

2014

## Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, March 7, 2014

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# Mississippi Historical Society Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting March 7, 2014

The annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society was held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2014, at the Old Capitol Inn, Jackson, Mississippi. Professor Charles L. Sullivan, president, Mississippi Historical Society, called the meeting to order and presided.

Elbert R. Hilliard, secretary-treasurer, acted as secretary for the meeting. Sherry Norwood, special projects officer, Department of Archives and History, recorded the minutes.

The following business was transacted:

I. The secretary-treasurer moved that the minutes of the March 3, 2013, annual business meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Clay Williams and unanimously approved.

II. The secretary-treasurer presented for the information of the members the following financial report for the year ending December 31, 2013:

## **BANK BALANCES**

As of December 31, 2013

### **Regions Bank**

<i>Heritage of Mississippi Series</i> -Hardin Grant Certificate of Deposit Due May 16, 2014 (.100%)	\$19,902.54
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<i>Heritage of Mississippi Series</i> Daily Interest Operating Account	37,855.79
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### **Trustmark National Bank**

Halsell Prize Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due August 23, 2014 (.548%)	7,516.89
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Certificate of Deposit Due February 20, 2015 (.499%)	11,794.67
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Certificate of Deposit Due October 3, 2014 (.548%)	5,200.00
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 October 24, 2014 (.450%)	4,107.40
Mississippi Historical Society Daily Interest Operating Account	46,230.73
<i>Mississippi History NOW</i> Adine Lampton Wallace Endowment Certificate of Deposit Due August 5, 2014 (.450%)	14,791.57
Frank E. Everett, Jr., Award Certificate of Deposit Due March 16, 2015 (.450%)	2,288.84
<b>BanCorpSouth Bank</b>	
Mississippi History NOW Money Market Account	12,458.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$215,744.49</b>
Restricted	\$109,748.32
Unrestricted	\$105,996.17

**Operating Account**  
 Summary Report  
 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

**INCOME**

Annual Meeting		\$10,429.00
Bettersworth Award Contributions		496.76
Donations		
Bettersworth Award CD		400.00
Everett Award CD		50.00
General Fund CD		50.00
Glover Moore Prize Fund CD		50.00
Halsell Prize Endowment CD		200.00
Miscellaneous Contribution		245.00
Wallace Endowment CD		475.00
Hilliard Oral History Award Endowment		3,167.34
Interest Earned		283.75
<i>Journal of Mississippi History</i>		375.80
Membership Dues:		
College		330.00
Contributing		2,225.00
Corporate		2,720.00
Federation		175.00
Gift		100.00
Joint		2,345.00
Life		
New Life Members	1,450.00	
<u>Transfer to CD</u>	<u>(2,350.00)</u>	
Total Life		(900).00
Patron	800.00	
Single	8,925.00	
Student	15.00	
Supporting	1,125.00	
Total Membership	17,860.00	

**TOTAL INCOME** **34,082.65**

**EXPENSES**

Accounting Fees	2,000.00
Adine Lampton Wallace CD Transfer	4,475.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	12,465.70
Bank Box Rent	35.00
Bank Service Charge	9.52

Bettersworth Award	300.00
Bettersworth Award Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	300.00
Contribution – Natchez Trace Parkway Association	300.00
Everett Award	300.00
Everett Award Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
General Fund Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
Glover Moore Prize Contributions –	
Transfer to CD	50.00
Halsell Prize	200.00
Hardin Foundation Grant Project	4,300.00
<i>Journal of Mississippi History</i>	5,233.54
McLemore Prize	700.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	167.54
Offices Expenses	96.30
Postage Expenses	1,340.00
Taxes and Penalties	390.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>32,762.60</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>	
From 2012 Operating Account	44,910.68
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,230.73</b>

**MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NOW**

Summary Report

1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

**INCOME**

Donations	510.00
Interest Earned	1.26

**TOTAL INCOME** **511.26**

**EXPENSES**

Bank Charges	4.73
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**TOTAL EXPENSES** **13,470.00**

**TRANSFERS**

From 2012 Mississippi History NOW Account	11,952.32
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<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,458.85</b>
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III. The president expressed his appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee: Rita Johnson, chair; Robert Parker Adams, Ruth Cole, Elbert Hilliard, Larry Johnson, Linda Mann, Stephenie Morrissey, Sherry Norwood, Trey Porter, Janet Sullivan, and Robert Wise and the members of the Program Committee: Larry Albert, chair; Lucy Allen, George Bassi, Chad Daniels, Robin Krohn David, Jack McWilliams, Bo Miller, Ken P'Pool, and Stuart Rockoff for their outstanding work in planning and organizing the annual meeting.

Professor Sullivan also recognized and expressed appreciation to the following individuals who were completing terms of service on the board of directors of the society: Dixie Butler, Columbus; Al Hollingsworth, Port Gibson; Robert Luckett, Jackson; Chauncey Spears, Byram; Tom Watts, Madison; and Clay Williams, Brandon.

IV. The president expressed thanks to the following individuals for their generous financial support in helping fund the 2014 annual meeting: Robert Parker Adams, John Corlew, Larry and Rita Johnson, Princella Nowell, Lemuel Augustus Smith III, Janet Sullivan, and Robert Wise.

V. Peggy Jeanes, chair, Awards Committee, presented the following report: The 2014 Awards Committee was composed of Paul D. Buckley, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson; Bonnie Feig, Starkville; Marco Giardino, Bay St. Louis; Kathryn Lewis, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University, Starkville; C. Dale Shearer, Ridgeland; Jason Shows, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Susannah J. Ural, University of Southern Mississippi; Charles Westmoreland, Delta State University; and Peggy Jeanes, chair.

The committee was charged with selecting various award recipients to be honored at this Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting. It met January 11, 2014, in the boardroom at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building to review and vote on nominations. The recipient of the B.L.C. Wailes Award, which goes to a Mississippian who has achieved national recognition in the field of history will be presented at the banquet this evening.

And at tomorrow's Awards Brunch, the following awards will be presented: the Dunbar Rowland Award, which is given to an individual who has made life-long contributions to the preservation, study, and/or interpretation of Mississippi history; the Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award, which is given to a local historical society that has done outstanding work in preserving and interpreting local history; and six Awards of Merit. The Awards of Merit are presented to individuals or organi-

zations for outstanding archival, historical, or museum work. I hope you plan on attending the Awards Brunch.

The committee was unable to designate a recipient of the Willie D. Halsell Prize. This annual prize goes to the author of what is judged the best article published in the quarterly *Journal of Mississippi History* the previous year. Only one issue of the *Journal* was published last year.

If you know of someone or an organization that should be nominated for an award at next year's annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society, please let us know.

VI. Dennis Mitchell, editor, *Journal of Mississippi History*, reported that the *Journal* is still behind schedule, but he has hopes that some of the delinquent issues will be published this year. He further stated that the Summer 2012 and a special issue on Mississippi and the War of 1812 are ready for production, and that copy for three additional special issues will be delivered this year.

VII. On behalf of John Marszalek, chair, Publications Committee, the secretary-treasurer reported that six volumes of the *Heritage of Mississippi Series* have been published to date, and six others are under contract. Mr. Hilliard further stated that the next volume to be published will, in all likelihood, be the volume on Mississippi literature that is being compiled and edited by Lorie Watkins. He noted that four volumes were still not under contract: Colonial Mississippi, the pre-civil war years, the Jim Crow era, and the civil rights era, but that Dr. Marszalek has a verbal commitment from Robby Luckett, who has stated that he may be able to begin writing the civil rights volume in 2015.

Mr. Hilliard concluded by reporting that Dr. Marszalek remains cautiously optimistic about reaching the goal of completing the series by 2017.

VIII. Deanne Nuwer, chair, Junior Historical Society, thanked the Mississippi Historical Society for its generous support of the Junior Historical Society and reported that the Junior Historical Society continues to promote the appreciation and study of history throughout Mississippi schools. She further reported that National History Day had been held on February 22, 2014, at the University of Southern Mississippi and that total attendance, which included almost 200 students from across the state of Mississippi, had reached nearly 500 people. Dr. Nuwer stated that through the efforts of the Junior Historical Society, the students representing Mississippi in the National History Day competition are becoming increasingly competitive and have won or placed in several categories in recent years.

VIX. Tom Watts, chair, History in Mississippi Schools committee, reported that the committee had convened on February 21 and 28, 2014, to review the status of several projects. He stated that one area of critical concern is the possible elimination of the eighth grade United States History from Exploration through Reconstruction

course. He continued by stating that in the August 2013 State Board of Education meeting, the board had approved a recommendation made by the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Office of Educational Accountability to allow Carnegie unit credits in Mississippi Studies and World Geography in the eighth grade beginning in school year 2013-2014. He further stated that even though MDE does not recommend eliminating the eighth grade United States History course, it is still granting each school district the option of eliminating one of the most important courses on our nation's history and culture.

Mr. Watts concluded his report by stating that the Board of Directors had adopted the committee's recommendation that the President of the Society send a letter to the state Superintendent of Education expressing the Society's concerns and recommending that no options be granted to school districts that would allow the skipping or removal of the United States from Exploration to Reconstruction course.

X. Avery Rollins, chair, Membership Committee, presented the following membership report as of December 31, 2013:

Contributing	73
Corporate	37
Exchange	28
Gift	59
Honorary	6
Joint	110
Life	172
Single	691
Student	8
Supporting	24
College	31
Federation	40
Patron	5
TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	1,284

Mr. Rollins stated that while the membership totals have remained fairly consistent, some key areas that could result in membership growth, i.e., targeting younger people and African-American citizens for involvement, as well as local genealogical and historical societies, were identified by the committee at its meeting held in January 2014. He further suggested that the use of social media such as Facebook; the creation of a Society web page; and efforts to make contact with local historical and genealogical societies are possible ways to generate interest in the society and increase membership. He concluded by thanking Dixie Butler, Daphne Chamberlain, Al Hollingsworth, Jim Miller, Elizabeth Payne, Brian Pugh, Ann Simmons, and Jill Smith for their service on the committee.

XI. On behalf of Billy Hewes, chair, Meeting Sites Committee, the secretary-trea-



surer reported that the Society's 2015 annual meeting will be held in Corinth to help close the state's observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and that the 2016 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 6 to accept the Meeting Sites Committee's recommendation that the 2017 meeting be held in Gulfport as part of the state's celebration of the bicentennial of statehood, noting that the statehood centennial celebration had been scheduled to be held in Gulfport in 1917 only to be cancelled by the onset of the nation's involvement in World War I.

XII. Wes Busbee, chair, Resolutions Committee, presented the following resolutions:

### RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, James F. Barnett, Jr. will soon be retiring after thirty-three years of outstanding service to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the state of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Barnett joined the Department of Archives and History as site administrator of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and in 1982 became the first director of the newly established Historic Properties Division; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary scholarly research has enhanced our knowledge of Native American history in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Barnett, who authored *The Natchez Indians: A History to 1735*, which was published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2007, is widely considered to be the foremost authority on the Natchez tribe; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, his enduring work *Mississippi's American Indians* was published as the sixth volume of the *Heritage of Mississippi Series*; and

WHEREAS, Barnett has been a longtime and active member of the Mississippi Historical Society and has served on the Society's board of directors and innumerable committees; and

WHEREAS, Barnett has conducted his work with dedication and zeal and will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues in the Society and Department of Archives and History;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 7, 2014, commends and thanks James F. Barnett, Jr. for his dedicated service and leadership in helping preserve and interpret the prehistory and history of the state of Mississippi.

### RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, Anne Lipscomb Webster will soon be retiring after thirty-seven years of outstanding service to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the state of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Webster began working in the Archives and Library Division of the Department of Archives and History, becoming head librarian in 1980 and later the director of Reference Services; and

WHEREAS, Webster has worked in many areas, from assisting patrons and answering letters to helping plan the new Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum; and

WHEREAS, Webster's invaluable genealogical guide *Tracing your Mississippi Ancestors*, co-authored with Kathleen S. Hutchison, was published in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Mississippi Historical Society praised the work as being the "essential guide to researching ancestral roots in Mississippi"; and

WHEREAS, Webster has built a strong relationship with the Mississippi Genealogical Society, giving presentations to its members and many other community groups; and

WHEREAS, Webster has been a longtime and active member of the Mississippi Historical Society, serving on the Program Committee on several occasions; and

WHEREAS, Webster has conducted her work with enthusiasm and dedication and will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues in the Society and Department of Archives and History;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 7, 2014, commends and thanks Anne Lipscomb Webster for her dedicated service in guiding and assisting literally tens of thousands of researchers in their use of the MDAH archival and library collections.

### RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Will Davis Campbell departed this life on June 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Campbell was a prolific author, clergyman, civil rights activist, and longtime member of the Mississippi Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, a native of Amite County, Mississippi, Campbell served in World War II, earned a degree in English from Wake Forest College, and graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Campbell served two years as a minister at a small Baptist church in Louisiana before becoming director of religious life at the University of Mississippi, where he courageously faced opposition over his support of racial justice; and

WHEREAS, from 1956 to 1963 Campbell was employed by the National Council of Churches, participating in many seminal events of the civil rights era; and

WHEREAS, Campbell escorted African American students through angry crowds outside Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, helped organize the Freedom Rides in 1961, and joined the boycotts, marches, and sit-ins the next year in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the author of nearly twenty works, Campbell's memoirs entitled *Brother to a Dragonfly* was a finalist for the National Book Award in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Campbell authored *Robert G. Clark's Journey to the House: A Black*

*Politician's Story* (2003), a biography of the first African American member of the Mississippi Legislature since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Campbell was awarded the 1998 Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters award for nonfiction and the 2005 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and in 2000 received the National Endowment for the Humanities medal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 7, 2014, in Jackson, Mississippi, mourns the death of Will Davis Campbell and expresses its sympathy to his family.

### RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, Martha Huddleston Wilkins departed this life on October 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tchula, Mississippi, Wilkins graduated from the University of Mississippi and earned a master's degree from Mississippi College and doctorate in history from the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Wilkins was chosen to serve as the Mississippi Department of Archives and History scholar-in-residence for the observance of the Columbus Quincentenary in Mississippi, a project funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council to mark the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Wilkins organized the celebration, coordinated proposed projects, spoke across the state to raise awareness, and wrote multiple grant proposals; and

WHEREAS, her work helped lead to the publication of Spanish and French language school readers and a popular history, projects to enrich education through the classroom and public television, and traveling exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Wilkins also encouraged the Mississippi Opera and Mississippi Museum of Art to undertake Columbus programming, incorporate Italian Heritage Society events, and worked with other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, she was a featured presenter at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in a session on the Columbus Quincentenary and helped represent Mississippi at meetings of the De Soto Trail Commission; and

WHEREAS, Wilkins taught at Belhaven College, Jackson Academy, and Hinds Community College, where she became the chair of the History Department upon her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Wilkins was a longtime member of the Mississippi Historical Society and served for many years on the Junior Historical Society and Oral History Committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Historical Society, assembled on March 7, 2014, in Jackson, Mississippi, mourns the death of Martha Huddleston Wilkins and expresses its sympathy to her family.

## RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Historical Society is aware that the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Rita Johnson, and the Program Committee, chaired by Larry Albert, invested a considerable amount of time, thought, and effort in planning the 2014 meeting of the Society in Jackson; 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 7, 2014, 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, Mr. Busbee's motion to adopt the aforementioned resolutions was seconded by Tom Cockrell and unanimously approved.

XIII. Tom Cockrell, chair, Nominations Committee, thanked Jim Barnett, Alferdteen Harrison, Mary Carol Miller, and Trent Watts for serving on the committee and reported that the committee recommended the following slate of officers and board members:

### **Officers for the term 2014-2015**

President – Ann Atkinson Simmons, Columbia

Vice President - Dennis Mitchell, Lauderdale

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

### **Board of Directors for the term 2014-2017**

Terrence J. Winschel, Vicksburg

Craig Gill, Jackson

Ann Abadie, Oxford

Page Ogden, Natchez

Jim Miller, Gulfport

Robert Walker, Jackson

### **Board of Publications for the term 2014-2017**

Jeanne Luckett, Jackson

Walter Howell, Clinton

The president asked if there were any other nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, Dr. Cockrell's motion that the aforementioned slate of nominees be accepted by acclamation was seconded by Trey Porter and unan-

imously approved.

XIV. H. T. Holmes, director, Department of Archives and History, distributed a written report highlighting some of the many accomplishments of the department throughout the past year, including restoration and preservation efforts; ongoing research under the auspices of the Mississippi Mound Trail Project; Certified Local Government grants, county records inventory project; archives and records acquisitions and digital archives; Mississippi Landmark designations, National Register of Historic Places nominations, historical markers; and Museum Division artifacts and exhibits.

Mr. Holmes further reported that Phase I of the construction of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum is now well underway, and that funding for Phase II for completion of the buildings and half of the exhibit costs is being sought from the legislature during the current session. He also noted that the Foundation for Mississippi History's successful fundraising initiative is underway to raise private funds to match state funds for the exhibits and to create an endowment for the two museums, and that the museums are scheduled to open on December 10, 2017, as the centerpiece of Mississippi's statehood bicentennial celebration.

Mr. Holmes concluded by recognizing the Department's outstanding Volunteer Program and called attention to the approximately 19,474 hours that volunteers served in 2013. He stated that the volunteers' services included assisting patrons in the Archives search room and working with staff behind-the-scenes, giving site tours and site information to visitors, providing digitization, transcription and translation services, serving in collections and helping with archaeological excavations, assisting with special events and programs, and helping with gardening and preservation work.

XV. In the matter of other business, the secretary-treasurer discussed the role that the Society had played in persuading the Mississippi legislature to establish the Department of Archives and History in 1902. He stressed the importance of the longstanding relationship between the Society and MDAH being continued in the years to come.

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

Charles L. Sullivan , *president*  
Elbert R. Hilliard, *secretary-treasurer*



