



**Tishomingo County Archives
& Historical Society**

Tishomingo Archives & History Museum

2005 Annual Report



Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum

Division of Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society
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February 3, 2006

Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors
1008 Battleground Drive
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Re: 2005 Annual Report

The Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society (TCHGS) is pleased to submit the following report for its 2005 operation of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum.

Administration and Media

- Based on budget and staffing, the facility's hours of operation were modified. TCHGS is now open to the public 28 hours per week—Wednesday through Saturday.
- The Board of directors met monthly (except December).
- A membership drive was held from March-May 2005; 46 members either renewed or joined for the first time.
- TCHGS became a member of the Mississippi Hills Alliance.
- Ruby Kennedy was hired as an employee through the Experience Works program.
- Held a "Getting to Know Your Historical & Genealogical Society" meeting.
- Weekly newspaper columns for the *Daily Corinthian*, *Tishomingo County News—Vidette*, and the *Belmont & Tishomingo Journal* were submitted to the local papers. Special features were also submitted to the *Colbert County Reporter* (Colbert County, Alabama), *Standard & Times—Lauderdale County News* (Lauderdale County, Alabama), and the *Community News Flash* (Corinth, Mississippi).
- Eight separate grants were submitted for financial assistance, including National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions, IMLS Conservation Assessment Grant, Scholarship for the National Trust Diversity Scholarship Program for attendance at workshops, Mississippi Department of Archives & History Community Heritage Preservation Round 4 Grant, and Federation of Mississippi Capital Aid.
- Our first annual fund drive was mailed out during the month of November.
- Began selling books and publications on eBay on November 30, 2005, and an e-Bay gift shop was opened on January 15, 2006.
- Letters were submitted to Senator J. P. Wilemon, Representative Ricky Cummings, Thad Cochran (R-MS), Trent Lott (R-MS), Charles W. Pickering (R-

MS), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Gene Taylor (D-MS), and Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), soliciting support of the archives and history museum.

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- Channel 9 in Tupelo, WTVA, held a weather broadcast from the historic courthouse parking lot and filmed indoors for a series of shows.
- Students and museum staff, clothed in 1920s attire, appeared on *The Morning Show* television program in Tupelo, Mississippi, on April 21, 2005, to promote the museum's first annual Trial Re-enactment.
- Conducted a telephone interview with the *Daily Corinthian* (Corinth, Mississippi) about the trial re-enactment.
- Held the First Annual Marriage reunion in September with 68 couples and extended families in attendance for the event.
- Visited the Corinth Radio Station (WXRZ) on April 28, 2005, to participate in a live "Talk Radio" segment.
- Submitted 49 surveys to genealogical and historical societies within the State of Mississippi.
- Made various presentations by invitation to further promote TCHGS and its historical museum, including a presentation to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Col. W. P. Rogers' Camp, in Corinth on August 16, 2005. The topic of the presentation was "How the Civil War Affected American Women."
- Twenty-one volunteers contributed 9,083 hours of free services. Both the Executive Director and Director of Marketing and Research contributed numerous hours of volunteer services necessary for the day-to-day management of the facility, its programs, and publications.

Awards and Programs

Annual awards were issued in January 2005. The *Spirit of TCHGS Award* was presented to the Boys & Girls Club. This award recognizes a volunteer whose leadership qualities best exemplifies the Society's ideas. The *Volunteer of the Year Award* went to George Pearson. This award recognizes a member for outstanding volunteer service to TCHGS during the preceding years. The *Preservation Patron Award* recognizes member(s) for commitment to historic preservation in the County; it was awarded to the Friends of the Iuka Public Library. The *Award of Merit* which recognizes member(s) for outstanding contributions to the Society over a period of years was awarded to C. D. and Sybil Holley.

Eight programs took place at the historic courthouse during 2005, including:

- Black History Month was celebrated during the month of February
- In April, local teens re-enacted a 1920s trial from the archival records of the old courthouse.
- Pioneer Days was the topic for the week long Camp Courthouse event in May.
- Volunteer Appreciation Week was celebrated April 27–May 3.
- Annual Museum Month was celebrated during the month of May.
- Three tours were given to Tiger Cubs and Girl Scouts.
- Veterans' Appreciation Month was celebrated during the month of November.

- A Swamp John's Fish/Chicken Fry fundraiser was held November 28, 2005. The funds afforded the purchase of two new library public use computers.
- The DAR held their second annual Christmas meeting in December.

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- A book signing and the courthouse's second annual "Christmas at the Courthouse" were celebrated December 2, 2005, in conjunction with Iuka's Christmas Parade.
- Martha Dobbins was nominated for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero Award and won. Martha will travel to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on March 26, 2006, to be recognized at a special awards luncheon. The luncheon will recognize 5 statewide and 15 regional Ageless Heroes. Ed McMahon, a former co-host of The Tonight Show, will be the guest speaker. As part of the Ageless Heroes Program, BCBS will donate \$500 to her favorite charity.

Meetings and Conferences

The following training meetings and conferences were attended at the expense of the volunteer.

- Cindy Nelson attended the Mississippi Museums Association Annual Meeting on January 29-31, 2005, in Jackson, Mississippi. She also visited the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson to speak about the work of TCHGS and to collect Tishomingo County history to bring back to the archives.
- Cindy Nelson and RaNae Vaughn attended (at their expense) the Mississippi Historical Society annual meeting on March 3-5, 2005, in Jackson, Mississippi.
- Cindy Nelson and RaNae Vaughn (at their expense) traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to attend the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference, September 6-11, 2005.

Publications and History

- Released the 1887 personal tax assessment roll for research and sale.
- Released 1873-1874 General County Fund.
- Work continued on the Tishomingo County Veterans Book. No deadline for submission has been determined.
- Work on the Circuit Court loose-leaf records continued with no definite deadline for release.
- Transcription began on Educable School Children documents obtained from the County's Superintendent Office.
- Released historic Tishomingo County Historical Coloring Book.
- Released the 1856-1859 School Fund Accounts Book of old Tishomingo County.
- The facility's genealogical library was named the John Marshall Stone Research Library in honor of Mississippi's former governor and former Tishomingo Countian. The library's books were cataloged in the Dewey Decimal Classification System, and the photos were classified using the Anglo-American cataloging rules.

Visitation was consistent in numbers throughout the year with an increase during the months of June, August, and September. A total of 2,272 patrons toured the museum and 186 patrons conducted research in the John Marshall Stone Library. A total of 361 donated items were added to the museum collection. Two new computers, several

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rolls of microfilm, and hardback reference books were added to the library. Over 5,000 pieces of mail came either in or out of the facility during the year, and 27,236 Internet users logged into our website.

Operation of the facility and on-going preservation efforts of the Society has exhausted the capabilities of the two volunteers who work off-site; therefore, a project manager was hired in January of this year. Jan Anglin has been employed to manage the day-to-day operations. We are excited to have Jan on board and thrilled about the changes that we are now able to make in keeping the historic Courthouse alive for future generations.

As always, we appreciate your support and encouragement.

Respectively submitted,

Cindy Whirley Nelson
Executive Director