

RANDOLPH CO. GEN. SOC.
NEWSLETTER
MAY, 2012

We met at our library on Tues. Apr. 8th, 6:30 pm. for our regular monthly meeting, had ten members in attendance. Last month, a suggestion was brought up that we have afternoon meetings year round, members should call the office with their preference. After discussion, it was decided that we leave it the way it was previously voted upon—we will meet at 2:00pm, on the second Tuesday, during the winter months, when we are on standard time, and will meet at 6:30pm during the summer months when we are on daylight savings time. All meetings will be held at our library, except for the summer picnic and our Christmas party.

I mistakenly wrote in last month's newsletter that the DAR would be dedicating a monument to a Revolutionary War soldier, McCormack, on Sat. May 19th. The correction to that statement is: The DAR will be marking the grave of Susannah Gault McCormack, (wife of James McCormack), who is the daughter of William Gault, Revolutionary War veteran. This will take place at Union cemetery, Sparta, IL. On Sat. May 19th. There will be a luncheon afterwards, reservations requested—618/587-5911.

Robert Morrow gave an interesting account of a book written by his ancestor, May Morrow, deceased, who had lived in California. She lived to be 90 years and told of her life and all about the Morrow family she married into, the emigrating Morrow, and when he came from Ireland. Robert received a copy of the book—104, one-sided pages, which he intends to bind.

Emily Lyons told us about recent "dousing" that had been done in the area of the Garrison Hill Cemetery in Kaskaskia State Park. In the early 1890's, when the Mississippi River changed course, taking over the channel of the Kaskaskia River, and eroded the eastern edge of Kaskaskia, cutting through the village and cemetery, the townspeople moved the coffins from the cemetery to Garrison Hill. Some had already washed away, but they were able to save many. There were not tombstones for most of the graves. Cal Grannemann came to "douse" the area of Garrison Hill to find where all the bodies were buried.

The program we co-hosted with the Chester Public Library, held at the Chester Public Library on Tuesday, April 24th, 6:30pm, was well attended. Gillium Ferguson, a former Federal prosecutor, and also State prosecutor, very interested in history, researched and wrote a book about the role that Illinois played in the War of 1812. This is the Bi-centennial year of that war.

He told us about Randolph County, and what was happening here at that time. We heard about the conflict with the Indians, resenting the white man coming from the east, moving on the land, and clearing the forests for fields, the wildlife they depended on for food, moving out. We had gained our independence from England, but were still having problems with them. Because the Indians resented us, they sided with England and when the War broke out, the Indians fought against us, for the most part.

Mr. Ferguson is traveling throughout Illinois, speaking to groups about this war, featuring information he has found about the particular area in which he is speaking. It was an interesting evening and some purchased his book, to find out more.

The Steeleville Public Library, this month, gave us a microfilm reader that had been given to their library. They do not have microfilm and had no need for it.

For anyone who is interested, Randolph Co. Gen. Soc. keeps on hand, copies of all their Quarterlies, "The Trails". They date back to our organization in 1992. If you would like copies of any of the past issues, the cost is \$2.50, including postage, for each issue.

Those of us who volunteer in the office/Library, continue to keep busy on our various projects.

June and Janice are putting together a more complete collection of the early marriages of Randolph County.

Augie and Leona are clipping articles from old newspapers.

Lottie clips articles from the current year's newspapers for our newspaper research collection.

Midge is putting the Veterans project together, information of all deceased veterans. Virginia puts the quarterly together, pays the bills, etc.

We will meet on Jun. 12th, 6:30pm—refreshments will be ice cream, bring toppings or "go-alongs".

June James, Pres.