

Randolph County Genealogical Society

January 2010 Newsletter

Thirteen members of the Randolph County Genealogical Society braved the cold and met at the Farmhouse Café in Chester on Tuesday evening, January 12th, for food, fellowship and their monthly meeting. All officers were present, with one exception.

A new gavel, made by out-going president, Don Wiley, for the Society, sounded the start of the business meeting at 6:45pm. After the routine reports were read and accepted, discussion turned to the latest information on the site of the proposed future home of Randolph County Genealogical Society.

On the previous day, five members of the Planning Committee met and toured the space we will be calling "home". We were happy with what we saw that morning. It is a very nice facility. It is divided into a reception area as you enter the building, with two rooms to the left and two rooms to the right of the reception/office area. While this is different from the large open space we had for the library, at our previous address, this space will work well for us. It's easy to find, has ample parking, is on ground level and handicap accessible.

While we originally thought it might be the end of March or first of April before we could move in, we were told that it probably would be a little sooner. They need to finish a couple projects, then move some of their furnishings, and sell what furnishings they don't plan to keep. They will clear out one room and make space for us to have our Copier and etc. brought in around the end of February, so that we can work there and do our printing before we actually move in.

The members, in attendance at the meeting, voted to possibly purchase a conference table and some chairs that the current occupant plans to sell.

This is the time of the year when we need to get our dues sent in—Virginia is typing the "master" for the membership labels, for the Quarterly and Newsletter mailings and we need to have our memberships current. So, if you have not yet sent in your 2010 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you, to many of you who have sent "notes" along with your dues, we really appreciate your nice comments. John Malone wrote that he is looking forward to visiting the new RCGS quarters—Dennis Rohlfing wrote that he is glad to hear that we have found a new home in Steeleville.

Linda Bowman wrote that she loves the publications—the last quarterly was of special interest to her. She said, we may remember that she is a descendent of Robert Muir. The last quarterly listed his son, John Muir, on one of the pages—the article about the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian Migration. She went on to say, "Some of your members have names that look like they could also be descendents of Robert. There is a story on the internet about their coming to America and being ship wrecked off Canada. I wonder how they came from Canada to Illinois. The article (on the internet) says they walked to Randolph County with only the clothes on their backs. Does anybody there know of a source document for any such information? I'd love to locate someone with photos of the early Muirs."

One member wrote us with a suggestion that we provide an opportunity for members to communicate and help each other with their research by—members sending in their name, address, e-mail address, along with the surnames that they are researching.

No doubt, that more than one member is researching the same surname, and one of them may have that bit of elusive information that the other has sought and not yet found. What fun to discover and “trade” information on an ancestor you have in common.

We thought that was a good suggestion—so at our meeting last night, some of the members, present, submitted their names and addresses, and the surnames they are researching. We will type these, and they will be in our next quarterly, along with the invitation for others to send in their names, addresses and surnames. We plan to have some new names, etc. in subsequent quarterlies and keep the communication going.

If anyone else has an idea, or a request for a certain kind of article in future quarterlies, please write and tell us. We run out of ideas. We want to publish a quarterly that you enjoy reading, so we would like to know what kind of articles you want to see written.

We have a new publication in progress about Naturalization and Emigration Information for Randolph County that ranges from the early 1800's to about 1950. One member has “read” and printed off material, for the book, from fourteen reels of microfilm of court records of Randolph County. We also have material we gathered from books and papers in the Archives. Another member is typing all this, putting it together for the book. We hope to have this publication ready to print by the time we get into our new “home”.

Thank you to Virginia Mansker who has done a wonderful job for many years of writing your monthly Newsletter. We have had many comments from our members that they enjoyed getting, and reading, the Newsletters she puts together. That job now has passed on to me—no way that I can do the job she did, but I will try my best.

So, remember to send your dues—send your names, addresses, and the Surnames, researching—and your likes and dislikes regarding Quarterly articles. Our address is currently P.O. Box 328, Chester, IL 62233, until we make the move to our new space, in a couple months.

Stay warm—and our best wishes to you all for a Blessed and Happy Year Year!

June James
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