

Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society (TCHGS)

2010 Annual Report

Tishomingo Countians have always believed in an ethic of service and civic responsibility that includes promoting the common good of its citizens..



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Tishomingo County
Archives & History Museum

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January 20, 2011

Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors
1008 Battleground Drive
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Re: Annual Report for 2010

2010 has been an incredible year for the Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society and the Tishomingo County Archives and History Museum. Please take a few moments to read through our 2010 Annual Report sharing highlights from the past year. As we delve into this New Year, we are making decisions that will help us to serve our community more effectively.

As I reviewed the work of the Society this past year, I relived the breadth, depth, and effectiveness of our work as a Society. I am proud of the organization's achievements over the past year, and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

With funding shortfalls and economic change, I am also mindful that this is a time of significant change. As a Society, we must continue to move boldly forward and spread the word about our priority of protecting and preserving the history and culture of Tishomingo County. We must seek funding to revitalize work throughout all of Tishomingo County in publishing County history and marking historical landmarks. Both of these areas have suffered in recent years due to the funding requirements of operating the old Courthouse Museum.

We must make historic preservation into a more visible, dynamic, and broadly inclusive movement. We must protect and preserve the places that are fundamental to who we are and who we want to be as an individual, and as a community.

Your past support has enabled us to operate the old Tishomingo County Courthouse as the local archives and history repository. And it is your continued support that will ensure we keep this essential piece of our heritage intact. I am proud of the organization's achievements over the past years, and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

Respectively submitted,

Cindy W. Nelson
President

Background

The Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society was established and chartered in March 1996 as a non-profit organization by the State of Mississippi. Membership in the Society is open to any person or organization. Any person, family, or organization interested in the purposes of the Society shall be eligible for membership.

The old Tishomingo County Courthouse in Iuka, Mississippi, has an interesting architectural history that has become muddled and misinterpreted over time. Photographic documentation shows that the Courthouse, as completed in 1870, was an early example of Romanesque Revival architecture with Second Empire-style influences seen in the monumental tower that dominated the west (Fulton Street) facade. The Courthouse was used for 16 years until it was damaged by fire in 1886. There is a great deal of confusion about the building's next few years. However, the structure served as the official Courthouse for Tishomingo County until 1970, used by the Tishomingo County Development Foundation until the 2000s, and relinquished to the Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society in 2003.

Physical examination of the building and study of historic photographs show that the 1870 Courthouse was only partially destroyed by the fire. The complex attic story, the tower, and the elegant hipped roof were lost, but the rest of the structure is still standing. Even the original windows are still in place. The original roof was replaced with a simple and economical gable roof, more typical of Federal and Greek Revival structures. The original entrance on the Fulton Street side was enclosed, and two bathrooms occupy the original entrance hall that had been under the stairs. The 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) addition is a utilitarian structure, and no attempt was made to match most details on the existing building; however, its first floor east and south windows are similar to the original windows.

Serving today as the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum, the old Tishomingo County Courthouse is home to the John Marshall Stone Research Library, the Woodall Mountain Market Gift Shop, and the Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society. The Society operates the facility based on funding from the County and funds generated by the Society.

Annual Awards

Due to funding constraints, no annual meeting was planned in 2010. In February 2011, awards for both 2009 and 2010 will be distributed as follows:

2009

Spirit of TCHGS—Shelia Thorne; Volunteer of the Year—Master Gardeners' Club; Preservation Patron Award—Gene Jourdan; Award of Merit—*The Tishomingo County News—the Vidette and Belmont News*; Youth Volunteer of the Year—Meghan White.

2010

Spirit of TCHGS—Herman and Avaneil Harrison; Volunteer of the Year—James Cole; Preservation Patron Award—First American National Bank, and the Tishomingo County School District; Award of Merit—Dr. Ben Kitchens; Youth Volunteer(s) of the Year—Shelia Thorne’s local history class.

Budget and Finance

David Nichols, CPA, prepared the Society’s 2010’s monthly and annual financial reports. An internal audit was conducted by the Budget and Finance Committee.

An Architectural Conservation Assessment Grant was funded by Heritage Preservation, the National Institute for Conservation, in the amount of \$500. TCHGS matched the total cost by contributing \$325. Two grants totaling \$2,250.00 were received from Tennessee Valley Authority.

In-kind donations were received from the following businesses/individuals:

Anonymous, Jan Anglin, Patsy Callahan Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Byram, Wayne Cooper, Janice Cronan, Sandra Grimes, Herman Harrison, Holcut Reunion Committee, Brenda Irwin, Iuka Battlefield Commission, Kathy Lacks, Harold Lomenick, Gary Matthews, Cindy Nelson, Pilot Club, Kenneth Roaten, Louise Sumrall, Sarah Thrasher, Shelia Thorne, TVA, Fielding Lewis Tyler, RaNae Vaughn, Don Weathers, and Helah Wilson.

Operations at the archives and history museum are based on County allocations and available Society funds. The Society has consistently requested a budget of \$65,000 to adequately operate the facility and manage the renovation needs; however, it has received \$20,000 each year for the past four years. TCHGS has provided an additional \$14,000 to \$16,000 in funds to operate the facility at a minimal level. During 2010, the County agreed to pay electricity costs.

Total Operating Costs for 4-year Period

The table below also includes receipts of purchases that were made and donated to facilitate operations at the Museum.

Year	Donated Purchases	Paid Expenses	Total Operating Expense
2007	\$3,234.24	\$32,770.08	\$36,004.32
2008	\$2,200.86	\$33,921.80	\$36,122.66
2009	\$1,758.99	\$33,068.38	\$34,827.37
2010 *	\$4,908.52	\$30,736.95	\$35,642.47

Data from TCHGS Donation Reports and David Nichols, CPA.

Income Statement and Balance Sheet

Year	Revenue	Cost of Sales	Net Income/Loss	Assets & Liabilities
2007	\$36,007.57	\$33,217.92	\$438.84	\$29,403.32
2008	\$37,050.55	\$2,902.46	\$226.26	\$30,010.72
2009	\$36,961.23	\$2,449.93	\$1,442.92	\$31,557.81
2010	\$42,707.25	\$3,023.08	\$8,497.22	\$40,161.02

Data from Accountants' Compilation Reports

Building and Grounds

Commemorative Brick—Fifty-two memorial bricks have been purchased. This project is on hold until landscaping and brick pavers can accommodate them.

Landscape Improvements—The shrubbery on the east end of the building is an eye sore, as well as a fire hazard. Volunteers are needed to remove the shrubbery.

Parking Lot Improvements—In the future, the Board should consider redesigning the parking lot to allow for safer parking and incoming and outgoing vehicles. Parallel parking could offer significant improvements in safety.

Yard Work—Jonathan Whirley has been attending to the grounds for the past two years at a discounted rate. The Master Gardeners' Club has donated their services and supplies toward landscape improvements. Unfortunately, we have been advised by Hopkins, Oates & Associates that recently planted crepe myrtles could easily become sources for a moisture infiltration that could damage the foundation and interior walls. We will ask the club to remove these trees.

Civic Responsibility

Tishomingo Countians have always believed in an ethic of service and civic responsibility that includes promoting the common good of its citizens. Since the opening of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum, Tishomingo Countians have demonstrated their true character in unity, generosity, and civic pride. Volunteers have contributed in countless, extraordinary ways. The Board of Directors serves in a voluntary capacity.

Board of Directors 2009-2012

Administration and Historic Preservation—*Cindy W. Nelson, Board President*

Budget and Finance—*Dustin Lambert*

Community Relations—*Vacant*

Marketing and Publications—*RaNae Vaughn*

Museum Collections and Management—*Harold Lomenick*

Programs and Exhibits—*Jan Switcher*

Special Projects—*Helah Wilson*

* Johnny Southward, who was elected to the Board in 2010, was unable to fill his position. An invitation has been made for his successor to come on board in January 2011.

Volunteers

Twenty-two individuals donated 15,933 hours of service work to the Society in 2010.

Jan Anglin (186), Timmy Anglin (28.5), James Cole (134.5), Community Service (7), Betty Ford (9.5), Stephanie Giles (6), Christina Goss (29), Marilyn Goss (9), Katie Jourdan (10), Dustin Lambert (15), local high school students (16), Harold Lomenick (12), Betty Marlar (62), Bob Nelson (7), Cindy Nelson (4,700), Dawn Oats (104), George Pearson (39), Tina Sansone (18), Janice Switcher (2,180), RaNae Vaughn (4,032), Martha Wallace (523.5), Jonathan Whirley (2.5), Meghan White (10), Michelle White (2), and Helah Wilson (3,790).

Table 1 – Income Generated through Volunteerism

Year	# of Volunteers	Hours	Dollars
2004	2	6,944	\$121,867
2005	2	9,084	\$163,875
2006	2	7,011	\$131,597
2007	17	7,210	\$140,667
2008	17	9,336	\$182,145
2009	16	4,337	\$84,615
2010	22	15,933	\$310,853
LTDF			\$1,135,619

Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More than \$1 million dollars in donated hours have been given to the Society by Tishomingo and Alcorn Countians. The dedication and commitment of these volunteers has not only been beneficial to the workforce, but in turn, it has allowed them to enhance their perceptive, imaginative, and expressive potential to market Tishomingo County.

The Tishomingo County Board of Education and the public school system work together with the archives and history museum to plan, promote, and support educational programs. History students receive credit for visiting and volunteering at the museum. Working to ensure that future generations will know about the history of Tishomingo County makes each and every volunteer feel as though they have been a real part of this community, working to maintain their traditions while simultaneously helping to create new traditions and preserve history. Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people receive from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country. The intangible benefits alone—such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve.

Outreach and Community Involvement

Cindy Nelson spoke to the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce about establishing a museum committee. Nelson also followed up with Burnsville City Hall regarding the Society's interest in having an exhibit in the new city hall.

Cindy Nelson contacted Tishomingo Alderwoman Anne Taylor regarding an exhibit area in the newly planned Tishomingo Community Center.

RaNae Vaughn submitted weekly articles to the weekly column, "Southern Cornerstones," in *The Tishomingo County News* and in *The Belmont & Tishomingo Journal*. Another weekly column, "Historically Speaking," is submitted to *The Daily Corinthian* on a weekly basis.

Various pictures were submitted to *The Tishomingo County News* and *The Belmont & Tishomingo Journal* for identification.

Cindy Nelson presented *The History of Burnsville* to Tishomingo County High School classes, and Jan Anglin met with Shelia Thorne's local history students on two separate occasions.

The Society, the Iuka Battlefield Commission, Tishomingo Economic Development Foundation, and the Tishomingo County Tourism Council worked together on a Mississippi Tourism Grant for placing four new historic markers in Tishomingo County.

Camp Courthouse which is held each June was canceled due to inadequate funds and lack of air conditioning.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participated in educational programs at the Museum.

Collection Report

A total of 105 new accessions were received and processed via computer using the museum PastPerfect software. These included:

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom—handmade, beaded necklace in a gold frame that belonged to Susan Mahalia Pounders Ramsey; glass prescription bottle from Dr. A. E. Bostick; round eyeglasses in box that belonged to Bessie Ezzell; black purse that belonged to Eleanor Almire Coleman; wooden cane that belonged to Sally Russell; brown leather conductor wallet (handed down to Mary Ellen Ahlstrom from her great-aunt, Ruth Bolding, who was a lifelong resident of Burnsville); booklet of *Minutes of the 65th Annual Session of the Tishomingo Baptist Association* held with Burnsville Baptist Church, October 6-7, 1925; booklet of *Minutes of the 86th Annual Session of the Tishomingo County Baptist Association*, State of Mississippi, held with Cross Roads Baptist Church, October 8-9, 1946; souvenir booklet of the National Singing Convention, September 14-15, 1940, Akron, Ohio.

P. Joe Arnold—replica poster: *Work or Fight, Vagrancy Law Will Be Enforced.*

Lilla Ann McKnight Farrell—brown horse hair coat with detachable cape that was worn by Harriet Emma Williams Doan on her honeymoon when she married John Francis Doan on November 11, 1884.

Baxter James—1923 TCAHS class ring that belonged to Clyde McGaughy; TCAHS alumni pin that belonged to Clyde McGaughy.

Lee Ann Kay—12-foot door from the McDonald home.

Ginger McPheeters—(1) daybook of timber and pulpwood company from the 1950s; (2) ledger from 1918 from T. J. Foote General Merchandise Store; (3) ledger from 1924 from T. J. Foote General Merchandise Store.

Cheryl Seaton Parker—Iuka High School ladies' class ring from 1918 that belonged to Mary Theresa Redmond Prescott.

Janette Clark Pike—child's tambourine, one of the original instruments from Iuka's first rhythm band, ca. 1951.

Barbara Sweeney—lamp made from old coffee grinder that belonged to Myrtle Gregson.

Charles Byram—(1) black cloth used by Sara Jane McNatt Blunt; the cloth was placed over the photographer's head. (2) movie camera in brown leather case, Conley Safety, mahogany, ca. 1890, belonged to Sara Jane Blunt. Mrs. Blunt traveled by horse and buggy to perform her midwife duties and to do photography. She lived near Dennis at the time. The plate is the most accurate material used in scientific work—used for photographing things they did not want to budge. (3) Gine Kodak Duo Splicer Outfit Editing Tool used to cement the film. (4) telephoto lens for Argus C-3 camera; made in Germany;

sold to military men at PX and postal exchanges (government places) from 1939-1953. The Argus C-3 was used anywhere there were military men in World War II. (5) wood tri-pod – 3 prong. (6) Gene Autry Western classic 78-record collection. (7) Bell & Howell Air Chol silent movie camera (good operating condition). This Army gun camera was built during World War II and used when engaged in combat to accurately record the damage the Army had done. The bigger the plane, the more fire power. The camera moved with the wings of the plane. During debriefing, they showed film to ensure how many they got and who got the shots. (8) Bolex #8 Movie Camera. Introduced about 1936; comes on 25-foot reel. Instructions: Take picture on one side, flip it, then do 25 feet more. The lab splices the film together to make it 50 feet total. There is a meter inside (see small needle) which serves as a light meter. Has two built-in lenses. 13 MM—has flick stops for aperture. (9) Kodak Analysist II Sports Analyzer (projector). This machine primarily functioned for sports coaches, who used it to replay in slow motion. (10) Telex Caramate 3200 Projector. This machine was used by schools and is still in good working condition. (11) Victor 16 mm Camera. The camera was a lower spectrum camera used for essential work. (12) two tripods. (13) Polaroid 340 Camera; belonged to Ruth Bolding. (14) Adfa Polaroid; belonged to Ruth Bolding; made ca 1936. (15) headsets – one pair. (16) Dalite Versatol Projector Screen. (17) Revere Eight movie camera; belonged to Ruth Bolding. (18) 5 x 7 photograph of Charles Byram at age 33; made in 1958 in Roswell, New Mexico. This was his first professional photo. (19) Utilo Extra Light Lens Shade 28 MM. (20) 125B Flash Bulbs. (21) Reference manuals depicting the life and care of these objects, as well as photography preservation methods were included in this donation.

Museums' Exhibits

The following new exhibits were created.

African-American History

The African-American display is a platform to celebrate the infusion of African-American history and culture in Tishomingo County. There were seven African-American churches/schools including Burnsville, Burnt Mills, Carter's Branch, Cartersville, Hopewell, Iuka, and Macedonia.

Education in Tishomingo County

Education has always played an important role in the lives of Tishomingo Countians. An impressive display of early school photos and other memorabilia represent some of the history of the earlier years.

Iuka Mineral Springs

It is told that a Chickasaw Indian chief by the name of Iuka, sick and beyond the ministrations of his tribe's healers, heard of the curative powers of the natural spring waters found here. Less than two decades following the end of the Civil War, Iuka was a fashionable spa destination, a mecca for the wealthy from the North and the East.

Old Tishomingo County Courthouse

The old Tishomingo County Courthouse in Iuka, Mississippi, has played an important role in the lives of people of this area throughout its 140-year history. Architects believe that the Old Courthouse dates to 1870 and not to the post-fire period of 1886-1887. The building was supposedly completely destroyed, but a close comparison of the present two-story masonry walls with a historic photograph of the 1870 Courthouse shows them to be the same building. Apparently the entire picturesque roofline was lost in the fire, including the mansard-roofed tower and multiple gables, dormers, and chimneys. It is not known how much of the 1870 interior survived, but more than likely some, if not all, of the entire interior bearing walls are original as well.

Marriage Capital of the South

At one period in history, the Courthouse was referred to as the “Marriage Capital of the South.” During this time, surrounding states had a three-day waiting period for a marriage license. The State of Mississippi had no such law; therefore, citizens of Tennessee and Alabama would drive to Iuka and be wed in the Courthouse. The story is told that preachers and Justices of the Peace would race to incoming cars to determine who would perform the marriage ceremony. The couples who were married in the Courthouse are now returning with their families to remember where their lives began together. While they are here, their picture is taken, and names and addresses are acquired. The first annual marriage reunion was held in September 2005. Many excited couples, afraid that they might forget, will mail the Museum copies of their marriage license as soon as they return home so that we can add it to the archival files.

Events and 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 the County with minimal funding. The museum’s hours of operation have been maintained at 28 hours per week; however, as evidenced on our volunteer report, a few volunteers work during the night to handle the unstaffed work load of the Society and handling Museum care plans. Unfortunately, due to understaffing and the lack of day-time volunteers, our events and programs have felt the crunch. Five events were held in 2010, bringing in more than 650 visitors.

Events and programs are continuously reviewed in an effort to offer better and more worthwhile programs. The Society and its historical museum provide value to all of the County’s communities by preserving everyone’s heritage, not to mention the educational aspects of the Museum and activities for 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 structure in need of continual preservation.

Genealogy

Recent redesign of the John Marshall Stone Research Library has made our digital collections and equipment more user friendly. The library has felt the crunch of the loss of our Experience Works worker in 2008. Luckily, volunteers are able to perform many of the necessary tasks offsite; however, a tremendous back log of filing has accumulated.

John Marshall Stone Collection—the Society has been approved to receive books from the John Marshall Stone Collection under the condition that they will be able to scan and provide a copy back to the family. Multi-media scanning equipment for Tishomingo County’s historical museum and its genealogical library will infinitely allow them to receive paper, books, and large prints that require duplication and will assist them in protecting the collections. The need to digitize the Tishomingo County’s Museum and library collections is essential to safeguard the history housed within the facility. The artifacts within the museum collection and the vertical file and book collection within the facility’s genealogical library are irreplaceable. Any loss of an item would be devastating for the County and its surrounding communities. Therefore, in the event of theft and/or vandalism, the digitization of the County’s history will be a deterrent to crime.

This Stone Collection would easily sell to one of our local universities. It will be worth a lot more to Tishomingo County to be able to say “we have it.” We have hundreds of ledger-sized County records that are not on microfilm that cannot be placed on the photocopier. This machine will allow us to not only scan the books but have the text sent directly to a word processing program that will allow us to edit, print, and publish the items.

The acquisition of a ST200 Direct Film Scanner will enable the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum and its genealogical library to read, scan, print, and send images to CD, hard drive, USB thumb drive, e-mail, or printer. This equipment offers an all digital image viewing and image capture function that can consume up to 20 times less power than traditional reader-printer systems. The ST200 Companion Scanner is a ledger-sized flatbed scanner which captures images at up to 12,800 dpi, creating a complete digital media viewing and scanning solution for the ST200 Multimedia Scanning System. This equipment will be used to scan aperture cards, standard and jumbo microfiche, jumbo opaque microcards, opaque micro prints, file transparencies, glass and film negatives, color slides, papers, books, and magazines. This acquisition will assist TCHGS and its historic museum to digitize and safeguard the history of Tishomingo County for future generations. This responsibility is not taken lightly.

Library Accessions

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom—*Diary of Henry Jackson Lentz (1819-1869) of Limestone County, Alabama, and Itawamba County, Mississippi* (binder); *Massey’s Wake County, North Carolina Records* (booklet); *Early History of Limestone County, Alabama* (binder); *Olden Times of Colbert and Franklin Counties in Alabama* (binder); *Harmony Baptist Church Minutes, Pleasant Site, Alabama, April 1881-July 1930* (binder); *Cedar Creek Church: Minutes of Session of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1877-1879* (binder); *Woodruff Chronicles, a Genealogy: the Long Island New Jersey family of John Woodruff*

(binder); *Blackwell Newsletter* (binder); *Lineage book, Alabama Genealogical Society* (binder); *Life and Legend of Lawrence County, Alabama* (book); *Dean and Allied Families* (binder); *Georgia Genealogist* (booklet); *Byram Genealogy* (booklet); *Northwest Alabama Days of Yore* (binder); *Bohannon Annals, Dates from the Early 1820s to October 31, 1996* (binder); *Civil War Claims in the South: an Index of Civil War Damage Claims Filed before the Southern Claims* (binder); *Colonial Granville County and Its People: Loose Leaves from "The Lost Tribes of North Carolina"* (binder); *History of South Koshkonong, Jefferson County, Wisconsin* (binder); *Underwood Annals: Official Publication of the Underwood Family Organization* (binder); *Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Pleasant Site, Alabama: Minutes 1883-1953* (binder); *Pleasant Site Presbyterian Church: Minutes and Roster, 1859-1913* (binder); *Pounders Genealogy* (book); *Mississippi Lineage Charts: Volume III* (binder); *Marriage Records of Maricopa County, Territory of Maricopa County, Territory of Arizona* (book); *Hereditary Register of the United States of America* (binder); *Alabama Records* (binder); *The Story of Mount Dora, Florida* (binder); *Footprints* (binder); *Patent Land Survey South Carolina* (binder); *Various Cemeteries of Franklin County, Alabama* (binder); *1900 Census for Etowah County, Alabama and Franklin County, Alabama* (microfilm); *1870 Census for Etowah County, Fayette County and Franklin County, Alabama* (microfilm); *1860 Census for Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman and Rabun Counties in Georgia* (microfilm); *1860 Census for Franklin and Greene Counties in Alabama* (microfilm); *1850 Census for DeKalb, Fayette and Franklin Counties in Alabama* (microfilm); *1880 Census for Limestone, Escambia, Etowah and Franklin Counties in Alabama* (microfilm); *1840 Census for Dale, Dallas and Greene Counties in Alabama* (microfilm); *1850 Census for Greene, Hancock and Henry County in Alabama* (microfilm); *1910 Census for Franklin County in Alabama* (microfilm); *1910 Census for Lake County in Alabama* (microfilm).

Jan Anglin—*Civil War Goats and Scapegoats* (book).

Donnie Bobo—*Celebrating One Hundred Years in the Spirit of Hodges 1970-2007* (book), *Mt. Zion Cemetery of Enville, Tennessee* (book).

Avon Edward Foote—*Chotankers: a Family History* (book).

Harold Lomenick—*Robert E. Lee and the Southern Confederacy, 1807-1870* (book).

Melanie Montgomery—*Doss Family Genealogy* (book).

Patsy Clark Pace—*The Bloody Shirt: Terror after Appomattox* (book).

George Pearson—*Dennis Memoirs 1956* (yearbook).

RaNae Vaughn—*Hardeman County, Tennessee Settlers: Vaughn, Herriman, Hooper* (book); *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction: Mississippi Edition* (two volumes); *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction: Missouri Edition* (two volumes).

Gift Shop

New items in the Woodall Mountain Market Gift Shop included *Gunboats and Calvary* by Dr. Ben Earl Kitchens, *Gunboats and Calvary* t-Shirts, Courthouse t-Shirts, school yearbooks on CD, and other miscellaneous Mississippi souvenirs.

A recent redesign of the gift shop improved its image significantly. Additional design changes are planned for 2011.

An online shop was designed this year to encourage Internet-based sales, and it continues to be updated and improved.

Historic Preservation

Historic preservation throughout Tishomingo County is one of the goals of the Society. Work was accomplished as follows:

Burnsville Colored School—Restoration is pending until funding becomes available. A *Burnsville Cuisine* recipe book has been developed to assist TCAHM in developing funds for this project.

Midway School—TCHGS will soon become stewards of the Midway School. We will continue to work with the Midway Homemakers Club in the rental and utilization of the building.

Historical Markers—There are approximately 25 historic markers needed for the County. A 50/50 grant was requested for historical markers throughout the County. The Iuka Battlefield Commission is sponsoring the match for four markers.

Membership

There were 15 new individual and nine new business members. Our current membership is 108. We added three new lifetime memberships—Mike and Dennie McRee, Dr. and Mrs. Kelly Segars, and Carol Watson. We also have four other life-time members—Cindy Nelson, W. R. Nettles, RaNae Vaughn, and Brenda Whitfield.

Museum Needs Assessment

Many accomplishments were made during the year that will enable further use of the historic Courthouse Museum. However; there are problem areas that remaining unfunded including:



Handicap Accessibility—Several years ago, the Board of Supervisors authorized construction of a concrete ramp with metal railing on the Quitman Street (south) side of the building in an attempt to make the Old Courthouse compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Rather than providing barrier-free access, the handicapped ramp is a physical and a visual barrier to the building. It has an adverse effect on the integrity of the building because the ramp’s scale and materials are inconsistent with the historic character of the Old Courthouse. The ramp does not have a curb; wheelchairs could roll off the edge of the ramp, possibly trapping the wheelchair occupant under the railing or causing other serious injuries. These ramps are rusted and reflect a poor image of to the exterior of the facility.



Also, the ramp forms a concrete-walled well next to the west side of the Annex where moisture can be trapped, infiltrating the building, and causing foundation and interior damage.

Environmental Control System—The museum’s ventilation and cooling (HVAC) is in extremely poor condition and its replacement needs to be a top priority.

The current seven HVAC units at the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum are identified below.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Downstairs west side of building | Pic 1 |
| 2. Downstairs east side of building | Pic 2 |
| 3. Upstairs annex (medicine room) | Pic 3 |
| 4. Upstairs middle room (Senator Cecil Sumners’ room) | Pic 5 and Pic 6 |
| 5. Upstairs courtroom ceiling | Pic 5 and Pic 6 |
| 6. Upstairs courtroom ceiling | Pic 5 and Pic 6 |
| 7. Upstairs courtroom ceiling | Pic 5 and Pic 6 |



Pic 1 — East View



Second View



Pic 2 — West View

The units on the east side of the building need to be replaced. However, the replacement for the unit on the west side of the building, although an eye sore, will have to remain at that location. Due to the layout of the foundation, duct work cannot be run from east to west, unless installers bore under the floor, which is not possible due to a lack of crawl space. Another option that was considered was to run copper tubing from the interior unit to the other side of the building. However, considering the distance, the facility would most probably be faced with leaks and other problems. An architect should be consulted to properly address the area around this unit.



Pic 3 — Annex Unit



Pic 4 — Unit Located on Second Floor



Pic 5 — Attic Access to Unit



Pic 6 — Attic Access to Unit



Pic 7 — Upstairs Thermostats

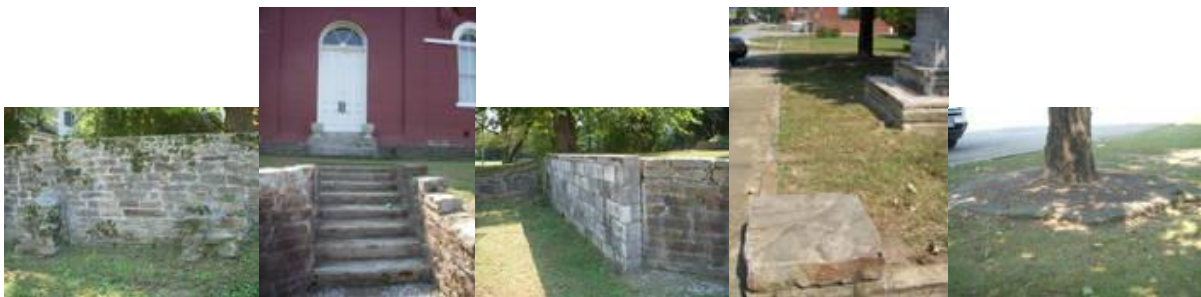
The access area to the attic has no stairs. Filters are not accessible, and units are not working properly.

Photographic Detail of Attic



New duct work and new insulation should be installed.

Stone Restoration—The stone curbs on the perimeter of the Old Courthouse property and around the raised planting beds on the north, west, and south sides of the building, as well as the stone walls in the north yard are important, landscape features of the site. They are most probably original to the facility. As a result of the freeze-thaw cycle and other ground surges, many of the elements are now damaged, as follows:



Some of the curb blocks have rolled or become dislodged. Mortar is missing in many areas, and some of the stones are broken.

- The stone retaining walls on the north side of the property are in poor condition. The walls tilt precariously in some areas, and large cracks in the mortar and damaged stones make the walls unstable.
- Many unskilled repairs using inappropriate materials have visually and structurally marred the walls. These same conditions apply to the raised foundation bed walls on the north side of the building.

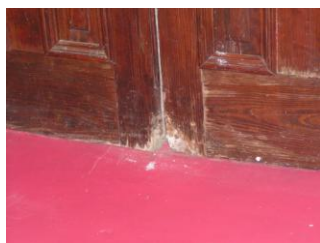
Security and Fire Protection—The acquisition of fire protection scanners and an upgrade to our current alarm system is mandatory in safeguarding the heritage that has been bestowed upon us. A CCTV system is needed which will provide a 16-channel DVR hard drive, which will be connected to a laptop in the library and a television in the business office. Eleven bullet cameras will be installed in individual rooms which house artifacts. Additionally, three additional door connectors, four additional motion detectors, and 15 smoke detectors will be added to the Museum’s existing panel. There is currently no fire protection in place.

Annex Roof Repair—Recent roof replacement did not include the annex roof, which leaks with all heavy rain storms. At least three times this year, the museum has had to rent steam cleaners to absorb the water from the carpeted floors.



Interior Wall Repair—The roof repair in 2008 has stopped moisture from doing further damage in the courtroom, but the existing damaged plaster has not been repaired. These damaged areas harbor mold that can easily spread throughout the building via air circulation. We are in need of a skilled plasterer who has extensive experience working on historic buildings to repair the damaged walls and ceiling in the courtroom, as well as the new damaged walls in the annex, due to recent leaks.

Molding Repair—The annex room has recently suffered from termite damage. Some boards need to be replaced.



The **double-leaf doors** on the north end of the entrance hall are deteriorating because of moisture infiltration that is a result of rain water splash on the exterior stone steps. To prevent further damage, a simple fabric awning should be considered for installation above the doors. A skilled carpenter with experience working on historic buildings is needed to repair the bottom rails of the doors, matching the existing materials and finishes.

Carpet Removal—The soiled and damaged carpets in the annex and the medical/home display room need to be removed. The library floor is believed to be concrete and can be painted. The rooms upstairs have wood flooring and can be painted.

Day-To-Day Needs—A janitor is needed for one to two days per week. Currently there are light bulbs that are in need of replacement and beyond the reach of staff. Staff is not able to climb ladders to reach

high areas for wall and window general cleaning. In times past, we have had volunteers who assisted with performing day-to-day dusting, sweeping, mopping, removing cobwebs, and other necessary maintenance; however, we have not had assistance in these areas for the past two years. In order to bring the building back to a standard, we could use one person for a minimum of a two-week period.

We have more than 10,000 objects housed in the museum. All objects are accessioned in our museum software. About ¼ of the objects are located in valid environments; the remaining ¾ items are not in proper compartments or environments and cannot be easily obtained and maintained. We are in need of one to two individuals to assist our Director of Collections with a complete re-inventory of our 10,000 objects while documenting their home location, and to record care plans.

Policies and Procedures

The Disaster and Risk Management Plan was updated on November 24, 2010. The Collections, Gift Shop, and Library Policies and Procedure Manuals were also updated. TCHGS bylaws were amended to include a change in membership categories and Board of Directors' criteria. The Strategic Plan was approved with no changes.

Publications

Four informative issues of the Society's newsletter, *Chronicles & Epitaphs*, were published with the editorial and layout expertise of Director RaNae S. Vaughn.

The book entitled *Gunboats and Cavalry*, by Ben Earl Kitchens was republished to benefit the Operating Account (after the publishing cost has been absorbed).

We have been extremely busy working on these HUGE collections, such as the Mildred Aday Collection, Mary Ellen Ahlstrom Collection, Lela Clark's donations by Janette Clark Pike, and the Charles Byram Collection.

The following publications were either created or are in process:

- *Obituaries of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Volume 1: A and B Surnames, 1845–1999.*
- *Obituaries of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Volume 2: C, D, and E Surnames, 1863–1999.*
- *Obituaries of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Volume 3: F and G Surnames, 1868–1999.*

- *Rosecrans Meets Price: The Battle of Iuka, Mississippi* by Ben E. Kitchens.
- *Gunboats and Cavalry: A History of Eastport, Mississippi, With Special Emphasis on Events of the War Between the States* by Ben E. Kitchens.
- *Daybook of James W. Hiatt and the Hiatt Wagon Company of Jonesboro, Ark., and Iuka, Miss., and the Daybook of Mrs. James W. Hiatt and the Hiatt General Merchandise Store of Iuka, Miss.*
- *1956 Memoirs, Holcut School, Holcut, Miss. (on CD)*
- *1966 Belmontian, Belmont, Miss. (on CD)*
- *1986 Belmontian, Belmont, Miss. (on CD)*

Tourism Impact

The economic value that our facility offers toward travel and tourism of Tishomingo County is significant. First and foremost is our Community Service benefit—it is the key to our existence. Secondly is the tax revenue that our facility generates from tourism. Interest in history and genealogy is North America’s fastest growing hobby. A 2000 Maritz Marketing Research poll found that up to 60 percent of the American population is interested in their family history. Visitors at TCHAM reflect this interest. Museum personnel gladly meet out-of-town visitors after hours to allow them to maintain their traveling schedule and to leave a positive impression of Tishomingo County.

Visitors tarry in Tishomingo County for a variety of reasons. Many of these people desire to visit the County to view the geographical area where their ancestors settled and to perform genealogical research. Others, who have no direct connection to Tishomingo County, enjoy touring the historic Courthouse and visualizing the way of life depicted of people who lived and served the County during earlier years. All out-of-town visitors are encouraged to dine, shop, and lodge within the County. They are given ideas, maps, and contact information to make their visit to Tishomingo County an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

During 2010, the museum and genealogy library hosted 1,169 visitors from 29 states including, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Along with the U.S. visitors, the country of England was also represented.