

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors' Meeting
MINUTES - Wednesday - November 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM by our President - Connie Childs.

Those in attendance were Bob Olsen, Connie Childs, Lewana Hales, Jeannie Bates, Elaine Tyler, George Cannon, LoAnne Barnes, Lucia Christensen, L. Karen Platt, Lyman Platt, Yvonne Kendall, Tricia Nelson, Doug Alder and Lynne Johnston.

Joyce Whittaker

Connie asked each member to glance over the Minutes from the October meeting and make any corrections - A motion was made and seconded to approve the October minutes. All those present said "Aye".

The Treasurer's Report for October and November was given by Jeannie Bates. There is a balance of \$6680.14 in the checking account. There are two Certificates of Deposit - Sun First CD - \$10,795.17 @3.36% maturity 10/11/08 - maturity amount - \$10,977.79 - new maturity date 4/11/09; Village Bank CD - \$5,014.87 @ 4.50% - renewed 1/10/08. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Report. All there said "Aye".

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Harmony Fort - Karen Platt

The Field Trip to see the Harmony Fort was a great success. Our thanks to the Platt's for taking their time to "show and tell" what they know about the Fort. Five towns were represented - Twelve people came. Joyce Whittaker suggested there might be a "calling list" to invite more to come to these field trips. There were two articles in the Spectrum about the event.

The next place will be Santa Clara. Joyce said it should be Washington. We could see the Relief Society Building and the Museum in the old school house. Connie suggested that the towns we visit should be in historical order. Dr. Alder said if we go in historical order, then Washington would be next. Connie asked Dr. Alder if he could give her a correct list of the "historical order of the towns" and she will post on our Yahoo Web site. There is a list in Andrew Larson's book I Was Called to Dixie. The towns of Gunlock and Virgin were before St. George.

1854 - Santa Clara

1854 - New Harmony

1857 - Washington

Joyce said she thought Cathleen Nelson would be willing to work with our committee on a day for the Santa Clara field trip - preferably the end of January. Connie said she would talk to Sherrie Anderson.

St. George - Doug Alder

Doug wondered why the request for a grant for the old Academy in St. George had not been talked about. Elaine Tyler said they had never asked for a grant.

Doug Alder asked for a small grant - \$2000 - to study the Granaries in Washington County. Many people built a building near their house to store grain - the inside walls were flush. You can see one behind the Bradshaw Hotel - two feet by four feet on the outside. They stored tools, bags of grain, etc. There are about forty in St. George and Washington. They were a little oblong in shape. He told of four thousand pigeons being raised behind the Opera House. They have found one granary between Apple Valley and Colorado City. Robert Redford rode his bike backwards into a bull pen near a granary.

2 x 4 lumber

Web Site - George Cannon

George said it is easy to get a message out by posting it on our Yahoo website. George did talk to Roger at Dixie College - It would cost \$7.00 a month for support and \$100 for the software. He thought if there was more interest it would be worthwhile to spend the money to implement our own website.

Harmony Fort - the Platt's

They need more money (\$500,000) to purchase the property around the fort. The cost is \$200,000 for seven and a half acres. The other five acres is \$160,000. The property has water and electricity. The total amount of acres is twelve and a half. It could be broken up into parcels. They would like to build a museum and fort. Washington County said they could buy some of the property. Platt's did not agree with that. Connie might know someone in Cedar City (a foundation) who could buy two and a half acres. Two and a half acres south of the fort are listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Kent Powell from the Utah State Historical Society may stop the selling of the property. Platt's have written a book on Grafton - if you would like a copy you could contact Wesley Craig - St. George - 867-8422

Southern Utah Cultural Center - Connie Childs

Connie had nothing to report.

Washington - Yvonne Kendall

They are having a Silent Auction to raise money for the museum - Quilts have been donated - some of the other items which have been donated - silver jewelry, etc. The date is November 7, 2008 at 6:30. The dinner is \$12.50 per person. They are also trying to locate a DUP sign that used to be on the Cotton Factory.

Toquerville - Robert and Virginia Olsen

It has been proposed that they make the old Church into a Museum. Bob is looking for display cases. Someone suggested looking at Deseret Industries. They have put rocking chairs around the stove. A new flagpole could be erected at the Church by the Boy Scouts. Bob could put an article in the Spectrum for display cases.

Leeds/Silver Reef- LoAnne Barnes

They are improving and updating two cemeteries. They are trying to find out who are buried in the Catholic cemetery. Wes Craig did a study on the cemeteries in the area. It was suggested that they look in old newspapers for names. They are trying to use CIG for grant money. They have contacted UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation) for beautification on Main Street.

LaVerkin - Lewana Hale

Lewana said there was "no report".

Ivins - Emma/Bill Fife and Marie Hansen

They are looking for grant money - it was suggested that grant writers usually have a database. They need to head in a direction that they could be comfortable with. The Heritage festival was a great success.

Grafton - Jane Wehland - Karen Platt

A book titled Ghost Town on the Rio Virgin has been donated to the DUP (Daughters of Utah Pioneers).

Elaine Tyler -

Elaine suggested that the committee give certificates out to those "Lifetime" members, especially the businesses. Our thanks to Elaine for once again, donating \$1000 from her foundation to the Washington County Historical Society. She has received the paperwork she needed from Hurricane and Washington City. She needs the receipts from Leeds and Ivins.

Doug Alder told about a video "100 Years at Zion" - Lyman Hafen - which is being shown at the Museum by the Opera House. There is a great art exhibit about Zion Canyon there also.

Lucia Christensen thought it would be good to call the Mayor of St. George in regard to the restoration of the old theatre. St. George is building a new court house.

Our thanks to Trish Nelson who takes notes and puts article in the newspapers. A suggestion was made that we might give Brian Passey (Spectrum) a gift card for lunch at a local restaurant. Joyce Whittaker thought it would be great if we could get him to come to our meetings.

Our thanks to Roger Simister at Dixie College - he made the video of the Fort Harmony field trip.

Connie said she thought we were all "pioneers". Those who come after us will look back and say that - the Washington County Historical Society tried to honor those who "restored vs. tear down" all the historical buildings and sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.

There will be no meeting in December.