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## Historical News and Notices

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# Historical News and Notices

## THE ASSOCIATION

The eighty-sixth annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association will take place at the Sheraton Memphis Downtown in Memphis, Tennessee, on November 19–22, 2020, Thursday through Sunday.

At the close of the Association's eighty-fifth meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 10, 2019, Thavolia Glymph, Duke University, began her term as president. Given that there were no additional nominations, those proposed by the 2018 Nominating Committee and published in the May 2019 issue of the *Journal* were declared elected:

### VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Steven Hahn, New York University

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Charles C. Bolton, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Cynthia A. Kiemer, George Mason University

Rose C. Thevenin, Florida Memorial University

The Executive Council also approved the nominations of Jason Morgan Ward, Emory University, and Amy Louise Wood, Illinois State University, to four-year terms on the Board of Editors of the *Journal of Southern History*.

The council elected the following to serve as the 2020 Nominating Committee: Adrienne Monteith Petty, College of William and Mary, chair; Caroline Janney, University of Virginia; Alecia P. Long, Louisiana State University; Gregory Mixon, University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut.

The following awards were presented at the meeting in Louisville:

### OWSLEY AWARD

The Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award, recognizing a distinguished book in southern history published in an even-numbered year (2018), was presented to Elizabeth Gillespie McRae, Western Carolina University, for her book, *Mothers of Massive Resistance: White Women and the Politics of White Supremacy*, published by Oxford University Press. The selection committee consisted of W. Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, chair; Kenneth W. Goings, Ohio State University; and Sally G. McMillen, Davidson College.

### SIMKINS AWARD

The Francis B. Simkins Award, given jointly with Longwood University in recognition of the best first book by an author in the field of southern history (published in 2017 or 2018), was presented to Caitlin Rosenthal, University of

California, Berkeley, for her book, *Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management*, published by Harvard University Press in 2018. The selection committee consisted of Cynthia A. Kierner, George Mason University, chair; Joseph Crespino, Emory University; and Lesley Gordon, University of Alabama.

#### RAWLEY AWARD

The James A. Rawley Award, given for a distinguished book on secession or the sectional crisis (published in 2017 or 2018), was awarded to R. J. M. Blackett, Vanderbilt University, for his book *The Captive's Quest for Freedom: Fugitive Slaves, the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, and the Politics of Slavery*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. The selection committee consisted of Nina Silber, Boston University, chair; Peter S. Carmichael, Gettysburg College; and Kenneth W. Noe, Auburn University.

#### KIRBY AWARD

The Jack Temple Kirby Award, recognizing a distinguished journal article on southern environmental or agricultural history (published in 2017 or 2018), was awarded to Caroline Peyton, University of Memphis, for her article "Kentucky's 'Atomic Graveyard': Maxey Flats and Environmental Inequity in Rural America," published in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (115 [Spring 2017], 223–63). The selection committee consisted of Christopher Morris, University of Texas at Arlington, chair; Kathryn Shively, Virginia Commonwealth University; and Mart Stewart, Western Washington University.

#### WOODWARD DISSERTATION PRIZE

The C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize for the best dissertation in southern history completed in 2018 was awarded to Owen James Hyman for his Mississippi State University dissertation, "The Cut and the Color Line: An Environmental History of Jim Crow in the Deep South's Forests." The selection committee consisted of Peter S. Carmichael, Gettysburg College, chair; Bruce Baker, Newcastle University; and Sean Cunningham, Texas Tech University.

Submissions for this year's Woodward Prize are invited. Dissertations in southern history completed and defended in 2019 are eligible for the annual prize. Application requirements can be found in the advertisement in this issue of the *Journal* or on the SHA website (<http://thesha.org/awards/woodward>). Application materials, sent by email to [manager@thesha.org](mailto:manager@thesha.org), are due May 1, 2020.

#### HOLMES AWARD

The William F. Holmes Award for the best paper delivered at the SHA meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, by a graduate student or recent Ph.D. recipient was presented to Lucas P. Kelley, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for "'We Will Mark a Line for the White People': Creating and Enforcing Borders in the Tennessee and Cumberland River Valleys." The selection committee

consisted of William Blair, Pennsylvania State University, chair; Scott Huffard, Lees-McRae College; and Yael A. Sternhell, Tel Aviv University.

FUTURE SHA MEETING SITES AND DATES

2020	November 19–22	Memphis	Sheraton Downtown
2021	November 3–6	New Orleans	Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel
2022	November 10–13	Baltimore	Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor
2023	November 9–12	Charlotte	Westin Charlotte
2024	October 24–27	Kansas City	Westin Kansas City at Crown Center
2025	November 5–8	St. Pete Beach	TradeWinds Island Resort
2026	November 5–8	Atlanta	Westin Peachtree Plaza

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In honor of the *Journal of Southern History*’s sixty years at Rice University (1959–2019), the *Journal* and Rice are sponsoring a Manuscript Workshop on the theme, “Immigration and Migration in the American South.”

We invite scholars to participate in a workshop for article-length manuscripts (8,000 to 12,000 words, exclusive of notes) that address some aspect of migration or immigration in the American South. Scholars might explore questions such as who moves to the South and why. How did the arrival of one group displace others? What were the economic, political, cultural, and social consequences of such migration or immigration? This movement of peoples could be voluntary or forced, and the journeys may have taken place within the bounds of the United States or traversed oceans and borders. We welcome submissions from any time period. We hope to foster dialogue, engage in scholarly discussion, and offer critical engagement with the texts the scholars submit. The workshop will consist of a two-day meeting at Rice University (June 18–19, 2020) to discuss participants’ pre-circulated manuscripts with each other as well as editorial staff from the *Journal of Southern History*. Accepted participants’ travel, food, and lodging will be provided.

Applicants should submit a Project Abstract (250 words maximum), CV (two pages maximum), and 20–35 pages of the proposed work to [jshmanuscriptworkshop@rice.edu](mailto:jshmanuscriptworkshop@rice.edu) by March 1, 2020.

For more information, see <https://thesha.org/jsh-manuscript-workshop-2020>.

To encourage more extensive and intensive research in North Carolina’s historical and cultural resources, the North Caroliniana Society offers the competitive Archie K. Davis Fellowship to assist scholars. Stipends will be in the \$4,000–\$5,000 range and are intended to cover travel and subsistence expenses while fellows conduct research in North Caroliniana. The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2020. Visit [www.ncsociety.org/fellowships](http://www.ncsociety.org/fellowships) for specific application guidelines.

The Georgia Historical Society is pleased to announce that Rick Atkinson has been named the 2019 Vincent J. Dooley Distinguished Teaching Fellow

at the Georgia Historical Society. Atkinson is the best-selling author of the award-winning Liberation Trilogy—*An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943* (New York, 2002); *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943–1944* (New York, 2007); and *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944–1945* (New York, 2013). Atkinson's other awards and honors include Pulitzer Prizes for journalism and public service, the George Polk Award, and the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award.

The Dooley Distinguished Fellows Program was established in 2018 to honor Vincent J. Dooley for his lifelong commitment to history and higher education. Individuals earning the award are national leaders in the field of history as both writers and educators whose research has enhanced or changed the way the public understands the past. In addition to their outstanding scholarship, Dooley Distinguished Teaching Fellows have served the Georgia Historical Society as faculty in teacher training seminars, as lecturers, as consultants, or in a similar capacity. Being designated as a Dooley Distinguished Fellow recognizes and formalizes the relationship forged through this service. Atkinson's induction took place on Thursday, November 14, 2019, in Savannah. Atkinson received a \$5,000 cash prize and a bust of Vince Dooley sculpted by acclaimed artist Ross Rossin of Atlanta.

#### OBITUARY

Paul M. Gaston, professor emeritus of history at the University of Virginia (UVA), died on June 14, 2019. Born on January 31, 1928, he grew up in the intentional community of Fairhope Colony on Mobile Bay in Alabama. Gaston earned his undergraduate degree at Swarthmore College in 1952 and his doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1961. He joined the UVA faculty in 1957 and retired in 1997. His children Blaise, Chinta, and Gareth survive him.

I was, and always will be, Paul Gaston's junior colleague. I knew Paul's work before I knew Paul. His major book, *The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Mythmaking* (New York, 1970), came out not long before I went to graduate school. There, I read Paul's book in the last class taught by our mutual hero, the great historian C. Vann Woodward.

The book was handsome, published by Knopf, and bearing Paul's striking features on the back, complete with Cary Grant looks topped off with Buddy Holly glasses. I, along with everyone else in our class, thought the book was great, the sort of publicly engaged scholarship many of us who chose to work in southern history dreamed of writing. For decades, every historian of the South has read *The New South Creed*, and it is still influential—a remarkable lifespan for a work of scholarship.

In his book, as in his teaching and everything else he did, Paul wanted us to see through the illusions that maintained the injustice and inequality of the South. He had a wonderful, polished style and a sophisticated perspective. His most enduring insights focused on the cult of the Lost Cause, which he saw for what it was and of which he warned us: the cause and its statues and flags were part of the machinery of unchallenged segregation and remained dangerous.

Paul was proudest, he told me, of the chapter called "The Vital Nexus," in part because his wife, Mary, named it and also because it did the work he most

wanted to do: to hold up history as a mirror and magnifying glass to our own days. Paul, in all honesty, was not that interested in much of the stuff that historians, including southern historians, preoccupy ourselves with. He was patient in the dozens of oral exams and dissertation defenses we shared, but he was always looking for history's utility in the present day and pressed students to tell us what work toward justice their studies performed.

Paul had been at UVA for twenty-three years by the time I appeared in Charlottesville for my job interview. His teaching was legendary for decades, as I learned from meeting many of his former students, especially men from the 1960s. He was known as Tall Paul by the graduate students, and that seemed on target. He was a big man with a big personality.

Paul was a daunting senior colleague in other ways. Paul knew everyone working for true progress in the South, it seemed. He was proud of his work with the Southern Regional Council. His visit to South Africa and his friendships with leading figures there energized him as nothing else did in the time I knew him. Paul was never as alive as when he was working for racial justice. His memories of boycotting Buddy's restaurant, of having his tires slashed, and of his son Blaise not wanting to wash his hand after shaking hands with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were the proudest of his life. The award he received from the NAACP for his work in Charlottesville was especially meaningful to him.

Paul told me during my job interview—which was advertised for the antebellum South—that he was bored with the entire nineteenth century (his notes were so old, he said, that they would shatter when he dropped them) and that I could have the New South period if I got the job and if I was interested. That generosity turned out to change my teaching, my writing, and my life.

Paul and Mary could not have been more gracious or welcoming to my wife, Abby, and me when we arrived thirty-nine years ago. When my first book came out, Paul and Mary conspired with Abby to have a surprise party. I saw the cover of my book for the first time over the door in their house when I stumbled in for that party. It was a gift for which I will always be grateful. Later, I wrote my own book on the same period for which Paul was famous. We took different approaches, and I am sure he was mystified by why I was interested in some of the things I was, and why I wrote it as I did, but he was always encouraging and happy for me.

I was honored to read Paul's three lovely books on his beloved Fairhope, acts of love and devotion. Fairhope's unconventional Organic School, whose diploma he proudly displayed, inspired him over the course of his entire life. I think much of his work was an effort to put the principles of Fairhope and the Organic School into action for a larger purpose. To a remarkable extent, he succeeded.

I think of Paul and Mary often. One reason I do so is because they brought us a sapling from the beautiful Japanese maple in their backyard to plant at our house out in the country. It was only a couple of feet high when they brought it to us in 1988. That sapling now is a massive tree, bold and generous with its shade and its brilliant red leaves as the fall turns, marking time. I think of that tree as a tribute to Tall Paul and the gifts he generously gave all of us. [EDWARD L. AYERS, University of Richmond]

## CORRECTION

In the *Journal's* review (85 [August 2019], 743–44) of Michael T. Gengler, *We Can Do It: A Community Takes on the Challenge of School Desegregation* (New York: RosettaBooks, 2018), Gainesville High School is mistakenly identified as the site where black students protested successfully against ongoing “racist traditions such as waving the Confederate flag and playing ‘Dixie.’” Those protests actually occurred at Santa Fe High School, elsewhere in Alachua County, Florida. Other black students who attended historically black schools spent the final four months of the 1969–1970 school year at formerly white schools. The editors regret the error.