

**RYAN PATRICK SEMMES**  
Associate Professor/Coordinator  
(662) 325-9355  
PO Box 5408  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
rsemmes@library.msstate.edu

**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. in History, Mississippi State University: Current Candidate  
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Master's of Public History-Archives, Graduation: December 2002  
Master's of Library and Information Science, Graduation: May 2001  
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, Graduation: May 1998  
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

**Congressional and Political Research Center, MSU Libraries, Mississippi State, MS**  
July 2014-Present

Associate Professor/Coordinator: Manage the CPRC in processing, arranging, and describing of political collections, including the John C. Stennis, Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, and Ulysses S. Grant collections. Also manage student worker projects and assist patrons in reference needs.

**Congressional and Political Research Center, MSU Libraries, Mississippi State, MS**  
August 2007-June 2014

Assistant Professor/Interim Coordinator: Manage the CPRC in processing, arranging, and describing of political collections, including the John C. Stennis and Ulysses S. Grant collections. Also manage student worker projects and assist patrons in reference needs.

**Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library, Washington, DC**  
March 2006-July 2007

Archivist/Interim Division Chief: Managed the DC Community Archives, processed collections, created schedules, signed off on employee leave requests, and assisted patrons in reference needs.

**History Associates Incorporated, Rockville, MD**  
January 2003-March 2006

Archivist/Project Manager: Managed federal contracts including Library of Congress map re-housing project, Gettysburg National Military Park processing project, and US Senate office closeouts.

**McNeese State University Archives, Lake Charles, LA**

August 2001-December 2002

Assistant Archivist: Processed collections, created HTML finding aids, managed student workers, and assisted patrons in reference needs.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Offices Held:

Society of Mississippi Archivists,  
 Past President, 2016-2017  
 President, 2015-2016  
 Vice President, 2014-2015  
 Past President, 2009-2011  
 President, 2008-2009

Membership:

American Historical Association, 2017-Present  
 British American Nineteenth Century Historians, 2016-Present  
 Organization of American Historians, 2014-Present  
 Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2013-Present  
 Association of Documentary Editors, 2011-2016  
 Ulysses S. Grant Association, 2009-Present  
 Society of Mississippi Archivists, 2007-Present  
 Mississippi Library Association, 2007-2016  
 Southern Archives Conference, 2007-Present  
 Mississippi State Historical Society, 2007-2016  
 Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association, 2001-2003  
 South Carolina Archival Association, 1999-2002  
 Society of American Archivists, 1999-2008

Mentor, National History Day in Mississippi, 2011-2016

**PUBLICATIONS-Refereed:**

“Hiram R. Revels, Ulysses S. Grant, Party Politics, and the Annexation of Santo Domingo,” *Journal of Mississippi History* Vol. LXXX, no. 1-2, pp. 49-65, Spring/Summer 2018.

“War and Remembrance: Walter Place and Ulysses S. Grant,” with David S. Nolen, *The Primary Source*, Vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 2-9, Fall 2013.

“From Pea Ridge to the Potomac: Lemon G. Hine and the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment, 1861-1862,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Vol. 104, no. 1-2, pp. 115-139, Spring-Summer 2011.

“Issues and Challenges of Maintaining *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* Collection,” with John F. Marszalek. *Documentary Editing*, Vol. 32, pp. 44-56, 2011.

“How Historians Use Primary Sources: The Ulysses S. Grant Collection Provides a Lesson,” with John F. Marszalek, *Mississippi History Now*, August 2010.

“The ‘So-Called Civil Rights Movement:’ White Reactions to Civil Rights as Seen in the John C. Stennis Collection,” *Journal of Mississippi History*, Vol. LXXII, no. 1, pp. 47-69, Spring 2010.

### **CHAPTERS-Edited Books:**

“The Swing Around the Circle,” with Sarah Dauterive, in *Past or Portal: Enhancing Undergraduate Learning through Special Collections and Archives*, eds. Eleanor Mitchell, et al (Chicago: Association of College Research Libraries), 2012.

### **BOOK REVIEWS:**

*The Mississippi Secession Convention: Delegates and Deliberation in Politics and War, 1861-1865*, by Timothy B. Smith, *Mississippi Quarterly*, Vol. 69, no. 1, pp. 129-131, Winter 2016.

*Bluejackets in the Blubber Room: A Biography of the William Badger*, by Peter Kurtz, *H-War*, August 2014.

### **CREATIVE WORKS:**

“Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Museum Exhibition,” with John F. Marszalek, David S. Nolen, and Terrance Healy, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Starkville, MS, Opened November 30, 2017.

“Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana Exhibition,” with Frank J. Williams, Terrance Healy, and Katherine Salter Gregory, Starkville, MS, Opened November 30, 2017.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

“Expanding Reconstruction: Citizenship and Ulysses S. Grant’s Annexation of Santo Domingo,” U. S. Capitol Historical Society Annual Symposium, Washington, DC, May 2, 2019.

“After the Storm: Revelatory Documentation of Mississippi’s Tumultuous Past Today,” Society of Mississippi Archivists Biennial Meeting, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, April 25, 2019.

“‘His nature is one of intrigue and duplicity:’ Russian Meddling and ‘Fake News’ during the Grant Administration,” Democracy and Disinformation in the Era of Trump Conference, University College, Dublin, Ireland, December 10-11, 2018.

“Designing Museum and Gallery Spaces in an Academic Library: An Archivist’s Experience,” Mississippi Library Association, Meridian, MS, October 18, 2018.

“How a Library Transforms into an Exhibit Experience,” Southeastern Museums Conference, Jackson, MS, October 8, 2018.

“Teaching the Civil War and Reconstruction,” Mississippi State University College of Education, Starkville, MS, June 22, 2018.

“Panel Discussion: Construction and Design of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Museum,” Ulysses S. Grant Association Annual Meeting, Starkville, MS, May 7, 2018.

“‘More for our country than for me:’ The Diplomatic Mission of Ulysses S. Grant’s World Tour,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 13, 2018.

“The Two Hiram: Hiram R. Revels, Ulysses S. Grant, and the Annexation of Santo Domingo,” John F. and Jeanne A. Marszalek Library Fund & Lecture Series, Mississippi State University Libraries, Starkville, MS, March 7, 2018.

“Teaching the Civil War and Reconstruction: Using Online Primary Sources,” Mississippi State University Mega Resources Workshop, Starkville, MS, February 16, 2018.

“The United States, Great Britain, and the *Alabama* Claims,” British American Nineteenth Century Historians Annual Meeting, University of Warwick, UK, October 5, 2017.

“Designing the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library Museum,” Society of Mississippi Archivists Annual Meeting, Columbus, MS, April 27, 2017.

“Regional Archival Association Consortium,” Annual Meeting, Society of American Archivists, Atlanta, GA, August 2, 2016.

“Using Primary Sources in the Classroom,” with Jennifer McGillan, Mega Resources Workshop, Starkville, MS, February 5, 2016.

“From Pea Ridge to the Potomac: The Correspondence of Lemon G. Hine, 44th Illinois,” DC Historical Studies Conference, Washington, DC, November 13, 2015.

“Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Mississippi Historic Records Advisory Board of the Department of Archives and History: Collaboration in Archival Education,” Mississippi Library Association Annual Meeting, Natchez, MS, October 22, 2015.

“The Treaty of Washington: The British Press and the Arbitration of the Alabama Claims,” Empire, Power, Identity, and Conflict Conference, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, April 26, 2015.

“The ‘So-Called’ Civil Rights Movement: White Mississippians React to Social Change,” 15th Amendment Symposium, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, April 25, 2015.

“General Grant Slept Here: Historical memory and the Mike and Jorja Lynn Collection at Walter Place,” Society of Mississippi Archivists Annual Meeting, University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast, Long Beach, MS, April 16, 2015.

“Teaching the Civil War to 21st Century Students: Using Online Primary Sources,” Mississippi State University Mega Resources Workshop, Starkville, MS, February 6, 2015.

“Teaching the Civil War to 21st Century Students: The Social Studies Teachers Institute at Mississippi State University,” Mississippi Library Association Annual Meeting, Vicksburg, MS, October 15, 2014.

“More for our country than for me:” The Diplomatic Mission of Ulysses S. Grant’s World Tour, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting Lexington, KY, June 21, 2014.

“Teaching the Civil War to 21st Century Students: Using Online Primary Sources,” Mississippi State University Language Arts Workshop, Starkville, MS, June 5, 2013.

“The President’s Aide-de-camp: Orville E. Babcock and the Annexation of Santo Domingo,” International Security/Internal Safety Conference, Montgomery, AL, March 21-23, 2013.

“The World Tour Continues: Ulysses S. Grant Visits the Gulf Coast,” Upcoming, Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola, FL, October 18-20, 2012.

“Real World Processing: The Challenges of Academic Library Collections-The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant Collection,” Southern Archivists Conference, Jackson, MS, April 27, 2012.

“William M. Robbins: Confederate Commissioner at Gettysburg,” Golden Triangle Civil War Round Table, Starkville, MS, April 2012.

“Processing and Preservation: A Guide to Getting Started,” with Mona Vance, Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board and Society of Mississippi Archivists, Columbus, MS, August 2010.

“Digital Primary Sources at Mississippi State University,” with Mona Vance, Mega Resources Workshop, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, February 2009.

“From Pea Ridge to the Potomac,” Golden Triangle Regional Civil War Round Table, Starkville, MS, November 2008.

“The Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archives,” Recorded Sound Roundtable, Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 2006.

#### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS:**

“Issues and Challenges Maintaining the papers of Ulysses S. Grant Collection: From Editors to Archivists,” Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 2010.

#### **AWARDS:**

John and Jeanne Marszalek Graduate Student Award, March 2018.

Friend of National History Day in Mississippi Award, February 2013.

State Pride Award, Mississippi State University, October 2010.

Raymond W. Smock Fellowship of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, May 2010.