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William C. Binkley to Jim, 4 May 1946

William C. (William Campbell) Binkley (1889-1970)

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The Journal of Southern History

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE 4, TENNESSEE

MANAGING EDITOR
WILLIAM C. BINKLEY

May 4, 1946

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
HENRY L. SWINT

Professor James W. Silver
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

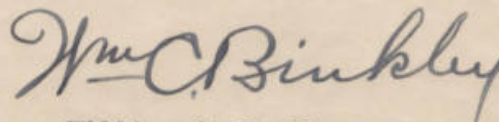
Ever since my return from the Bloomington meeting I have been swamped with an accumulation of work which could no longer be postponed, and this is the first opportunity I have had to write to those of you who participated in the plans to honor me at that meeting. It is impossible to give adequate expression to my own feelings, and I still wonder why any group of students whom I have had should feel that they owe anything to me. I have learned far more from each one of you than you ever got from me; and I have received more than adequate compensation for anything that I may have done, both through the stimulation that comes from association with superior minds bent on making contributions to knowledge and through the satisfaction of watching each of you maintain the standards of your chosen field under conditions which none of us foresaw in those earlier days around the seminar table. Those of us who had a part in your preparation are proud of the way you are carrying on, and in that way you have already repaid any debt that you may think you owe to us.

At the same time, however, one cannot deny that such occasions as the one at Bloomington do bring a sense of satisfaction at being appreciated, as well as a feeling of humility when one considers how much more might have been done. To me your gift of a life membership in the Association means far more than I can tell you, not because of its material value but because it is a token of your friendship; and I am deeply grateful for your part in making that gift possible.

It was good to see you at Bloomington even though we did not have an opportunity to talk at length about recent developments in which you are concerned. It is encouraging to know that the situation at "Ole Miss" is looking so much better from the point of view of salary and status, and I hope that you get the recognition that you deserve in the adjustment which is being made.

With very best wishes to both Dutch and yourself,

Cordially yours,



William C. Binkley

WCB:s