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James W. Silver to Mrs. Ames, 5 November 1956

James W. (James Wesley) Silver (1907-1988)

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November 5, 1956

Mrs. Oakes Ames
"Borderland"
North Easton, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Ames:

Your letter of October 26 to Franklin L. Riley kicked around the University for a few days and finally ended up in my office.

Mr. Riley was last in the history department here about thirty years ago and I presume has been dead for at least twenty. The Mississippi Historical Society which he ran so well pretty much ceased to function about 1912 and only about five years ago was it reorganized (by several people teaching history in the state colleges, including myself) and today it is doing very well. I think that Mr. Riley left the history department here about 1928 - I came in 1936.

Back in the 1930's I got together as complete a set of the publications of the Mississippi Historical Society as I could then find. As I have not taught Mississippi history for a long time and as I intend to leave my own personal library to the University (which has complete sets of the publications) I am willing to sell the publications I have.

My volumes consists of the entire 14 volumes of the Publications (1898-1912) bound in very good heavy material and completely clean, as well as volumes I, II, and IV of the Centenary Series (1916-1921) in the same good shape. Volumes I and II of the latter series are bound in one volume. McNeily's article is in volume 12 of the first series and I'll try to find you an extra reprint of that.

I am willing to sell the entire 17 volumes for \$50 which I think is a reasonable price. I shall be willing to send them to you for your inspection if you wish. (Of course it may be that you could find these in second hand catalogs, though I haven't seen them listed for years.)

Sincerely,

James W. Silver
chairman, history department