

Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society  
16th Meeting  
22 September 2009 – 6 PM  
Pascagoula City Library Meeting Room

The 16th meeting of the reorganized Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society was called to order by President-elect Joanne Anderson with approximately 55 members & guests present.

Visitors and guests were introduced and welcomed after President-elect Anderson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved on a motion by Kathie Keene, seconded by Linda Robinson.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Reporting for Treasurer Linda Grimes, Renee Hague advised there was a balance of 28,515.00 in the operating and publication accounts. Since the last meeting \$770.00 was spent on office supplies, domain site, cabinet & postage; 138 cemetery books have been sold to date and 150 members have paid dues this year.

**Committee Reports:**

Tommy Wixon reported he is gathering information on Pie Moore, and the glass factory in Moss Point. If anyone has information which they would like to share on these two subjects, it would be appreciated.

**Door Prize:**

Joan Ryan Latimer won the door prize for September – 'Mississippi's Old Capitol: The Biography of a Building" by John Ray Skates.

**Program:**

Past President Tommy Wixon introduced the guest speaker Jerry Lachaussee, who grew up in Pascagoula and spent his entire career with L & N Railroad (later CSX). He started working part time at the age of 14, two days after graduating from high school he was the telegrapher, and six years later was promoted to Mobile. He retired in 2002 after 43 years of service.

With a life long affection for trains, he was never without his camera and shared with the membership many photographs he has taken through the years, starting with his Kodak Brownie.

1854 – Railroad was surveyed  
1868 - 70 – The line was built  
1871 – The name was changed  
1873 – Name changed again  
1881– Another name change and the Ponchatrain Railroad in New Orleans inherited

No large trains ran between the Coast and New Orleans as halfway across Louisiana was swamp – it was not until after the turn of the last century that the large automotive trains came this way

1873 – St Elmo station built and torn down in 1972

1870 – Biloxi main station

1949 – Last steam engine

The Pascagoula depot was shared with the trolley line

1904 – ‘View of the Pascagoula station

In 1958, as all through the 50's, there were 10 scheduled passenger trains per day and four freight trains through Pascagoula

1950 – There were three passenger trains at noon every day

Other photographs shown included:

1954 - #44 a local diesel

Box car at the freight warehouse

1956 – Photograph of the station

Short car over the East Pascagoula Bridge

Photo of employees

1958 – Station covered with snow

1957 – The Hummingbird, the premier L & N train

1958 - #4 ‘workhorse’

1958 – Drawbridge

1961 – Station photo with vagrants

1961 – The freight house (added onto both ends in 1918

1961 – The REA office

1961 – Frederic Street looking toward the REA Office

1961 – The drawbridge which was in use from 1904 to 1995

1958 – Color photos

1962 – Telegraph apparatus etc including photo of the ‘ring key’

1963 – Photo of depot in rain

1963 – Photo inside the office

1963 – Waiting room looking east

1963 – Waiting room looking west

1963 – Baggage room

1963 – Night photo of depot

1963 – Daybreak photo – bridge lined up

1963 – Photo of station with new coat of paint

Note yellowish green with brow trim was the standard color for the stations in the 1920's

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1964 – Photo included Mr. Murphy & Mr. Santa Cruz

1990 – Photo of communication apparatus in Jacksonville FL station

A lively question and answer period followed, after which Mr. Lachaussee was thanked for presenting a most entertaining program.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7 PM, and light refreshments were enjoyed by those present.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27 October 2009 at 6 PM.

Liz Ford, Recording Secretary