

Seventh Meeting of the Jackson County Genealogical and Historical Society
28 October 2008
Meeting Room of the Library, Pascagoula

President Tommy Wixon called the meeting to order. Joanne Anderson moved and Else Martin seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes as they have been sent out by e mail and that they be approved as written. All aye.

Tommy mentioned that the 2007 Jackson County Journal was out and that it was free with the \$25 membership in the JCGHS. He reminded us of the Cemetery Tour. It will include entertaining characters in costume portraying those buried in the cemetery and will last about 25 minutes. The next meeting of the Society will include a reception on the 25th of November. Jerry St. Pe' will be autographing his book "On Eagle's Wings" from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. and will give a talk on it to the society at the 6:00 P.M. meeting. There are flyers available for this program.

Joanne Anderson asked for the last call for raffle tickets for the book on "The Copeland Gang", and for an honest person to draw the lucky name. Anne Moore drew Jack Dickinson! Else Martin asked as to the status of the Cemetery Book. Joanne Anderson said that it is in the final proof read and that we may see it in a month or two.

Tommy introduced Dr. Thomas Taylor, CAC at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Dr. Taylor told us how happy he was to be here in Pascagoula. We have a colonial building in our presence. The City of Pascagoula is now in charge of it and they are focused.

He wears two hats as he is the director of the architectural collection as well as Chief Architectural Conservator of the Williamsburg collections. He emphasized the management of architectural fragments and monuments, which are extremely important. There are over 600 buildings in the collection which must be preserved. There are inspections of them all to uncover maintenance problems before they become a crisis. Crisis prevention is very important, and corrections to found problems must be done as soon as possible. The key to preservation is maintenance. Dangers include insect damage and storms, as in our case, Katrina.

In the consideration of a Colonial building it is not just the building, but the site. The La Pointe-Krebs house is a rare landmark. The community has to respond, and we must recognize this as a burden on us. We must as a group, get together and respond – volunteer.

He continued that probably one of the highlights of his career was in December of 2005 seeing the precious jewel that we have here. He is now disappointed to see that the roof is still down. We must identify the problems and prioritize. We have a tremendous landmark and must get the right people here to assist. He took questions from the group. There is a Preservation Trades Network which could provide help in this area.

He suggested that we remove the fence around the grounds as it makes a negative statement to the community. Put the community into the site and the site into the community -utilize it in an educational manor – French, Spanish and Native American influences here. He suggested workshops to teach appropriate methods of splitting shingles, or making tabby. He suggested Ken P Poole and MDAH for ideas in money raising. Grants from the Ms. Commission of the Humanities and the National Endowment for Humanities are available. We must make this living history. We have to go to these

and show that we are serious. He commented that it would be appropriate to bring students into the site. He suggested that we make the museum multifunctional – workshops, education, working place. Wixon suggested that we double the size of the museum and have weddings and receptions, etc. there. Other ideas were yacht club and power squadron, wooden boat festival.

It was brought up that at one time that to preserve the building, it should be enclosed in another building. Dr. Taylor, mentioned that that idea would not be likely to work, as preservation is an active process. A website was mentioned and Dr. Taylor said yes, that is loved by kids and a virtual tour would be good. Questioned regarding the cemetery, Taylor said yes that it needs to be one site, the shore and the land are all a part of it. Cemetery Societies help in this area.

Dr. Taylor agreed to look up and make a list of the right craftsmen to do the right job for the project and make recommendations.

He answered as to the Williamsburg Foundation. Rockefeller was a Phi Beta Kappa, which was founded at William and Mary College. The planning started in 1926.

Tommy thanked Dr. Taylor for his excellent presentation. He added that Dr. Taylor came at his own expense after Katrina in primitive conditions along the Coast to assess damage. We truly appreciate his efforts. Liz Ford then introduced Ken P'Poole from MDAH., who reiterated that we have one of the great jewels of American History, an authentic French Colonial building. There are precious few around- one in New Orleans, (The old Ursuline Convent) and a few in St. Genevieve, Missouri.

Just before adjournment, someone mentioned that there is also a German influence in the LaPoint – Krebs House!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Keene, for Liz Ford