

Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society
14th Meeting
28 July 2009 – 6 PM
Pascagoula City Library Meeting Room

The 14th meeting of the reorganized Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society was called to order by President Barry McIlwain with approximately 39 members & guests present.

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

Minutes from the June meeting were approved on a motion by Tommy Wixon, seconded by Walter Mansfield.

Treasurer's Report:

Linda Grimes reported a balance of 28,924.97 in the operating account and 10,431.49 in the publication account. She again recommended that once the budget is determined that we set aside some of the operating account money in a CD for capital improvements. Linda added revenue is about \$4800.00 ahead of last year.

Tommy Wixon asked how many cemetery books have been sold to date – revenue **if** 5719.50, so approximately 100 books have been sold, and about 400 remain.

Selected Committee Reports:

Grass Roots - Chairman Kaye Doyle reported:

- 15 new members have joined since the June meeting
- Please give Kaye contact information of prospective new members and she will send them a letter and an application form

Publications – Chairman Tommy Wixon reported:

- Back issues of the Journal will remain on sale for 5.00 until October; the Lineage sheets will also sell for 5.00.

Military – Chairman Roger Hansen, Tommy Wixon reported:

- The Ocean Springs VFW is building the coffins for the Mexican War Veterans
- The **re-internment** will be postponed pending the possibility of additional remains being located

Hospitality – Pat Haynes, Chairman

- Assistance is needed

Gala / Fundraising – Melanie Moore & Callie Randle – Barry McIlwain reporting

- Plans are underway
 - o The date will be Friday 23 April
 - o It will be a fun, spectacular & very nice event

Following the committee reports, Renee Hague drew Sherrie Owens name as the winner of the door prize 'Religion in Mississippi' by Randy Sparks. Sherrie very graciously donated the book back and Kaye Doyle won the second drawing.

Barry McIlwain reminded everyone of the Genealogy workshop on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Library – 9:30 to 11, and 1 to 4:30.

Sherrie Owens then introduced the guest speaker Elsa Martin, retired local history and genealogical librarian, and founder of the Granley Meeting center, who gave power point presentation on "Discoveries Unearthed" the making of the Cemetery book.

- Old cemeteries were located close to water; on the bank of a creek, river bank, beach, etc.
- At one time, Americus was the center of the county
- More cemeteries are located in the NE part of the county
- 27 townships in the county and hundreds of sections were utilized
- Old turpentine plants and coal burning camps were located through out the county
- Many were buried with no names
- Indian mounds were not included in the book
- Some families utilized them for burial sites
- Requiem volumes 1, 2 & 3 were utilized for finding sites
- Also revisited cemeteries and compared records
- A lot of people were involved in getting the first records on paper
- 1000's of obituaries in the papers
- County & state death records also utilized
- Cemetery descriptions were found in deed and legal papers
- There were also some lucky finds, and oral interviews
- There are four Mississippi Historical Cemeteries in the County
- McRae, Old Goff Old Ware/Mt Pleasant & Lockard
- To be eligible it has to be a 'closed' cemetery
- Other sources of information included
 - Military records
 - Memorial markers
 - Indigent-pauper cemeteries

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- Pascagoula cemeteries include:
 - Greenwood Cemetery – the oldest marked graves are Thomas Dodson 1848 and Jacob Baptiste 1866
 - South side originally known at the Catholic section
 - Lost Villa Ada with the Henry graves
 - Bayou Cassotte – Bebe Cemetery
 - Captain John Grant Cemetery
 - McPhelah
 - Krebs

The balance of Mrs. Martin's program will be completed at a future meeting.

Mrs Martin was thanked for an informative and interesting program which gave the audience a whole new **appreciate** of the time and effort that went into making the Cemetery Book a reality.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM, and refreshments were enjoyed by those present.

Liz Ford, Recording Secretary