

RANDOLPH CO. GENEALOGICAL SOC.

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2012

We met Tuesday evening at the library, with nine members in attendance—it was a warm evening, but the extreme 100 plus heat wave had broken and part of the area had gotten a nice rain. We are still far below our average amount of rain for the year and need several good rains to catch up.

After the usual reports, we got into the business part of our meeting—there is a project in progress to digitize and preserve the records of the soldiers who fought in the War of 1812. We had received a letter asking for a contribution to help with this project. After discussion, we voted to contribute. This year is the Bicentennial year of that war.

We also discussed our telephone situation in the office. Our library, being a former business headquarters, has a multiple, intercom type phone set-up. We didn't use the multiple phones, just the one at the front desk, but it had no answering machine, and we were not able to connect an answering machine with that system. We had had several complaints from members who told us that we should have an answering machine. A member discussed this problem with members of the town board—the town of Steeleville owns our building—and was told we could make whatever changes we needed in our telephone. Therefore we plan to have a new line put in, separate from the current system, with an answering machine. We probably will keep the same number.

The summer season has brought in a lot of researchers, seeking information on their ancestors. We are always glad to see, and assist, anyone who wants to come to our library to research. We have a good selection of resources from which to research, and are told, often, by researchers, that they are surprised by the amount of records that we have, and that they have found lots of answers in their research. We continue to collect and add to our library, so come by and see us.

We have finished going through our microfilm records, collecting all we had on early marriages in Randolph county, correcting and updating our Early Marriages resources. The typing part of that project is not yet completed, but will be soon. Janice is now checking out and compiling records on early land records and grants in Randolph Co.

We have a good collection of newspaper obituaries, complete collections dating from 1980 to the present time. We have some obituaries from years prior to 1980, but not complete collections for those earlier years. Lottie is our volunteer who clips and puts together our newspaper collections for the library.

Midge is finishing up the Veteran's project, material she, with Augie and Leona's help, have collected from obituaries, listing deceased veterans of Randolph Co. their birth date, death date, which war they served in and where they are buried. She has it all typed, now alphabetizing the lists and printing them off the computer. Augie and Leona are now working on a collection of old newspapers, given us, clipping articles of genealogical value. They will be put in binders available for research when finished.

Virginia, with Lottie's assistance, has published the June issue of "The Trails" and mailed it to our members and currently collecting material for the September issue. She welcomes any articles that our members want to submit for the "Trails"—articles of historical or genealogical content, records, or stories from your family history. Virginia has been the editor of our quarterly for many years and we appreciate the good job she does.

In August, we planned a picnic in the park at Eden on our meeting night—member, Robert Morrow, traditionally grills the meat, and we all bring side dishes. This summer, there will be a slight change—instead of having it on our meeting night (2nd. Tues.) we will be having it on Aug. 7th, a week earlier, as Robert is unable to be there on the usual date. So our August Picnic meeting will be on the first Tuesday, Aug. 7th, at 5:30pm. at the Eden Park.

We hope you all are enjoying the summer, it is going quickly. We hope you are having success in finding answers, "breaking brick walls" in your research. It is so exciting when you find something for which you've been looking a long time. We hope you are having these exciting moments.

June James, Pres.
Randolph Co. Gen. Soc.