

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
September 29, 2010

Lyman Platt welcomed every one to the meeting. It started at 10:10 AM at the Washington County Library.

Those present at the meeting were: Lyman Platt, Karen Platt, Elaine Tyler, Jim Harlan, Richard Kohler, Jennifer Kohler, Jeanine Vander Bruggen, and Lynne Johnston. Those asked to be excused were George Cannon – ill, Christensen’s – in Wyoming at Historic Handcart Sites until mid-October, Joyce Whittaker and Rolaine King - health issues.

Treasurer’s Report

1. Sun First Bank – The balance as of August 31, 2010 was \$7859.91.
2. Village Bank – Balance is \$5958.94.
3. **Income:** the income during the summer has exceeded the outgo. \$80.00 was received from Silver Reef Museum for the sale of posters and books. \$195.00 was received from memberships. The total receipts for May – September were \$275.00. \$110.00 was received from Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP).
3. **Expenditures:** The expenditures for April-May were made for the Time Sheet creation, post office box renewal, website renewal, and purchase of DUP CD. Expenditures for May thru September were \$180.64. Two checks were Issued for \$1,000.00 each to Leeds Historical Preservation Committee and Fort Harmony Historical Society.
4. CD’s continue to earn interest each year – approximately \$300.00 this year between the two different accounts.
5. Changing the Names on the Signature Cards at the two Banks
Lyman went to each Bank to see what needs to be done as far as changing the Signatures on the Signature Card for signing checks. The decision was made to have George Cannon, Lyman Platt, Douglas Alder, and Richard Kohler be the “signers”. It will take two people to sign a check.

St. George – Doug Alder:

Doug spent the summer working on the history of Dixie State College and the history of the St. George Temple.

San Daniel Camp Site – Karen Platt

The work at San Daniel Campsite is progressing well. Washington County is the owner of the property. The San Daniel Campsite needs to be cleaned up. A sign for the site is being developed. The Sons of Utah Pioneers and the Boy Scouts of America will clean the site up. Costco has “fiberglass” picnic tables for about \$150.00.

Fort Harmony – Karen and Lyman Platt

The Fort site was cleaned up during the summer. A couple – the Gibby’s from Harmony Valley – have been assigned to work with the Histories of the people who lived at the Fort. Two quilts were made – one by Roland Lee’s wife. Both will be auctioned off at the Apple Fest which is October 9, 2010. One of the quilts was made with Levis and depicts an embroidered “Fort Harmony” in the center. A Grant for \$2,000 was received – they are looking for \$2,000 more. The Platt’s heard that the LDS Church is going to write a new Pioneer Women Book. Anyone who has Pioneer Women Ancestors can submit histories with pictures to the Church. Several new CD’s have been created this summer on various subjects: 1. Petroglyphs; 2. Custer’s Last Stand; and 3. Ancient Inhabitants of the Southwest. They have found more human remains – have sent to the State – they don’t know if they are from a boy or girl and/or from a Pioneer. They are not sure if John D. Lee took his two children’s bodies and buried them elsewhere. They were killed when the West wall of the Fort fell down in a rain storm. They are not sure if anyone was buried there at the Fort Site.

Silver Reef Museum – Annette Densley

Museum Photo Display and Open House on Friday and Saturday, October 8th and 9th, at the Silver Reef Museum. The photo display is very impressive.

Website – George Cannon

George continues to do an outstanding job of keeping the website in order. He has spent 42 hours and 45 minutes between August 10 and September 9, 2010, working on the website.

Lyman Platt – Board Issues and Editing

Lyman has spent time cleaning up old files and preparing summaries of historical and financial activities. He has been editing a new manuscript on Elisha H. Groves and his descendants who were residents of Fort Harmony and Grafton. He has had meetings with the Old Spanish Trails representatives on marking the trail through Washington County.

Leo Lyman – The Old Spanish Trail

Leo believes Spanish Trail is East of San Daniel Site at Exit 33 and North of Pintura. They want to erect signs every 10 miles.

Jim Harlan – Rockville

They have applied for an “Energy Efficiency” Grant so they can insulate the old Church. They would like to replace the oil burning heating system. There is an apartment in the basement of the old Church. Hopefully they will be done with the insulation of that by January. They are looking for another Grant to build a new Post Office and City Buildings. Peter Stemple has asked his architectural students to draw plans for the new City office building. John D. Powell went through Rockville in 1878. Rockville is taking out 15 or 20 old Mulberry Trees – trimming others and adding new trees. The School which serviced Rockville in the 1930 and 1940’s burned down,

Richard Kohler – History of Ditches

Richard has done a History of Ditches in Rockville. In doing the ditch study, he found out about other historical features of ditches, fences, corrals, trees and out buildings. He found out about a gas pump in front of the old store in 1890. He also found out about an old water wheel from 1899. Two deaths' occurred in the irrigation ditch near the water wheel. In 1994 in Hurricane they discovered a big 6' iron wheel. It would weigh approximately 300-400 pounds. There were tons of 4-5 inch spikes. In the U-Dot files – they discovered that the Rockville water goes to within one mile of Springdale. Some histories have the wrong information in their records– it is very hard to get the right information. It is also hard to have the wrong information changed with the correct information.

Richard was invited by Susan Crook to be on a Committee planning the 150 Year Celebration (2011) for the City of St. George. They will be working with the Bureau of Land Management and the City of St. George. They will be planning a walking tour to see seven historical homes. There will be other events also.

Jen Kohler

Jen told about the “Doc.Utah” Film Festival which was held in September here in St. George. She encouraged those on the WCHS Board to come up with an idea and join in the production of a Documentary along the “Historical” line. The first application date would be April 2011. The next Film Festival will be held in September 2011 – once again here in St. George. Any ideas?????

Elaine Tyler – Grant Money

Elaine told about giving the Grant money to the different communities and then not getting the paper work back. The idea about the Grant money is that it should be given to a member of the WCHS Board to be used in his/her Community. A Grant was given to the Washington City Historical Society (George Staheli President) and he hasn't been to many of the WCHS meetings. The paper work for that Grant should've been turned in by this past May 2010. A Grant was given to Ivins to be used for an old adobe Post Office, three years ago. She still does not have the paper work back.

Elaine asked for permission to take the WCHS Brochure (dated May 2007) and make some improvements/changes. It was agreed by those present that she could make the necessary changes to update the Brochure.

Jeanine Vander Bruggen – DUP McQuarrie Museum

Jeanine told about the Pioneer History Day which was held at the Museum on June 5, 2010. It was a success and every one present had a good time. There were Pioneer games, and Histories given by Pioneer women about their lives (DUP Daughters dressed up in Pioneer clothes). Mayor McArthur's father made homemade bread for the event.

Jeanine Vander Bruggen - Continued

She gave a History of St. George regarding the Artifacts from the Museum to the St. George Rotary Club.

She told about a fellow she visited who had information about Jacob Hamblin. He had a map of the Territory Jacob Hamblin had traveled – It depicted the “Utah Territory” before Utah became a State. He offered her some of the Maps. They are for sale at the DUP McQuarrie Museum for \$5.00 each.

She brought the Book “Under Dixie Sun” which was written by DUP Women. This past summer, Jeanine wrote an Index of names in the Book. She put the information on a CD. For those that already have the Book, the CD costs \$5.00. They have the Book for sale at the Museum and the CD is included in the price – which is \$35.00.

Items of Interest

1. Karen Platt stated that if J. L. Crawford said something did not happen, it didn't.
2. Richard Kohler will become the President of WCHS in January 2011.
3. Grafton, Rockville, and Toquerville were originally in Kane County.
4. There was a Rio Virgin County.
5. Mesquite, Nevada has been in four other States – New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and California.
6. At one time the City of Kanab put in a reservoir and found ancient ruins.
7. The Mormon Historical Society will be having a Convention here in May of 2011.

Historical Information/Notes

1. The Brinkerhoff Collection of Native American Information (a Premiere Collection) consisting of two filing cabinets will eventually be turned over to WCHS.
2. The Kanaraville Historical Society recently received a donation/inheritance from a resident, which includes her home, money and books.

Next Scheduled Field Trip - Grafton

The next Field trip will be hosted by the Platts' on October 30, 2010. You will need to be at the old Church which is on the left side in town at 10:00 AM. Please bring a picnic lunch.

The next meeting of WCHS will be held at the Library on November 17th. The December meeting will be held on January 5, 2011. The January WCHS meeting will be held on January 26, 2011. These meetings will be at the Library also – 10 AM-12:00 Noon.

Respectfully Submitted
Lynne Johnston