

Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Historical Society
19th Meeting
26 January 2010 – 6 PM Pascagoula City Library

The 19th meeting of the reorganized Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society was called to order by President Barry McIlwain at 6:05 PM with 37 members and guests present.

President McIlwain led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Melanie Moore.

Minutes of the 24 November 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Kathie Keene, seconded by Melanie Moore.

President McIlwain called on various members for reports:

Rene Hague reported on several forthcoming events

- 20th Annual Mississippi Coast History Week – February 22nd–24th sponsored by the Mississippi Coast History & Genealogical Society & the City of Biloxi. The Society has been invited to participate. Else Martin will serve as Chairman, in costume, and will be selling cemetery books and journals. Volunteers are requested to participate.
- Mississippi Historical Society – annual meeting in Gulfport March 4th–6th. The Society will sponsor coffee at one of the sessions, and will have a table to sell publications. The events will take place at the Gulfport Courtyard Marriott. Registration is \$25.00 per person for members of the Society, and \$50.00 for non members.

Treasurers Report

- Linda Grimes advised \$25.00 dues, which include the annual journal, are now payable.

TICO Project

- Pat Keene gave a review and update on the TICO project
- In 2007 the city was approached regarding interest in bringing the TICO back to Pascagoula. Dr Jack Hoover was asked to head the group, which received approval of the concept by the governing bodies, but no funds.
- The group visited the USS KIDD Museum in Baton Rouge
- There are over 130 maritime museums in the United States, but none in Mississippi
- Funds were received from MDA to determine the feasibility; Wink Engineering received the contract
- A site on Lowry Island was chosen, and discussions were held with the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Tourism Committee
- Preliminary report from Wink indicates the project will be around \$40 million dollars
- Have started thinking about splitting the project into two pieces – museum & the ship
- Would still go to Lowry Island for the museum and work toward bring the TICO home.
- Would have to build an elevated building with two floors – the 2nd floor would serve as the gangway to the ship
- Looking at about \$12 million for site work, pile driving, etc.
- In the process of trying to reduce costs, and will go back to Jackson to ask for funding, and to talk with the Secretary of State regarding a tidelands lease for the property

- The society has a general meeting once a quarter and every one is invited to attend

President McIlwain then called for selected committee reports

Publications

Joanne Anderson reported the 09 Journal will be out within the month. The 10 Journal will be devoted to Captain John Grant.

- The website can be googled & resources, histories, etc are being added

The Anola Club, thru Betty Oswald, has given us the rights to republish the history section of 'Thought You Should Know' volume 2. Tommy Wixon is heading this project.

GALA

Melanie Moore reported 'Fete La-Pointe' will be on Friday 23 April, and distributed copies of the invitations and logo.

- Major sponsor letters will be going out next week
- The logo will be used for t-shirts, huggies, etc.
- Kevin Hall is working with Mississippi Power for the lighting, and the city for water
- Callie Randall is working on the bands; will have a strings group for the first part of the evening, and then about 8 o'clock will kick it up with a Zydeco band
- A lot of help will be needed the day before and the day of the event

Barry McIlwain added it will be a great event for Jackson County, and a lot of fun. Everyone needs to start talking it up.

Barry then thanked Hospitality Chairman, Pat Haynes, for the great job she does each month.

The meeting was then turned over to Program Chairman, Kathie Keene who gave an overview of forthcoming programs

- In February the Friends of the Library will join in sponsoring a Black History program
- The March program will consist of the unveiling of the 10 Most Endangered Historical Sites in Mississippi for 2009-10 and a program by the Director of Mississippi Historical Trust, David Preziosi.
- The April meeting will be the 'Fete La-Pointe.'
- Jay Higginbotham, a food program, native flowers, native Pascagoula Indians, and the possibility of a program on DNA are on the slate.
- Chairman Keene requested anyone with ideas for programs to please contact her. As programs are planned in advance, please do not make arrangements without first talking with the committee.

Else Martin announced on 01 May Dr Greg Spiers, from Troy State, will conduct a 2 to 3 hour workshop on townships and ranges.

The door prize was won by Evelyn Draughan.

Program Chairman Keene then introduced Roger Hansen, Member, and Chairman of the 1848 committee who gave a Power point presentation on the activities of the week after Christmas.

- On the 28th of December burial number 6 was found; as soon as the group got to Greenwood Island the faint outline of a coffin was send
- Mostly feet, hand bones, arm bone & a tooth were all that remained
- All of the coffins were built to the same diameter - 6'7" long
- A few artifacts were found - pewter button, bricks, etc.

- The ground radar did not work too well due to the shells and salt water
- Krebs Cemetery was mapped on the 29th of December; followed by McRae Cemetery, Confederate Cemetery at Beach Park, looked for Farragut grave & Fort Maurepaus
- We had the ground radar unit for a week and received our money's worth.

More information has been learned about Camp Twiggs from the post returns.

- It was occupied by 120 troops in 1849
- Big repairs were made in 1851
- 100 to 150 were stationed there at a time
- Both Colonel Bliss and Mrs. Taylor died of yellow fever in 1853
- The hospital was decommissioned in 1852
- A letter was written by local citizen, George Delius, in 1895 about the graves
- A key map of 1895 will be of assistance

Another trip, a shovel brigade, will be made to Greenwood Island at 6 AM on January 30th. This is the last minus low tide for the year

- Documentation says 8 or 9 were buried on Greenwood Island, and six have been recovered to date.
- To date have the names of 43 who died at Camp Twiggs
- Would like to locate the burial grounds for Camp Jeff Davis

The burial for the remains will be at the Biloxi National Cemetery on May 31st (Memorial Day), and there will be a display at the Library in June.

Future plans include a historical kiosk at the Beach Park telling the story of Camp Twiggs.

A question & answer period followed, and Roger was thanked for the interesting update, as well as for his dedication to the project.

Else Martin announced that Margo Stringfield is available to conduct a two day workshop on cemetery restoration – she would not charge for the workshop but would like to be reimbursed for mileage and accommodations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. Fellowship & light refreshments followed.

Liz Ford, Recording Secretary