

Randolph County Genealogical Society  
April, 2010, Newsletter

We met at the "Farmhouse Café" in downtown Chester, had dinner and then conducted our meeting. The weather was threatening that evening and only seven brave souls ventured out. Our by-laws state that a quorum of seven members is necessary to conduct our meeting, and so we had enough, four officers and three other members.

We proceeded through the minutes and reports to the business at hand—Virginia brought us up to date on the progress of our move into our new quarters in Steeleville. She had talked to the Mayor of Steeleville the previous day, and he told her that the town Board was meeting that night and the terms of our lease was on the agenda. She was given the impression that we would be able to move in sometime in the month of May, as previously stated. Don Wiley has consented to make a sign for the front of the building.

We are anxiously awaiting the day we can move our library out of storage and into our new library location. It has been a long sixteen months! We regret not being able to have our resources available to the public for research. We miss having you come in, sharing excitement with you when you find that information you had been searching for.

We have tried to keep you informed and up to date. We have gotten our Quarterlies and newsletters out, though off a little from our regular schedule.

We are happy, though, that the extra time at home has allowed us to spend time at our computers, typing new publications, available to our members and the general public, through our web page—Randolph Co. Divorces—Randolph Co. Naturalizations—two publications of early Court Records and early County Commissioners Records—Pension Records—Anti-Slavery Movement in our County—and two Indexes to previously published books.

We are saddened with the loss of member, George Boyd, who passed away on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Sparta Community Hospital, Sparta, Illinois. He and his wife, Jane, were regular attendees at our meetings. We will miss his smile and positive remarks.

We mourn with local member, Emily Lyons, in the loss of her only daughter, Camille (Lyons) Matney, who died on March 24<sup>th</sup>, in Memphis, Tennessee. Emily had lost her only son just months before. They are both buried on historic Kaskakia Island, Randolph Co. Illinois, where they grew up.

Looking forward to being settled in our new library and anxious to give you all the news that we are "Open For Business".

June James, Pres.  
Randolph County Genealogical Society

Randolph County Genealogical Society  
May, 2010 Newsletter

We held our May meeting at The Ole Farmhouse Café, downtown Chester, on May 11<sup>th</sup>—we had thirteen members in attendance.

Since our last meeting, Virginia received a copy of the lease for our new location. She met with the Trustees: Jane Boyd, Emily Lyons and Lola Crowder, and they read and signed the lease and sent it back. The Mayor of Steeleville said they plan to change the locks and do a few other things to the building and that should be completed by the end of May. We were told that we should be able to move in after June 1<sup>st</sup>. And so, we wait for final word!

We printed a new publication this week—Randolph County Commissioners Records from the early 1800's of roads and bridges of Randolph county, and who built them, also records about the paupers and transients in the early years of Randolph County and how the county dealt with the situation. Member, Janice Zang, abstracted and typed this book from microfilm. It has 244 pages, 32 pages of index, and the price is \$20.00 plus \$1.25 tx. (IL only) plus \$3.75 P&H.

Another “New” book available—MORE THAN EIGHT SIDES TO THE STORY—a book about Illinois' Charter Oak School, 1873-1953 by Mary Helen Cissell. Charter Oak was a unique eight-sided one room school and this book travels back in time with oral histories from students of this school. The book contains hundreds of historic photographs and personal narratives. Charter Oak is now a National Historic Site, maintained by Randolph County Historical Society. The book has 308 pages, soft-cover, and sells for \$26.00. It is available at [222.lulu.com](http://222.lulu.com) or directly from the author [mary.helen93@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.helen93@yahoo.com) 770/886-5153 or locally: Randolph County Historical Society, Jeff Gillespie 618/443-4975 or Don Schilling 618/443-2439.

We hope our next newsletter will give you the good news that we are moved and open, with all the information you need to come see us and research your ancestors, with everything back to a normal routine.

Randolph County Genealogical Society  
June James, Pres.