

**Tishomingo County Archives & Historical
Society**

aka

Tishomingo Archives & History Museum

August 21, 2006





August 15, 2006

Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors
1008 Battleground Drive
Iuka, Mississippi 38852

Re: 2006-2007 Report and Budget Appeal

The Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society (TCHGS) is pleased to submit the following report for its 2003-2006 operation of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum (TCAHM) housed in the historic County courthouse.

This report includes the 2006 budget (exhibiting expenses through the month of July with budget comparisons), the income statement through July, and an outline of scheduled events for the entire year. Also included in this report is a summary of future plans and some quotes from our visitors. We hope you will look at our progress with the same pride we share.

2006-2007 Budget Needed

\$60,000.00

	2006-2007 Budget Needed
Revenue (sales of publications, entrance fees, memberships dues, fundraisers, gift shop sales, Internet sales, research fees, interest, private donations)	45,000.00
Cost of Sales (gift shop items, consignments, archival supplies for museum and library, contract labor)	15,000.00
Operating Expenses (advertising, alarm monitoring, dues, education and programs, utilities, insurance, accounting, office supplies, janitorial supplies, repairs and maintenance, salaries, taxes, etc.)	60,000.00

2006—Budget Comparisons and Income

EXPENSE STATEMENT

INCOME STATEMENT

	Budgeted 2006	Actual Expenses YTD	Budget Compare	Actual Income YTD	
Publications	See GS	2,125.59	(2,125.59)	<i>Non-Taxable Income</i>	
Consignment—Payouts		275.15	(275.15)	Entrance Fee Donations	438.29
Museum Purchases	2,000.00	1,088.23	911.77	Private Donations	1,830.88
Library Supplies	400.00	353.99	46.01	Board of Supervisors	10,000.00
Gift Shop Purchases	150.00	936.04	(786.04)	Memberships	1,314.00
Contract Labor	300.00	100.00	200.00	Other Income (list)	627.08
Advertising, Signage, Brochures	500.00	520.00	(20.00)	Special Projects	147.00
Alarm Monitoring	300.00	175.00	125.00	Copying/Research Fees	147.85
Copy Fees		60.64	(60.64)	Internet Consignment Sales	73.72
Repair and Maintenance	150.00	312.57	(162.57)	Internet GM Sales	279.90
Bank Charges/Credit Card Machine		71.06	(71.06)	Society's Internet Publication Sales	1,250.24
Cleaning	500.00	0	500.00	Internet Cochran Book Sales	671.19
Contributions				Grant Income	0
Computer Expenses		1,843.34	(1,843.34)		
Dues and Subscriptions	300.00	132.20	167.80	Total Non-Tax Income	16,780.15
Education and Training	300.00	511.90	(211.90)		
Inmate Meals, Education Programs, Volunteers	500.00		500.00		
Equipment Rental		128.16	(128.16)	<i>Taxable Income</i>	
Gifts & Florals	100.00	26.75	73.25	GS GM Sales	1,988.61
Insurance	1,000.00	356.00	644.00	GS Society Pub Sales	711.95
Accounting/Legal	1,000.00	2,143.46	(1,143.46)	GS Cochran Book Sales	605.00
Maintenance Contracts	400.00		400.00	GS Consignment Sales	178.90
Meetings and Seminars		194.20	(194.20)	Internet GM Sales	19.70
Office Supplies	1,000.00	1,085.70	(85.70)	Internet Society Publication Sales	128.70
Postage	1,500.00	1,004.88	(495.12)	Internet Cochran Book Sales	610.00
Professional Fees	1,000.00		1,000.00	Sales Tax Collected	317.81
Pest Control	800.00		800.00		
Salaries	20,170.00	9,269.79	10,900.21	Total Taxable Income	4,560.67
Sales Tax		697.00	(697.00)		
Janitorial/Preservation Supplies	1,250.00	13.03	1,236.97	<i>Total Income All Categories</i>	
Taxes—Payroll	1,500.00	1,680.95	(180.95)		
Telephone	1,700.00	607.73	1,092.27	BanCorp Deposits	19,304.86
Utilities	3,000.00	1,837.52	1,162.48	Renasant Deposits	1,789.21
Yard Maintenance	500.00	175.00	325.00	1st American Deposits	643.15
Totals	40,320.00	27,725.88	13,094.12	Total Deposits	21,737.22

Continued Education

In order for the collections of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum to be properly maintained, staff and volunteers must continue to stay abreast of evolving technologies. Through continued education, staff and volunteers tap into their creative potential, and through a variety of experiences, obtain the knowledge to enhance their perceptive, imaginative, and expressive potential to market Tishomingo County to visitors and residents alike through its museum.

The table below lists the seminars and workshops that staff and volunteers have attended in 2006, including currently scheduled workshops for the near future. The list will continue to grow whenever time and monies allow future attendance at a workshop. Please be aware that many of the workshops are attended at the personal expense of staff and volunteers.

2006—Seminars and Workshops Attended

Date	Workshop	Location	Sponsor	Attendees
1/29/2006	Effective Grant Writing	Laurel, MS	Mississippi Museum Association	Cindy Nelson
3/2/2006	Conservation: Do It Yourself Versus Pros?	Natchez, MS	Federation of MS Historical Societies	Jan Anglin
3/21/2006	Managing Collections and Using PastPerfect Museum Software	Memphis, TN	Pastime Software Co., Inc.	Jan Anglin
4/3/2006	Where Do We Go From Here? Preservation, Conservation and Restoration	Jackson, MS	Mississippi Museum Association	Jan Anglin Christina Goss
5/17/2006 through 7/5/2006	Writing Effective Grant Proposals	Internet Class	Itawamba Community College	Jan Anglin
6/12/2006	Where Do We Go From Here? Cultural Tourism	Clarksdale, MS	Mississippi Museum Association	Jan Anglin Christina Goss
7/8/2006	Family Fair	Collinwood, TN	Wayne Co. Historical Society	Jan Anglin Betty Marlar
9/12/2006	PastPerfect Museum Software Workshop	New Albany, MS	Federation of MS Historical Societies	Jan Anglin Christina Goss

Visitors

Visitors to the museum and library include tourists, genealogical researchers, and County residents. In the past seven months, visitors have traveled from Castleton, New York; Salt Lake City, Utah; Columbus, Georgia; Windsor, Colorado; the states of Virginia and Louisiana; and the country of Switzerland. The Society boasts a membership from at least 22 states and throughout the State of Mississippi. Many of these people desire to visit Tishomingo County to view the geographical area where their ancestors settled and to perform genealogical research; however, it is not always feasible. Therefore, the Society is in place to represent visitors, including County residents, by supplying research assistance. More than 200 visitors who live within Tishomingo County have visited the historic County courthouse since January 2006. When current and former Tishomingo County residents return for a visit, they are enthusiastic about the courthouse museum. They reminisce and share positive memories about their Tishomingo County experiences. Usually some special memory stands out—a great teacher, a close friendship, deceased family members, old family customs, or former places of residence. These visitors display the same pride that is shared by staff and volunteers.

Statistics	2004	2005	2006 Jan-July
Library Researchers	Combined with museum	186	77
In Mississippi		61	31
Outside Mississippi		56	46
Museum Visitors	4,461	2,297	857
In Mississippi		474	318
Outside Mississippi		854	532
Unknown		969	7
On-Site Programs	26	18	21/year
Off-Site Programs	27	4	10
Museum Donations	150	361+	176
Museum Entrance Fees	\$1,486.00	\$1,333.00	\$571.00
Volunteer Hours (on/off site)	6,944	9,084	7,011
Website Users	4,461	4,442	3,218

Programs

The Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society, a volunteer organization, continues to strive to preserve, protect, and share the heritage of different areas and aspects of Tishomingo County with minimal funding. The museum's hours of operation have been reduced to 28 hours per week; however, the project manager continues to work approximately 40 hours per week on site and volunteers a large amount of time offsite. Additionally, the executive director and librarian donate approximately 388 hours each month in order to maintain the administrative needs of the facility. If minimum wage was paid for the amount of volunteer hours donated from January through July of this year, a total of over \$36,000 would have been paid for services rendered.

Events scheduled for this year are listed in the chart below. Many of these events are held by volunteers that simply want this County's heritage to prevail. In addition, the museum strives to increase its events and programs regularly. The Society provides value to all the County's communities through the actions of preserving the heritage of the total County, not to mention the educational aspects of the museums and activities for County residents and visitors. The Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum benefits everyone with increased commerce and goodwill. The facility is a source of pride for the community, and it is a local landmark that is in need of continual preservation.

2006—Event Calendar

Date	Programs
2/2006	Establishment of African-American Council
2/11/2006	Brownie Troop 001, Rienzi
3/4/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
4/1/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
4/15/2006	2 nd Annual Wedding Reunion
5/6/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
6/3/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
6/26/2006	2 nd Annual Camp Courthouse
7/1/2006	Tishomingo Alumni Reunion
8/5/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
8/10/2006	Battle of Iuka Presentation to Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Muscle Shoals
8/12/2006	John Shivers Book Signing
8/12/2006	Genealogy 101 Class
8/26/2006	Advanced Genealogy Class
9/2/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
9/2/2006	Heritage Day Festival
9/12/2006	Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Meeting
9/24/2006	1 st Annual Courthouse Tea Benefit
9/2006	1 st Annual Essay Contest—Grades 5-8 (Countywide)
10/7/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
11/4/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
11/4/2006	Native American Day
11/9/2006	Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Meeting
11/2006	Veterans Program
12/2/2006	Veterans Coffee Chatter
12/12/2006	DAR Awards at the Courthouse
12/2006	Christmas at the Courthouse

The historical society must pay for the building upkeep, payroll, supplies, utilities, alarm system, and the conservation of over 1,700 artifacts and over 1,000 priceless photographs of Tishomingo County and its people. Heritage is expensive; in order to properly maintain these priceless items, a budget of over \$10,000.00 per year earmarked for conservation and preservation alone is needed. And, of course, there are always

unplanned expenses. A couple of months ago, volunteers and staff members were appalled when one of the air conditioners downstairs quit functioning. Luckily, it was not a major problem, but payment for repairs was still necessary.

This stuff is valuable to maintain. If you don't have pride in the past, you won't have it in the future. The past shows us what we went through, and the lessons and the values that we had. Our activities include preservation of buildings and artifacts, record gathering, presentations, programs, and more.

Future Plans

- Continued Education—More education is needed to continue to gain knowledge and obtain expertise in the preservation and collection of the artifacts and histories of the entire County—not only of past generations, but also to preserve current events for future generations.
- Library Expansion — Due to increased genealogical research by County residents and visitors, the research library must be expanded. The room allocated for the library is too crowded for more than two to four researchers at a time. The library will be moved into a larger area to accommodate the research PCs, microfilm reader, vertical files, books, and researchers.
- Museum Display Improvements—Several new display cases are being planned to be strategically placed throughout the courthouse. We are currently studying the use of monitor displays in several areas of the facility to run slide shows of historic photographs which can be viewed by visitors as they are touring the facility. We recently began a rotation of displays, focusing on different themes each month and/or quarter. These displays are being advertised, along with an artifact of the month on our Web site. As we continue to get more objects, we are able to establish more themes, such as a planned John Marshall Stone area, homeplace, and a special room for depicting our Tishomingo County officials.
- Conservation Implementation—With additional funds and future grants, we will begin writing and implementing plans for conservative treatment of museum artifacts, as well as to the building itself.
- Battle of Iuka—The Society plans to continue to learn and educate about the Battle of Iuka and the histories of the skirmishes that happened in this County that are not always recognized. To assist the Battlefield Commission with creating battlefield tour stops.
- Historical Recognition—The Society plans to install a historical road plaque in Burnsville where the Civil War skirmish was fought and to discover and mark other skirmishes throughout the county. To install road markers near other historic sites such as schools, businesses, etc.

- Home School Program—This program is planned to offer educational programs to home-schooled children in order for them to obtain extra credit outside the home.
- Increase African-American Artifacts—The Society plans to obtain artifacts and African-American history of Tishomingo County to appeal to more African-Americans visitors.
- Historical Home Tour—A historical home tour is planned to increase County tourism by hosting a tour of historical homes and to display the unique architecture in the County.
- Programs of Chief Tishomingo and Chief Iuka—These programs are planned to present educational programs about the County and its County seat's namesakes to schools, scouts, and clubs.
- Governor John Marshall Stone Program—This program is needed to educate interested individuals and share tidbits about the life and career of one of Mississippi's most esteemed Governors.
- Native American Program—This program is planned to help educate visitors about Native Americans that originated in this County.
- Veterans Program—A program specifically honoring the County's veterans is needed. The Society will continue working on a Tishomingo County veterans' book and obtain oral histories of County veterans, with a concentration on World War II veterans.

With some foresight of preservation for Tishomingo County, I was able to acquire \$48,000.00 in funding for the restoration of the historic Midway School Building through a grant allocation from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. There are many other grant opportunities available to Tishomingo County. With adequate funding, we will be able to solicit these grants.

The Society continues to seek grants for repair and renovation of the historic courthouse as well. Currently, the biggest needs are roof replacement and screen replacement in the attic to prevent bats from coming into the courthouse. Two interior walls are also in need of repair, and the interior needs to be painted. Staff has been successful in locating all of the facility's existing leaks and containers are strategically placed during the periods of rainfall.

In the museum's quest for excellence, a survey was generated to solicit feedback from visitors. Feedback, both positive and negative, is consistently requested from visitors to determine how they can best be served. Thus far, the Society is proud to report that the surveys have been excellent. The following comments were extracted from some of the surveys.

- From the Seymour family of Lebanon, Tennessee — “The quality and quantity of museum-worthy pieces should make this courthouse famous shortly!”
- Kathy Grace of Altoona, Alabama — “I feel that the museum has a wonderful staff. A lot of people travel through this area and people who do genealogy, and there are a lot of them, would be happy when they stop here. If all states would put more money into preserving what made them what they are, instead of trying to hide it, we would all be better off. I am happy to say my family was in Tishomingo.”
- Emilea Tackett of Pontotoc, Mississippi — “This is a wonderful attribute to Tishomingo County. I have been working to research my mother’s family that was from Tishomingo County and had had no luck until deciding to come to the courthouse. The staff was so helpful, and I found out more in the mere hour and a half of my visit than I had in the past six months. The staff was right beside me pulling out information and reading just as I was. As my time ran out they even told me to take my time and finish reading what I was reading; they were in no hurry to close. When I left, one of the staff volunteers got my address and said she would continue to look for the name. The next day, I received an e-mail with more information found. This is by far the greatest genealogical resource I have found. The old Tishomingo County courthouse is a treasure to not only the community of Iuka and Tishomingo, but all of Northeast Mississippi and Northwest Alabama!”
- Betty Baker of Tioga, Louisiana — “This is a great place for research! Very nice and helpful!”
- Sharon Chatterton of The Villages, Florida, — “Very friendly, informative and helpful staff. Beautiful displays of great interest.”

In closing, my dedication to the restoration and preservation of the County and its resources continues. I am currently contributing more than 200 hours each month to the courthouse project alone.

As always, we appreciate your support and encouragement.

Respectively submitted,

Cindy Whirley Nelson
 Executive Director (Volunteer)
 Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum