

Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society
9th Meeting
27 January 2009 – 6 PM
Pascagoula City Library Meeting Room

The 9th meeting of the reorganized Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society was called to order by President Tommy Wixon with approximately 48 members & guests present.

The minutes of the November 2008 meeting were approved as read, on a motion by Kathie Keene, seconded by Day Ladner.

President Wixon reminded everyone that it is time to pay 2009 dues which are \$25.00 per couple, and includes a copy of the Journal.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be brought before the membership at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

President Wixon led a discussion explaining that in the past the Society could not sell publications at the Library however the Friends of the Library could. After discussion, the Library Director and the Library Board have decided the Society would have the same status. In order to accomplish this, the By Laws will need to be amended.

According to the By Laws, the Society membership must be notified of any proposed changes two weeks prior to the meeting; however, they can be suspended for one meeting, and then officially amended at the next meeting following official notification to the membership.

Joanne Anderson moved to suspend the By Laws for this meeting and Peggy Saliba seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Joanne Anderson then moved to adopt the following paragraph as an amendment to the By Laws to enable the Society to act as a Friend of the Genealogy and Local History Department of the Pascagoula Public Library and sell publications at the Library.

The Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society will also serve as the Friends of the Genealogy and Local History Department of the of the Pascagoula Public Library. They will have privileges

and rights similar to the other Friends of the Library organizations within the Jackson-George Regional Library System (JGRLS). The Society will always work within JGRLS policies and procedures and with the approval of the manager of the Pascagoula Public Library concerning any projects, programs or services involving the Pascagoula Public Library. The Society will always work within JGRLS policies and procedures and with the approval of the JGRLS director on any project, program or service involving any other JGRLS branch, department, division or staff of the Jackson-George Regional Library System.

Sudie Lockridge seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Cemetery Book:

- President Wixon then said we can sell the Cemetery Book but need a Mailing Captain to see that the books are boxed and mailed as orders are received. Else Martin, Margaret Wolfe, Doug Coulter and Day Ladner volunteered.
- Doug Coulter will continue to make regular trips to the Post Office to get orders and will call Tommy if he cannot.
- Doug Coulter discussed the cost of shipping and handling for the book to be mailed. Postage is 3.98 and packaging is about 4.00 for a total of about 8.00; tax is charged on in state p&h. It was decided to charge 10.00 a book, plus sales tax if the book is sold within the State.
- Treasurer Linda Grimes said a journal of the books must be kept in order to keep control.

Lindsay Mack was introduced as one of the unknown heroes involved with the publication of the book. She completed the indexing and many other items at a pittance. A round of applause was given to Lindsay in appreciation of her assistance.

Corresponding Secretary Renee Hague said Jay Higginbotham has given permission to reissue 'Singing River City' and we also have the Jackson County Marriages book on the horizon, as well as an update of the local history book.

Program Chairman Kathie Keene introduced Tanya Hamilton who spoke on the Finnish community and the Finnish Lutheran Church located in Kreole. Her grandparents came from Finland in 1904 & 1905 respectively, and married in 1909; the other side arrived in 1901. A brief time line from her talk follows:

- 1889 - According to the Democratic Star, the 1st Finn, Gideon, arrived in Laine (later known as Kreole) and formed the Finnish Land Company on the Gulf Coast.
- A brochure included a map of the area.
- 1903 – 1st Swartout Finnish Lutheran Church was chartered
- 1905 – Oldest grave in cemetery
- There is another cemetery in Kreole on donated land
- 1907 – Church completed
- A Finnish Pastor came twice a year and the service alternated between Kreole & Pecan.
 - Sunday School was held each week and a Silver Tea was held once a month
- 1959 – Last Finnish Pastor
- 1962 – Joined the Lutheran Church of America
- 1970's – Membership declining
- 1980's – Twice a month services
- 1995 – Finnish Lutheran Historical Society formed
- Recognize Finnish Flag Day each October
 - Place luminaries on the graves in December & sing Christmas carols inside the church
 - About 55 members in the Society and 40 to 50 families involved
- Tanya, who was dressed in native Finnish attire, showed memorabilia including photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.

Kathie Keene thanked Tanya for a most interesting program and presented her a token of appreciation from the Society.

Treasurers Report:

Linda Grimes said the accounts were merged and there are now two accounts – Operating Account - \$26,676.00 and Publishing Account \$5,875.00 after paying for the books. The CD's are reserved for capital improvements.

Due to Mardi Gras the February meeting will not be held, and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 March 2009. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Renee Hague seconded by Jack Ladner.

Liz Ford, Recording Secretary