

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Connie Childs, our President, at 8:30 AM. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Those in attendance were: Connie Childs, Lyman D. Platt, Karen Platt, Elaine Tyler, LoAnne Barnes, George Cannon, and Lynne Johnston.

Connie thanked Bob and Virginia Olsen for a wonderful tour of Toquerville on September 19th. We met at the old Church and were entertained by two very lovely ladies. Virginia Olsen told the history of "Quilts" from the very early years to today. Then Bob introduced Cherrie Gubler Naegle. She told about the history of the town of Toquerville and her book "Toquerville – Oasis in the Desert". We followed Bob and he took us to several historical locations/buildings. One of those buildings was the original "Cotton Gin", still standing, then owned by John Nebeker. We learned about the one and only murder in Toquerville, by a Preacher. Our last stop was at Bob and Virginia's home for a demonstration by Rick Conely, Sr. who shared with us his talent of making Indian Arrowheads. Thanks again Bob and Virginia!

The Minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting were read and approved with the corrections. A motion was made by Connie Childs to approve the minutes and Elaine Tyler seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Jeannie Bates our Treasurer was not present. We did not have a Treasurer's Report.

Connie has made arrangements with Glen Rogers to tell us about the Paiute Culture on October 22, 2009 at 6:30 PM. This will take the place of our Field Trip for the month of October. Connie will let everyone on the Committee know where the meeting will be held.

She also told us that she had been in contact with Dr. Laurel Casjens/Museum Specialist. Dr. Casjens works with the Office of Museum Services in Salt Lake City. Dr. Casjens is willing to come to St. George, visit the Museums here and give a lecture. Connie checked with those present and they set a tentative date for November 12-14. The lecture will be held at the Washington City Museum in their Conference room at the back of the Museum. Laurel Casjens would like to see all of the Museums in the area – Silver Reef, DUP, Washington City, and Toquerville.

The Spanish Trail meetings with Leo Lyman are held on the first Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will be November 5th, downstairs at the Washington County Library – 6:30 PM

Lyman Platt suggested that we keep a separate list of all the Motions – which have been made, so that they can be reviewed. Lynne Johnston said she would check into that and would compile the list.

Karen Platt said she bought some of Bart Anderson's books. They were the "Southern Indian Mission" by Thomas Allen and "The Honeymoon Trail" by Juanita Brooks.

GRANTS - Elaine Tyler

Elaine suggested that when we award the Grant money, we need to give a check to the representative of the town at the same time. Connie Childs made the motion and Lynne Johnston seconded the motion. All said "Aye". Elaine wondered if the next Grant money should be given to one or two of the following towns: Grafton, Rockville, LaVerkin, Leeds. LoAnne Barnes from Leeds stated that they could use money for new steps at the CCC Camp. Elaine reminded everyone that an Application needs to be turned in by the March 2010 Board meeting.

Elaine Tyler is donating \$1,000 from her "Foundation" to Washington County Historical Society. She hopes the money will be used for Grafton.

WEBSITE - George Cannon

George reported that work is continuing on the WCHS Website. Doug Liston's book, "Musicians of Southern Utah" is now up on the Website in its entirety. George gave Connie the permission slip that Doug signed. Google Search is picking up the Website contents almost as soon as they are put up. The Website has links to many of the historic photos at SUU and some people in New Harmony have been identifying some of the people in those photos. George has set up a webpage for "Historical Reenactment Resources".

George told about two instances where people have contacted us via the Website:

- 1) A reporter from the Deseret News (a newspaper from Salt Lake) sent an e-mail asking for information about the Silver Reef Museum. She had heard it was closing and she wanted to do a story about it. George referred her to LoAnne Barnes.
- 2) Ted Faye, a film producer from California e-mailed us to see if we could guide him to people who might support his project to do a historical video about a group of pioneers that cut off from Enterprise and went across to Death Valley and Southern California.

LoAnne Barnes said she would check into the possibility of putting the history of Leeds "Bits and Pieces" on our Website.

Elaine said that she got a notice saying the renewal of our Domain Name and/or Hosting is coming up for renewal. George stated that he didn't get access to the Website until the beginning of April, so he didn't think we should be due yet. Elaine said she would check on it.

Elaine also showed an article which was in the Sterling Court Newspaper regarding the wonderful work George has done in setting up the WCHS Website and posting all the pictures, articles, etc. on it.

George stated that in addition to our Website and the old Yahoo Group, we now have a new WCHS Facebook Group for people who use Facebook.

George has been talking to the DUP Museum about posting information from them on our Website. He currently has a webpage set up advertising their existence, but he would like to get listings of their holdings, copies of their photographs, and maybe even photos of their artifacts. They have a new Museum Director and are in the process of trying to decide what direction they want to go. George would also like to get or link to the DUP Family Histories.

He can set up a webpage to list awards people in Washington County get for their history work.

Sharon Welch, Washington County Archivist, is in charge of all the County Photographs. sharon.welch@washco.utah.gov

Lyman Platt noted - Commissioner Eardly has a very interesting Index of Historical Items on the Internet. The St. George Family History Center has their entire book collection on a CD. The Territorial Court House in Fillmore has a Collection - Indexes to Histories and Photographs. The Utah Historical Society has put their "Quarterly Magazine" from 1896 to the present on the Internet.

Connie said she would like to see other churches represented on the Website. George said he had been thinking about going over to the Catholic Church to see if there was somebody there who could provide some history. He suspects the current Catholic Church is on the site of an old Presbyterian Church.

The Chamber of Commerce will soon be moving from the “Old Courthouse” on St. George Blvd./1st East. The WCHS has old records stored there in the basement, which eventually will have to be moved. There was much discussion on the matter. It was noted that many Towns /Counties support their Historical Societies. It was the consensus of the group that Washington County does not do that. A decision has to be made as to where the items can be stored.

One suggestion was made from LoAnne Barnes. She could talk to the Leeds Historical Board to see if the old records could be stored in the basement of the Leeds Museum. Another suggestion was to ask Doug Alder if there was someplace in St. George that could be used for storage. Another idea was to offer a Grant (sum of money) in exchange for a place where WCHS could meet and have storage space.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Southern Utah Cultural Center – Connie Childs

Connie told about Lynne Clark – Lynne Clark is working hard to put together histories of the early prominent people in St. George and the surrounding communities. She did receive a Grant from the State of Utah for \$3,000.

Leeds – LoAnne Barnes

There are three Historical Buildings on fourteen acres of land owned by Washington County. The Wells Fargo Silver Reef Monument Board act as advisors to the County on this Historic Site.

Jerry Anderson, the Sculptor, will be closing his Wells Fargo Silver Reef Gallery by October 15, 2009. He won't be paying any cost associated with the building or Museum. The Wells Fargo Board is looking at the possibility at all funding sources, to pay the expenses and keep the Museum open and staffed.

The Arizona Strip Interpretive Association has a money raising activity every November. Sid Atkin as D/ASIA President is in charge of the event. Phil Tuckett, Director of the Dick Nourse Center for Media Innovation at Dixie College is producing a DVD on CCC History in Washington County and the Arizona Strip. LoAnne is requesting any information and/or photograph of the CCC History of this area. George Cannon says he can advertise the Movie/Book on the WCHS Website. All photographs and information will be scanned onto the WCHS Web Site.

Fort Harmony – Lyman and Karen Platt

Lyman Platt donated a CD Database with the following collections on it -

Pinto
Shonesburg
Southern Utah Expedition – 1849
Kanaraville
New Harmony
Parowan
Hebron
Gunlock
Enterprise DUP

Last week a group of seven volunteers from FHHS started cleaning the Fort property. All the weeds and sagebrush on the North and East were cleared. There will be another clean up on October 17th.

On October 24th, there will an activity – “Friends of New Harmony” – at New Harmony. They will be raising money for the Firefighters.

The Apple Fest in New Harmony will be held on October 10th from 3-9 PM.

FHHS went to Rio Sion and had a lecture on how to make adobe, preparatory to beginning walls and other structures at the Fort site.

Roger Simister received his Award at Salt Lake City – this was sponsored by the Utah State Historical Society. He received the Award for donating so many hours to Washington County with his movie taking and documentation of the Historical sites in Washington County.

Steve Shaffer will give a lecture on November 14th at 3:00 PM to be held at the Washington City Museum in the meeting room at the rear of the Museum.

Lyman said they have been to Beaver to purchase three “old fashioned” Flag Poles to be used at Fort Harmony, by the big rock.

A story was told about a 17-year old Scout who with his “GPS Device” located graves in Bingham Canyon and placed markers on them.

At the end of the meeting, Connie said she would send a personal invitation to all of those who did not come to the October Meeting.

The November meeting will be held on November 4th at 8:30 AM at the Opera House.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Lynne Johnston