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Stephen Thompson to Sir, 4 January 1962

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Stephen Thompson
M.O.Q. 337
M.C.A.S.
Cherry Point, N.C.

January 4, 1962

Professor James W. Silver
Professor of History
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Sir,

I am a Junior attending high school in Havelock, North Carolina. In the past five years I have developed a deep interest in U.S. History, particularly the period dealing with the War Between the States.

I have collected over one hundred books on the war and enjoy studying it immensely. At first it was just a hobby but I am convinced now, that I want to associate my life's work toward it. Probably become a history teacher.

The reason I wrote you is that in my reading I have found many references to the University of Mississippi during the war period. This has lead me to study Mississippi's participation in the war more closely. I now think that your University would be an excellent place to study Southern History. I have looked at one of the schools catalouge's and this has convinced me I would like to attend "Ole Miss."

Also I have obtained a couple of books you have edited. Moore's Diary, A LIFE FOR THE CONFEDERACY, which is one of the best soldier Diaries, I have ever read. Also am now reading your colaberation with Professor Betterworth, MISSISSIPPI IN THE CONFEDERACY, and I think you both have done wonderful work. I read in your editors acknowledgment how you and your assistants went through much source material as you prepared the work. That is something I love to do when I prepare a report for my History class. It must have been hard, when you found out you had to leave out two thirds of your work,

My father does not relish the idea of me going to a Southern College. He attended the University of Maine, and most of my family is from New England. I have lived in the South for nine years, my father in the Marines, and have come to love it. And I believe that Ole Miss not only has the courses I am interested in, but also an atmosphere, spiritually and geographically which would help me.

I would greatly appreciate your view on my decision.

Sincerely,

Stephen Thompson

P.S. I would greatly appreciate your autograph for my copies of your books.