

Washington County Historical Society Board Meeting
March 28, 2018
St. George Branch Library

Members Present

Doug	Alder	St. George HPC/ WCHS Program Committee Co-chair
LoAnne	Barnes	Leeds HPC/ Silver Reef Museum Board
Kathleen	Broeder	WCHS VP, Program Committee Co-chair/ DSU Special Collections
Keith	Cannon	Juanita Brooks Statue Project Chair/ WCHS VP-Acting Treasurer
Sidney	Creer	Juanita Brooks Statue Project Co-Chair
Susan	Crook	WCHS Grants Manager/Recording Secretary
Ian	Crowe	Videographer
Pat	Cundick	WCHS Publicity/Silver Reef Museum Board
Patricia	Hadley	Leeds Tithing House Owner
Richard	Kohler	WCHS President
Susie	Nilsson	WCHS Fieldtrip Coordinator/Santa Clara HPC
Jesse	Stocking	
Jeanine	Vander Bruggen	Daughters of Utah Pioneers McQuarrie Museum Board President

Welcome and Call to Order

Dick Kohler called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Business

1. Approval of Meeting Notes from February 28, 2018

Motion: Motion by Jeanine Vander Bruggen to approve Meeting Notes as presented; second by Jesse Stocking. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Lichen Lecture, Silver Reef. LoAnne Barnes reported on the lecture, "Lichen: The Power of Partnership," at Silver Reef on Saturday March 24, 2018. Dr. Marius van der Merwe gave a talk and a guided walk exploring the many facets of rock lichen found in Southern Utah.

Paiute Culture Lecture, Springdale. Dick Kohler attended a lecture in Springdale by archaeologist David Van Alfen on Paiute Culture. Dick noted that Mr. Van Alfen was unaware of the local narrative histories about Native Americans.

Medicine in Early Dixie, McQuarrie Museum. Jeanine Vander Bruggen reported on the lecture by Dr. Craig Booth on Saturday, March 17th about early medicine and the effects of bad water quality on health. Childhood mortality from water-borne diseases was especially high when water was conveyed in open ditches.

Easter Eggs the Swiss Way. Susie Nilsson said the Santa Clara Historical Society just did an Easter egg dyeing activity the Swiss way.

Upcoming Activities

Fern and J.L. Crawford Lectures. LoAnne Barnes reminded us about these lectures at the Canyon Community Center in Springdale. April 12th Jennifer Jordan presents, "The Women of K2". May 19th James McVey presents, "The Pen as Sword: Western Nature Writing and Conservation."

Juanita Brooks Lecture. Doug Alder encouraged all to attend the 35th annual Juanita Brooks Lecture by William P. MacKinnon, "Across the Desert in 1858: Thomas L. Kane's Mediating Mission and the Mormon Women who Made it Possible." It will be held in the Cox Performing Arts Center on the Dixie State University campus April 17, 2018, instead of in the St. George Tabernacle because the renovations are not yet complete at the tabernacle. Kathleen Broeder noted that Elizabeth Wood Kane's journal, [A Gentle Account of Life in Utah's Dixie, 1872-73](#) can be found online on various websites by entering the title in one's browser.

Silver Reef/Cosmopolitan Events. Pat Cundick invited everyone to Desert Bloom Day on Saturday, April 28th. [Dr. Robert Schuyler](#) will give a lecture on saloons on May 5th at 10 a.m., preceded by a guided walk at 9 a.m. He will be in the museum May 2-11. Ian Crowe suggested trying to get a video crew from DSU to film Dr. Schuyler. The footage taken of him by DSU crews in the past needs editing. Ian will send links to his YouTube channel with the footage to Silver Reef Museum Manager Bobbi Wankier.

McQuarrie Museum. Jeanine Vander Bruggen announced that Kathleen Broeder will give a talk on education in Dixie on Saturday, April 21st. The lecture will also count as the WCHS field trip. Doug informed us that Martha Cragun Cox wrote the Normal School teacher education test that was used in Utah, a test that many university professors would be unable to pass today.

Projects

Historic Plat Map. Jesse Stocking has taken on an assignment to look into conserving the large, historic plat map of St. George hanging in the lower level of the St. George City Hall. It needs to be professionally conserved as well as being scanned to preserve the information on it. Kathleen will contact several paper conservators in order to prepare a conservation proposal with costs. Jesse will take the proposal to Marc Mortensen, Director of Support Services at St. George City, to present to the St. George Historic Preservation Commission for a recommendation to the City Council for consideration of funding. Jesse will get dimensions of the map for Kathleen to use in the cost estimate.

Juanita Brooks Statue Project. Keith Cannon said the project committee has raised ±\$6,500. Individual contacts are the most effective way to get donations. Susie Nilsson suggested that Keith go to Art Around the Corner and ask for twice the amount needed. Susan Jarvis is the president. Susie gave Keith and Doug her contact information. Other suggestions:

- Ask for donations at the Juanita Brooks lecture with a poster advertising the project and pledge cards.

Motion: Motion by Dick to authorize Keith to spend money for poster and pledge cards. Second by Jesse. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dick has recruited Larene Cox, Commissioner Dean Cox's wife to help with fundraising. She has experience as a school board member and as a member of the Republican Women.

Other Business

Oral History Projects. Susie Nilsson said noted that WCHS is supporting two oral history projects that have grant applications to Utah Humanities, 1) the Veteran's Oral History Project, and 2) the LeVan Martineau Oral History Project. Staff at Utah Humanities advised Susie that only one of these grants will be funded. Susie said that the \$1,000 from WCHS for the Martineau project will be enough to make significant progress on it without the grant from Utah Humanities.

Historic Power Plant. Dick Kohler has talked to Kathleen Nielson about stabilizing or restoring the historic power plant on the Virgin River in Confluence Park, LaVerkin. The plant is abandoned and continues to deteriorate and be vandalized. He has talked to the Washington County Commission about funding a project to restore the plant to working condition. The restoration cost is prohibitive, and there is no funding for ongoing maintenance. Dick suggests that the plant could be restored as a functioning power plant with an onsite manager.

Leeds Sesquicentennial. Pat Hadley announced that the Town of Leeds will celebrate its sesquicentennial in May 2019. More information will follow as plans are made.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon

Next Meeting: April 25, 2018, 10-noon, St. George Library

Meeting Notes prepared by Susan Crook, Recording Secretary/Grants Manager