

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
September 28, 2011  
"Final"

Lyman Platt conducted the meeting in the absence of Dick Kohler. The meeting started a little past 10:00 AM. Those in attendance were Jennifer Kohler, Susan Crook, George Staheli, Jim Harlan, George Cannon, Lyman and Karen Platt, Eric Fleming, and Lynne Johnston. Dick Kohler was excused.

**MINUTES – Lynne Johnston**

At the June 29, 2011 meeting, Lynne asked for approval of the April and May 2011 Minutes. George Cannon made a Motion to approve both the April and May 2011 Minutes. It was seconded by LoAnne Barnes. They were approved with the necessary corrections.

The Minutes from the June 29 and September 28, 2011 meetings need to be approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Carol Christensen, our Treasurer will be back at our October 26, 2011 meeting.

**DOCUTAH FILM FESTIVAL – Jennifer Kohler**

Jennifer was pleased with the turnout this year for the DocUtah Film Festival held at Dixie College. This was the second year to be held on Dixie Campus. Some of the films shown were:

- “Liquid Desert”
- “Red Dirt In Our Shoes”
- “Boys of Bonneville”
- “Song of Lodge Ghetto” – a story about a Polish City- will run in mid September
- “Greenfire” – a land epic

**ST. GEORGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM – Jennifer Kohler**

The Museum will be at the old Court House on approx. 2<sup>nd</sup> North and 3<sup>rd</sup> East in St. George. It is planned for the lower level.

There was some discussion about early children's games. Vera Seitz and Jeanine Vander Bruggen from DUP might have a list of some of the old pioneer games that were played. Lynne suggested the “Boney Games” and George Staheli said he could get some old animal bones out in the desert.

### **LIQUID DESERT – Ian Crowe**

Ian said their filming group would finish up their filming with the Pioneer Wagon Train coming into St. George on Saturday – October 15<sup>th</sup> – in celebration of St. George’s 150th Anniversary. They would be interviewing the oldest person they could find in regard to the early days of St. George.

The Center for Media Innovations (CMI) was still working on the film project – Bart Anderson’s slides and stories of early historical figures.

### **SWISS DAYS – LoAnne Barnes**

LoAnne went on the Historical Homes tour during Swiss Days in Santa Clara. She stated that the homes and gardens were lovely. They visited the Swiss Mural in the Santa Clara Town Hall. They visited the Graf garden where they grow vegetables. The excess food that is grown is given to the Dixie Care and Share.

### **UTAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION – Susan Crook**

Susan handed a letter from Kirk Huffaker to WCHS – requesting the return of \$1,000 which was in the WCHS checking account. This money had been deposited into WCHS account as a “holding account” for money donated to Utah Heritage Foundation for the service of Susan Crook – the Southern Utah Field Representative of UHF. Dick Kohler knew about the letter and Lyman Platt asked Lynne Johnston to write the check, which she did. Those present at the meeting did approve the return of the money to UHF.

Susan reminded everyone that on January 14, 2012, there would be a tour of the Historic Businesses in St. George similar to the Historic Homes Tour which was provided by the City of St. George.

Silver Reef received \$6,000 from a Certified Local Government Grant (CLG).

### **WASHINGTON CITY – George Staheli**

Dick Kohler talked to George about the \$1,000 Grant which the Washington City Historical Society had received from WCHS. George told their Treasurer to watch and keep track of the receipts on the money from the Grant. He told about spending some of the money for restoration of 30 pictures – money went to Lynne Clark. Yvonne Kendall had been in charge of a Brochure of the past Principals and Teachers in Washington City, which was another part of the funds spent. Dick explained to George that there was a legal issue of the use of the funds, without sending in the receipts and paperwork. George said he was 100% responsible for the problem. He would try to get the receipts and paperwork turned in. It was suggested that Elaine call George. His phone # is 628-1077.

## Washington City continued

George suggested that if Jeanine Vander Bruggen or others needed items to display for their different activities that their Museum would be willing to loan items which they have on display.

## **WEBSITE – George Cannon**

George thanked WCHS for allowing him to attend two computer classes at Dixie College. He has been able to improve the website, using the things that he learned.

“PayPal” has been set up. He can now post items on the website for sale, such as books, etc. He has set up a “Subject Index”, a “Calendar for Events”, and a page for “Volunteers” needed, a “Membership List”, and a page with the “Membership Dues/Application to Join” information on it.

If any messages need to be posted to the members of WCHS – the email address is [washingtoncountyhistoricalsociety@yahoogroups.com](mailto:washingtoncountyhistoricalsociety@yahoogroups.com) and if messages need to be posted to the Board members – the e-mail address is [board@wchsutah.org](mailto:board@wchsutah.org)

## **LEGACY CELEBRATION – October 15, 2011**

Lyman reminded everyone about the Pioneer Wagon parade and celebration which will end at Vernon Worthen Park. There would be Booths set up – Jeanine VanderBruggen said WCHS could put their Brochure on the DUP table. George Cannon suggested that we keep in mind – to tell those who were interested about the WCHS website.

## **ROCKVILLE – Jim Harlan**

Jim stated that he was pleased to see his poem about the Flags was used in the WCHS Newsletter. He explained that on the Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day – there are 125 US Flags that are placed down Hwy. 9 through town. It is a lot of work, but well worth it.

There has been some vandalism in town – breaking car windows and stealing items from inside the cars.

Jim told about the little Post Office – 10 x 10 little shack – run by Alma Cox, on his property. The new Post Office has been moved to the Commercial Center – in a structure that looks old – at the Art Pavilion. They used Grant money to buy new insulation for the old Church and Recreation Hall. They have installed new windows.

On October 8, 2011 – they will celebrate the “Rockville Days” from 10AM to 2 PM. All were invited to come to their celebration.

## **“LET’S DRIVE” – Lyman Platt**

Lyman brought a book “Let’s Drive” written by Ann King Reynolds to share. The book is \$20.00. It is about road trips, history, and stories through the Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument. Lyman edited the book. If you wish to purchase the book, you can write a check to Fort Harmony Historical Society, or you can buy a copy on their website.

## **FORT HARMONY – HARMONY VALLEY - The Platt’s**

Lyman explained about the cost of an excavation on the Fort Harmony property. It cost \$10,000 for BYU’s Archeological Team to come work for two weeks. They received \$2,000 from the National Trust, \$1,000 from Findlay Auto. The cost for one week from BYU was \$8,000. They will be writing/applying for Grants for next year.

They are presently working with the LDS Church over the property all around the Fort.

They have met with a member of the Area 70’s, in regard to a Southern Utah LDS Church Youth Camp. Dick Kohler drew up a Layout of the area. They have drilled a well and received 3,000 gallons per minute. The Church agreed to put in running water and flushing toilets – a line to Fort Harmony – 10 acres, part of which is to be used for a Pioneer garden.

A proposal has been written and is ready to submit to Washington County – to incorporate Harmony Valley. There could be new Harmony boundaries – they would like to make an 1862 Historical District. There are approximately 1800 to 3000 people who do not get any benefits. If they incorporate they will be eligible to do many things.

Toquerville had an irrigation system clear above Ash Creek – the culverts are still there. They are oak wrapped in wire. There are also Native American artifacts there.

In the excavation of the Fort Harmony, water came 5 feet from the NW corner and split under the house. Southern Utah University excavated the well and did not find anything – they drilled 7 feet down and found no wall or artifacts. At the South end – the West side of the entry way they uncovered the wall to the outhouses. The Platt family lived on the SE corner of the Fort – they uncovered a wall on the East side, which proved there were houses there. Agatha Lee’s and the Platt’s houses had adobe floors. It was well worth the money to have the excavation done.

The Platt’s raised \$250,000 because of the Volunteer hours – in matching funds. Lyman suggested that the WCHS Board members keep track of their volunteer hours so that they can be used for matching funds. There is a form on the WCHS website for that purpose. A copy is included with these minutes for your use.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

- A suggestion for raising money by selling quilts – a lady in Washington City makes the quilt tops and then there is a lady in their Ward who quilts and binds them.
- Lyman Platt gave Lynne Johnston a box of material to be added to the Brinkerhoff Collection which is stored at Dixie College in their Special Collections Department
- Someone from the History Channel/American Restoration inquired about the historic items which might be available in Washington County
- J. L. Crawford had a stroke and died on Monday, September 26, 2011
- Roger Simister documented “Depression to Destiny”
- Does anyone have pictures of the old Arrowhead Hotel? If so contact George Cannon

Respectfully Submitted  
Lynne Johnston