississippi Series</i>	20,059.61
Money Market Account	

TOTAL	\$211,711.27
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Restricted	\$117,199.77
Unrestricted	\$ 94,511.50

Operating Account

Summary Report

1/1/2014 through 12/31/2014

INCOME

Annual Meeting	13,533.00
Bettsworth Award Contributions	571.97
Donations	
Atkinson MS Civil War History Award	3,600.00
Bettsworth Award CD	50.00
General Fund CD	50.00
Halsell Prize Endowment CD	450.00
Hilliard Oral History Award Endowment	102.40
Wallace Endowment CD	10.00
Interest Earned	284.26

Membership Dues:

College	60.00
Contributing	800.00
Corporate	710.00
Federation	375.00
Joint	490.00
Lifetime Memberships	2,000.00
Patron	400.00
Single	8,480.00
Student	110.00
Supporting	325.00
Total Membership	13,750.00

TOTAL INCOME **32,401.63**

EXPENSES

Accounting Fees	2,000.00
Adine Lampton Wallace CD Transfer	10.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	23,953.87
Bank Box Rent	45.00
Bank Service Charge	8.00
Bettsworth Award	651.30
Contributions –	
Foundation for Mississippi History	500.00
Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award –	
Transfer to CD	4,167.34
Everett Award	300.00
General Fund Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
Glover Moore Prize	300.00
Grant Awards –	
Junior Historical Society	2,000.00
Mississippi Heritage Trust	1,000.00
Halsell Prize Endowment –	
Transfer to CD	650.00
Hardin Foundation Grant –	
Video Producer Services	1,000.00

Transfer Balance to <i>Heritage of MS Series</i>	4,273.04
Hilliard Oral History Award	300.00
McLemore Prize	700.00
Miscellaneous Expense	11.76
Postage Expenses	720.00
Printing Expense	795.99
Riley Prize	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	43,936.30
TRANSFERS	
From 2013 Operating Account	<u>46,230.73</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	34,696.06

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NOW

Summary Report

1/1/2014 through 12/31/2014

INCOME	
Donations	1,000.00
Wallace Endowment CD	50.00
Interest Earned	<u>1.17</u>
TOTAL INCOME	1,051.17
EXPENSES	
Adine Lampton Wallace –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
Printing Expenses	23.72
Professional Fees	<u>6,250.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,323.72
TRANSFERS	
From 2013 <i>Mississippi History NOW</i> Account	<u>12,458.85</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	7,186.30

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 also reported that the Society's board of directors had authorized the establishment of an ad hoc committee to review the Society's various accounts and to make recommendations for the development of an investment plan to generate increased earnings on the Society's assets.

III. The president expressed her appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee: Rosemary Williams, chair; Ashley Berry, Mark Boehler, Christy Burns, Dr. and Mrs. James C. Gilmore, Elbert Hilliard, Mary Dee Kemp, Larry Mangus, William McMullin, Stephenie Morrisey, Sherry Norwood, Trey Porter, Claire Stanley, Brandy Steen, Debbie Tallent, and "Sandy" Williams for their outstanding work in planning and organizing the annual meeting.

Mrs. Simmons also expressed appreciation to the members of the Program Committee: Dr. Tim Smith, chair; Dr. Mike Ballard, Dr. Brandon Beck, Dean Burchfield, Dr. Tom Cockrell, Dr. Elizabeth Payne, Dr. Jason Shows, Dr. Susannah Ural, and Terry Winschel; 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 2015 annual meeting: the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rosemary and Sandy Williams, the National Park Service, Soco Bake Shop, Jim Miller of Gulfport, and Ann and Bill Simmons of Columbia.

V. Mrs. Simmons recognized and expressed appreciation to the following individuals who were completing terms of service on the board of directors of the society: Denoral Davis, Jackson State University; Martha Hutson, Clinton; Dr. Elizabeth Payne, University of Mississippi; Dr. Stuart Rockoff, Mississippi Humanities Council; and Brother Rogers of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service in Starkville.

VI. On behalf of Dennis Mitchell, editor, *Journal of Mississippi*

History, the secretary-treasurer reported that the Department of Archives and History had hired a private contractor to assist the *Journal's* managing editor, Chris Goodwin, with the design and layout of the *Journal* in an effort to catch up on the backlog in the *Journal's* publication and that as a result, three issues of the *Journal* had been published this year. He thanked Katie Blount, director, MDAH, for securing this professional assistance and reminded the membership that the MDAH Public Information office is short one staff position. Mrs. Blount expressed thanks to Chris Goodwin for his efforts in establishing an aggressive schedule to address the backlog in the publication of the *Journal*.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Goodwin stated that he is working with the three major state universities on the publication of special issues. He noted that the issue that is currently being published had been guest-edited by Dr. Alan Marcus, chair, Department of History, Mississippi State University, and that the following issue has been assembled by the University of Southern Mississippi Department of History. He also reported that an issue devoted to the Civil War will be edited by Dr. Mike Ballard.

VII. 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.

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.

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

Dr. Connie Lester of the University of Central Florida

indicates that she has done some rethinking of her manuscript on the economic history of Mississippi and is making good progress. She is unable to give an exact date for completion.

Dr. Chester "Bo" Morgan of the University of Southern Mississippi has completed a Prologue and chapters 1 to 9 of his 1917-1954 volume. Chapter 10 remains to be written, and Dr. Morgan has determined that he will end the volume at the beginning rather than the end of World War II. This war period is too complicated to include as part of this volume. He recommends a separate volume on the period between Pearl Harbor and the beginning of the Civil Rights era. He hopes to have this book completed by the end of 2015.

Jere Nash, freelance writer, has completed his research on the Reconstruction volume and has an outline and chapter summary of the entire volume. He says he just needs to get over his "logjam" and complete the book which he hopes to do by Christmas 2015.

Dr. Max Grivno of the University of Southern Mississippi is working on the volume concerning slavery. He has received grants to do research at several repositories and has made important progress. Because of faculty commitments, he is unable to meet a deadline of 2015, but he hopes that he will have a manuscript completed by March of 2016.

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 of William Carey College has completed the editorship of the multi-author history of Mississippi literature. This volume is now in the hands of the University Press of Mississippi which is taking it through the editorial process prior to publication in late 2015 or early 2016.

Charles Weeks, retired, and Christian Pinnen of Mississippi College have submitted a proposal which has been accepted to write a volume on the Colonial era of Mississippi history. They

hope to complete the volume within the next several years.

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 chosen an author for any one of them.

I am convinced that we will have a majority of the volumes in the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* completed by the time of the Mississippi bicentennial. I wish we could say that all will be completed before this celebration, but this will simply not happen.

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

Mississippi History Now (MHN) re-launched new publications on December 22, 2014, beginning with Dick Molpus's article, "Philadelphia, Mississippi: a Story of Racial Reconciliation." I am happy to report that our second article was published this week on Tuesday, March 3. "The Truth About the Boll Weevil" was authored by Dr. James Giesen of Mississippi State University. I have also received a draft of our third article, "Free People of Color in Colonial Natchez," by Dr. Christian Pinnen of Mississippi College. Other forthcoming articles are "Christian Mission among the Choctaw and Chickasaw, 1817-1832: Multiethnic Worship Spaces on the Southern Frontier" by Dr. Otis W. Pickett of Mississippi College; "Newspapers of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Schools" by Dr. William Sturkey, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina; and a topic on antebellum Mississippi selected by Dr. Max Grivno of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Karla Smith has agreed to prepare all of our lesson plans, and Dr. Deanne Nuwer has agreed to continue to serve as *MHN's* historical consultant. Chris Goodwin, director, Public Information, MDAH, submits a press release to all media outlets as each article is published. Finally, Jason Bronson, MDAH webmaster, serves as the site's webmaster and is an invaluable and professional resource for us.

As many of you may know, *MHN* now has a Facebook page. It was launched on December 22, 2014, and we currently

have 293 followers. The Facebook page has allowed us to communicate with our readership much more quickly about new articles and other matters of interest. It has also enabled our readers to share our publications with their friends and colleagues. For instance, Dick Molpus's article generated 880 readers through Facebook, and since Tuesday, James Giesen's article has already reached 353 readers. In addition to posting new articles on Facebook, I am able to garner new attention for previously published articles. Some of these articles (i.e. James Kelly's article on Newt Knight and Charles Bolton's article regarding segregation in the 1970s) are receiving in excess of 500 views. The Facebook page has also allowed us to connect with other groups with similar missions. Groups such as Teaching for Change, Mississippi History for Teachers, the Zinn Education Project, the Andrew Goodman Foundation, Mission Mississippi, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and the Mississippi Museum of Art have not only become followers of our Facebook page, but they have also shared some of our posts to their own followers.

Teaching for Change has recently highlighted the work of *MHN* in its newsletter. Additionally, I have been able to make two new contacts within the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) who have agreed to provide information about each of our new publications in MDE's weekly *EdUpdate* newsletter and on a listserv that is sent to all secondary educators within the state.

Finally, our website developer, Addison Hall, was recently able to provide me with access to our website through Good Analytics, which allows me to monitor site activity. I have been watching the traffic to our site in order to determine how we have been affected by the two-year publication hiatus and the subsequent re-launch. In the month prior to our December 2014 re-launch, the number of total site visits was 1,800, while traffic for the month following the re-launch was 2,700. I also wanted to compare this new traffic reference to an active month prior to the site's publication hiatus. During the month January of 2012, total visits to the website numbered 2,300. While these numbers initially appear very exciting, I would

like to challenge us all that there is still much work to be done. Work in the form of making sure that current and potential Mississippi history teachers know that our site exists and is currently adding new publications. I encourage all of you to invite your friends on Facebook to “like” the *MHN* Facebook page. If you do not have a Facebook page, I will provide you with a link to the Facebook page that you can email to your friends who may have Facebook accounts.

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

The secretary-treasurer stated that he would like to express his deep appreciation to the Mississippi Humanities Council and the MDAH board of trustees for these entities’ continued financial support of *MHN*.

IX. The president thanked Stuart Rockoff for volunteering his time and expertise in establishing a website for the society and asked him to give a brief report on the status of this project. Mr. Rockoff stated that the address for the new website is mississippihistory.org. He mentioned that the information that can be found on the website includes a brief history of the Society, a list and description of the Society’s awards, and various photographs. He concluded his report by stating that the website is a work in progress and that plans call for it to enable individuals to click on a link to join the Society once the Society has established a Paypal account to enable electronic payments for dues and annual meeting registration.

X. Ann Simmons, chair, Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies, reported that she has been encouraged by the interest shown in the re-activation of the Federation and that Jill Smith of New Albany will be in charge of organizing the local historical societies in the northern part of the state and Betty Shaw will be working with the societies in the southern part of the state. She stated that meetings will be held annually in the north and south, in addition to a Federation meeting during the Society’s annual meeting. She concluded by stating that she is very excited about working with the local societies and helping them in any manner she can.

XI. On behalf of Tom Watts, chair, History in Mississippi Schools committee, the secretary-treasurer presented the committee's report. He commended Colonel Watts for his diligence in monitoring the Department of Education's decision to grant school districts throughout the state the option to not offer the eighth grade United States History from Exploration through Reconstruction course. He continued by stating that a meeting had been held in November 2014 with the assistant Superintendent of Education and several other staff members of the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and that during this meeting, the MDE representatives had acknowledged their error in sending the memorandum concerning the United States history curriculum option to all of the school districts. Mr. Hilliard further reported that a commitment had been secured during the November meeting that no changes pertaining to the teaching of history in Mississippi schools would be made by MDE without including Mississippi Historical Society representatives in discussions of the proposed changes.

Mr. Hilliard concluded his report by stating that the Hardin Foundation had granted permission to the Mississippi Historical Society to transfer the remaining balance of \$4,273.04 of the Hardin Foundation grant for the United States new curriculum training project to the *Heritage of Mississippi Series*, which is being published by the University Press of Mississippi.

XII. Avery Rollins, chair, Membership Committee, presented the following membership report as of December 31, 2014:

Contributing	78
Corporate	28
Exchange	28
Gift	72
Honorary	6
Joint	110
Life	170
Single	705
Student	7
Supporting	21
College	34

Federation	46
Patron	8

TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 1,313

Mr. Rollins stated that while the membership totals have remained fairly consistent, the Society could enhance membership growth by recruiting young people and African-American citizens. He concluded his report by suggesting that each current member of the Society provide a gift membership to at least one African-American friend and one young person in an effort to expand the Society's membership on a broader spectrum.

XIII. Ken Shearer, chair, Meeting Sites Committee, reported that the Society's 2016 annual meeting will be held in Jackson and that the 2017 meeting would be held in Gulfport. He further reported that the Society's board of directors had voted at its meeting on Thursday evening, March 5 to accept the Meeting Sites Committee's recommendation that the 2018 meeting be held in Jackson.

XIV. The secretary-treasurer commended Tom Watts for his exemplary work in the field of living history, his involvement in the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, and now his passionate efforts to restore the Hinds Family Cemetery in Jefferson County. He stated that Colonel Watts had requested that the society serve as a financial conduit for the cemetery restoration project. He stated that after visiting the cemetery and gaining a better understanding of exactly what Colonel Watts is trying to do, he felt that the Society has a responsibility to undertake projects of this nature, particularly when the Society is not being asked to provide any funding. Mr. Hilliard reported that the Society board had voted to let the society serve as the financial conduit and that he had been authorized to execute a contract with the conservator who will undertake the restoration of the gravestones once adequate funding has been secured and the property owner's written permission has been obtained.

XV. Dr. William Parrish, chair, of the Resolutions Committee, presented the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, H. T. Holmes has retired after more than forty-one years of outstanding service to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the state of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Holmes began his association with MDAH in 1969 as a college intern; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Holmes was employed as an oral historian in the MDAH Division of Information and Education under the direction of Charlotte Capers; and

WHEREAS, Holmes, in traversing the state, conducted or supervised more than 120 interviews and consulted on numerous projects, including the exemplary Washington County Oral History Project; and

WHEREAS, Holmes spearheaded the establishment of the Mississippi Historical Society's Oral History Committee; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1978, Holmes served in the MDAH Archives and Library Division, as archivist, records analyst, manuscript curator, and head of special collections; and

WHEREAS, Holmes played a leading role in the survey of records of executive state agencies (1979-1980), which led to the Mississippi legislature's enactment of the Mississippi Archives and Records Management Law in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Holmes researched and wrote the 1982 Historical Records Needs Assessment report for the state of Mississippi and led the implementation of many of the report's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Holmes was named director of the MDAH Archives and Library Division; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2005, Holmes became the sixth director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and served in that capacity until his retirement on January 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Holmes as MDAH director chaired the State Records Committee, Local Government Records Committee, and Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration Commission and served on the Foundation for Mississippi History, Foundation for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Mississippi Heritage Trust, and Mississippi Main Street Association boards; and

WHEREAS, Holmes has been a longtime active member and

supporter of the Mississippi Historical Society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, commends and thanks H. T. Holmes for his outstanding service to the Department of Archives and History and the state of Mississippi.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Historical Society is aware that the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Rosemary Taylor Williams, and the Program Committee, chaired by Timothy B. Smith, invested a considerable amount of time, thought, and effort in planning the 2015 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 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, that the Local Arrangements Committee and Program Committee be officially recognized and commended for their splendid efforts.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, former First Lady Ava Carroll Overton Waller departed this life on October 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of McComb, Mississippi, Mrs. Waller graduated from Central High School in Jackson and from Mississippi College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waller was First Lady of Mississippi from 1972-1976, during her husband's tenure as governor; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waller spearheaded efforts to restore the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, leading efforts for the architecturally correct restoration and the development of the neoclassical gardens that surround the Mansion; and

WHEREAS, she championed efforts to have the Governor's Mansion designated a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waller provided leadership to encourage the state of Mississippi's purchase and restoration of the historic Manship House in Jackson by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waller received an Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society in 1980 for her actions related to the aforementioned projects; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, she received the Centennial Award of Excellence from Blue Mountain College, and Mississippi College awarded her the Service to Humanity Award in 1976, an honorary doctorate degree in 1978, and the Order of the Golden Arrow in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waller served as National Library Week chairperson and sponsored the Mississippi Library Commission's bicentennial project, and served on the Mississippi Arts Commission, as regent of the Rebecca Cravat Chapter, Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and on the boards of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission and Mississippi Historical Society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, mourns the death of Ava Carroll Overton Waller and expresses its sympathy to his family.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Stephanie Lynne Dawes Sandy departed this life on June 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS, having grown up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., Sandy first came to Mississippi in the fall of 1964 to enroll at Blue Mountain College, where she subsequently earned a B.A. degree in history; and

WHEREAS, she moved with her husband, Milton Larrimore Sandy, Jr. to Corinth in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Sandy became the youngest Certified

Genealogical Record Searcher in the United States and the first in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Sandy worked as a freelance genealogical researcher traveling to the National Archives, Mormon Genealogical Library, five Southern state archives, city libraries, cemeteries, and numerous county courthouses; and

WHEREAS, in her research, Sandy specialized in subjects pertaining to Northeast Mississippi with particular emphasis on the early history of Corinth and old Tishomingo County; and

WHEREAS, Sandy meticulously researched the history of her husband's family home at 1106 Cruise Street in Corinth, thereby documenting its construction in 1857; and

WHEREAS, Sandy conducted extensive research in the Alcorn County courthouse's holding of old newspapers and subsequently published local abstracts in the *Northeast Mississippi Genealogical Quarterly* and in a *Daily Corinthian* column, "Corinth Clippings"; and

WHEREAS, Sandy played a significant role in the reorganization of the Corinth Historical Commission, which became the Corinth Preservation Commission, for which she served as the first chairperson from 1990 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, under Sandy's direction and guidance Corinth's first two historic districts were established and the original Corinth preservation ordinance was enacted; and

WHEREAS, Sandy became the Certified Local Government coordinator for the City of Corinth in 1990, holding that position for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Sandy was a dedicated member of the Mississippi Historical Society, serving as a member of the Society's board of directors from 1992-1995;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, mourns the death of Stephanie Lynne Dawes Sandy and expresses its sympathy to her family.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Dorothy Sample Shawhan departed this life on

December 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Shawhan graduated from the Mississippi State College for Women with a degree in English, received a Master of Art degree in English from Louisiana State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from George Mason University; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 Shawhan moved to Cleveland and joined the faculty of Delta State University, later serving as chair of the Department of Languages and Literature for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan published her acclaimed novel *Lizzie* in 1994, followed by a biography of Lucy Somerville Howorth, which she co-authored with her dear friend Dr. Martha Swain; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan was a founding member of the Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, serving on the board for ten years, and also served on the boards of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and the University Press of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan was a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and served as president of the local chapter for many years; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan was editor of the Journal of Mississippi Council of Teachers of English from 1984 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan received many awards, including the Mississippi Library Association Fiction Writer of the Year in 1996, the AAUW Woman of Achievement Award (Mississippi Division) in 1997, the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Achievement Award in 1998, the Mississippi Humanities Council Teacher Award for Delta State University in 2004, and the Kossman Teaching Award at Delta State University in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Shawhan was a longtime, faithful member of the Mississippi Historical Society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, mourns the death of Dorothy Sample Shawhan and expresses its sympathy to her family.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Madel Jacobs Morgan Stringer departed this life on November 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rosedale, Mississippi, and a great-granddaughter of Charles Clark, governor of Mississippi (1863-1865), Stringer graduated from Mississippi State College for Women in 1939; and

WHEREAS, in 1945 Stringer was employed to serve as secretary to Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) director William D. McCain; and

WHEREAS, Stringer, in this position, worked closely with Charlotte Capers, who succeeded Dr. McCain as MDAH director; and

WHEREAS, Stringer accepted the position of librarian at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 she joined the Mississippi Library Commission, and in 1979 returned to MDAH as director of the Archives and Library Division, and in that capacity oversaw the department's participation in the United States Newspaper Project, a cooperative national effort between the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present; and

WHEREAS, Stringer, who was beloved by all who knew her, retired from MDAH in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Stringer was president of the Mississippi Historical Society from 1994 to 1995 and a member of Daughters of the King at St. Columb's Episcopal Church, the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Mississippi, the Order of the First Families of Mississippi, and the Mississippi Library Association; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 6, 2015, in Corinth, Mississippi, mourns the death of Madel Jacobs Morgan Stringer and expresses its sympathy to her family.

The president asked if there were any other resolutions. There being no resolutions from the floor, Mrs. Simmons's motion to adopt the aforementioned resolutions was seconded by Anne Webster and unanimously approved.

XVI. On behalf of Donna Dye, chair, Nominations Committee, the secretary-treasurer thanked Gail Albert, Katie Blount, David Bowen, and Brian Pugh for serving with Mrs. Dye on the committee and reported that the committee recommended the following slate of officers and board members:

Officers for the term 2015-2016

President – Dr. Dennis J. Mitchell, Mississippi State University, Meridian

Vice President – William “Brother” Rogers, John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, Starkville

Secretary-Treasurer – Elbert R. Hilliard, director emeritus, Department of Archives and History

Board of Directors for the term 2015-2018

Max Grivno, University of Southern Mississippi

Andy Harper, University of Mississippi

Peggy Jeanes, Jackson

Fred Miller, Anguilla

K. C. Morrison, Mississippi State University

Michael Williams, Tougaloo College

Board of Publications for the term 2015-2018

Jim Barnett, Natchez

John Langston, Jackson

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

XVII. 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 always 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 Two Mississippi Museums construction project is on track. The building shell is scheduled for completion in summer 2015. Then exhibits will be installed, and plans call for the museums to be dedicated and opened in December 2017 for the bicentennial of Mississippi's statehood.

We are also on track with the Two Mississippi Museums fundraising. The Mississippi Legislature has required that MDAH raise a dollar-for-dollar match for the cost of the museum exhibits. The Foundation for Mississippi History set a fundraising goal of \$12 million for the exhibits and \$4 million for endowments for the two museums. As of today, the foundation has raised \$11.6 million for the exhibits.

Last October, we made a great start on the endowment fundraising, when the Kellogg Foundation announced a grant of \$2.3 million, with \$1.7 directed toward the endowment for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

We are working with the Mississippi Legislature now to secure the rest of the public funds--\$33 million to complete the exhibits and phase 2 of the construction. We have had dozens of conversations with legislators about the project and have been very encouraged by the response. We welcome help in conveying to our public officials the importance of the project.

Legislative Agenda

We have also requested funding for some initial staff positions for the Two Mississippi Museums. It is now time to bring on staff to prepare the artifacts, plan programming for the museums, and take on the many other challenges of opening the museums.

We are in the early stages of a restoration of Historic Jefferson College. MDAH has committed funds for urgent needs—roof and foundation repair—and we have a request before the Legislature for \$750,000 to complete the initial phase of the restoration. We will do some more in-depth planning over the next year and come back to the legislature with a request for the funds needed to complete the restoration and interpretation of the site.

We are optimistic that we will have another Community Heritage Preservation Grant round in 2015. A bill has been introduced providing funds for the program. This program has provided millions of dollars

for the restoration of historic courthouses and historic schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic structures. This grant program is very popular across the state and stands a good chance of being funded.

Other News

The Archives and Records Services Division is working hard every day to digitize resources in the MDAH archival collection so they can be available online. With the opening of the Two Mississippi Museums, we expect a significant increase in media attention, visitation, and focus on the Department's work, which will trigger a welcome increase in demand for MDAH resources. We want to be ready to accommodate our many new patrons around the state and the world. Digitization is an expensive and time consuming process, but the more resources we can make available on line, the better we will serve the public, so digitization is a very high priority for us.

Mound Trail

Later this year, we will announce the grand opening of the Mississippi Mound Trail. The trail will stretch from Wilkinson County in southeast Mississippi to Tunica County in the north. The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians in Natchez and the Winterville Mounds north of Greenville will serve as trail anchors. There will be printed and electronic trail guides available. Funding for this project is provided by the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Once the project is completed, additional trails will be planned for other areas of the state.

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.

XVIII. In the matter of other business, the secretary-treasurer invited members to volunteer to serve on the various society committees.

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

Ann Atkinson Simmons, President
Elbert R. Hilliard, Secretary-Treasurer

