

Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society
15th Meeting
25 August 2009 – 6 PM
Pascagoula City Library Meeting Room

The 15th meeting of the reorganized Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society was called to order by President Barry McIlwain with approximately 27 members & guests present.

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

Minutes from the July meeting were approved on a motion by Kathie Keene, seconded by Peggy Saliba.

Treasurer's Report:

Linda Grimes reported a balance of 28,822.24 in the operating account and 10,463.07 in the publication account. Linda added revenue to date this year is \$4786.62.

President's Report:

Barry McIlwain announced the computer policy for the Society's computer:

- Usage will be limited to a maximum of one hour per user, if anyone is waiting to use the computer
- Society business usage takes precedent

He announced Joanne Anderson is working on the web site, the domain name and the email address.

The door prize was won by Clyde Oliver

Selected Committee Reports:

Grass Roots - Chairman Kaye Doyle reported:

- Application forms are on the table at the entrance
- Also available are forms – if anyone knows of someone who is interested in joining, please complete this form and a letter of invitation will be sent to them

Programs – Chairman Kathie Keene announced the program schedule for the rest of the year:

- September – Jerry Lachaussee – Trains
- October – Don McKee – Birding

- November – Elva Avara – Poetry

She then introduced Sherry Owens, Vice President – Genealogy, who recently attended the National Convention in Raleigh, and thru a power point presentation related how to go about researching female ancestors.

Throughout most of history women were under the authority of their husbands. There is a lack of information on females. She suggested analyzing known data for husbands – where they met and married, allied families. Other data included age, relatives, education, occupation, military service

A lot of general information is available with military pension applications.

Community activities – did he execute a will?

When checking deeds, go several pages each way & the neighborhood

Also look at naming patterns in the family

Spelling variations

Check records thoroughly, and use original ones whenever possible.

Check available resources in indexes & abstracts

Don't stop there – check unpublished as well, and check records more than once

Start by checking every individual in the area with the same surname

Research each known associate or the associate's family

Check every census that covers the lifetime

Don't let assumptions of relationships sidetrack research

Check society and news columns in local newspapers

Consider there might be a different last name

Follow remarried widow under old & new names

Funeral home records can help

Check siblings & children's death certificates for the Mother's maiden name

Track all known descendants & track to the grave

The presentation closed with one last thought 'Never give up'

Ms Owens was thanked for her thoughtful & interesting presentation and was presented with a token of appreciation from the organization.

GALA

Gala Chairman Melanie Moore gave a short update on the plans for the gala. The committee has met and looked at the property – there are a lot of hurdles to overcome - plumbing, electricity & no alcohol, but they are working hard on overcoming the obstacles.

Everyone was reminded of the 10 AM Memorial Service at Lemaitre Cemetery where the graves of a Confederate soldier & a Union soldier will be marked.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM. Everyone attending then enjoyed light refreshments.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 September 2009 at 6 PM.

Liz Ford, Recording Secretary