

Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson
Sen. Thomas Wyss
Sen. Allen Paul
Sen. Rose Ann Antich
Sen. Mark Blade
Sen. Anita Bowser
Rep. B. Patrick Bauer
Rep. Craig Fry
Rep. Clyde Kersey
Rep. Woody Burton
Rep. Thomas Saunders
Rep. Matthew Whetstone



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 9, 2001
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Sen. Anita Bowser; Rep. Clyde Kersey; Rep. Woody Burton; Rep. Matthew Whetstone.

Members Absent: Sen. Allen Paul; Sen. Mark Blade; Rep. B. Patrick Bauer; Rep. Thomas Saunders; Rep. Craig Fry.

Sen. Merritt called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m and welcomed those at the meeting.

Philip Sachtleben and Jeannie Gerstbauer-Hill of LSA

Sen. Merritt recognized Philip "Satch" Sachtleben and Jeannie Gerstbauer-Hill of the Indiana Legislative Services Agency (LSA). Mr. Sachtleben reviewed the information requests directed to him by the committee. Mr. Sachtleben deferred to Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill for a discussion of the request to contact the Allen County Public library for information about genealogy and its use in the biographical directory of the Indiana General Assembly. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill informed the Committee of her discussions with Delia Cothrun Bourne, a librarian at the Reynolds Historical Genealogy Collection at the Allen County Public

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Library, and reviewed a letter sent from the library to her. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill informed the Committee of concerns expressed by Ms. Bourne about security, and having legislator's personal information published on the internet. The Committee discussed security and information.

Mr. Sachtleben next addressed the issue of timelines for the completion of the biographical directory of the General Assembly. He outlined possible completion scenarios, and the computer program being used to create the database.

Rep. Burton asked questions concerning the software being used for the system, about the plans to provide continuing updates of the biography, and the publishing schedule for the complete volume of the biographical directory. Mr. Sachtleben said that the publication of the biographical directory volume will be determined by the members of the Committee. Mr. Sachtleben discussed a memorandum prepared for the Committee which reviewed information on the changes in the General Assembly and extrapolated information about the possible numbers of biographical updates that would be required to biographies contained in the previously published volume.

Mr. Sachtleben discussed the concept that the work of the Committee could be separated into two assignments, the biographical directory and the completion of the history. Mr. Sachtleben stated that he believes LSA has the biographical directory well in hand, and that updates to the database directory would be able to be done as needed in the future. The Committee discussed the differences between the biographical directory and the history.

Sen. Wyss commented on the perceptions of history and the importance to provide a proper perspective.

Rep. Burton asked Mr. Sachtleben what the time commitment would be for LSA employees. Mr. Sachtleben assured the Committee that the duties of the agency would not suffer from any work on the database directory. Mr. Sachtleben credited Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill with a suggestion that session computer interns be used to help compile and enter information in the database during times when the interns are not otherwise engaged in computer duties.

Rep. Burton asked for an estimate of a completion date if it was up to LSA. Mr. Sachtleben said that he plans to have the biographical directory database completed within 12 months, meaning completion by the end of the 2002 interim.

The Committee discussed the completion of the database, and returned to the discussion of security concerns over the use of personal information of living individuals.

Dr. James Madison, Indiana University

Sen. Merritt then introduced Dr. James Madison of the Indiana University department of history. Dr. Madison discussed the scope and purpose of creating a historical work, the necessity of leaving a historical record about the General Assembly, and the tremendous need to disseminate historical information as widely as possible. Dr. Madison encouraged the Committee to use as many means of publication as possible, but emphasized the importance of the printed word in a handsome format. Dr. Madison urged that the work be done so that it explains the issues and process of the General Assembly to the average citizen in a way that makes the reader want to read. He continued by commenting that the next volume should not necessarily be a simple update of the previous history, but should instead be a self contained volume. Dr. Madison discussed the need to make the book as

marketable as possible. Dr. Madison stated that his key piece of advice is that the General Assembly hire the right author for the job.

Sen. Bowser stated her agreement with Dr. Madison and offered that the work should be broader than the first volume and should contain more of the personal side of the General Assembly. The Committee discussed authors, whether the author should be from Indiana, and the use of the internet connected with the history volume. Dr. Madison suggested that the most important elements of the next author should be the author's experience, perspective, education, and continuing education.

Sen. Merritt began a discussion of the time frame for the project, and the Committee discussed the time frame. Dr. Madison reminded the Committee that the author will want absolute freedom in creating the history.

Sen. Merritt discussed recommendations of the Committee, and asked for the will of the Committee concerning the issues of an oral history and the use of various publication technology. The Committee discussed recommendations, and Sen. Merritt informed the members of the Committee that he would have a draft prepared and distributed to the members for the next meeting.

Sen. Merritt adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.