

Randolph Co. Genealogical Society
NEWSLETTER
August, 2012

We had planned to have a cookout in August, at the park in Eden, north of Sparta, IL. Robert Morrow, one of our members, was going to grill the meat and we all would bring side dishes. After enduring weeks of hot weather, often with temperatures in three digits, we conferred and came to the conclusion that sitting in an air-conditioned restaurant would be a more comfortable way to spend an evening. So, we met at Lollie's in Sparta on Tuesday, Aug. 7th, with seventeen in attendance, and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Following the meal, we had a short business meeting, heard the reports and correspondence received. The quilt raffle project is doing well, we discussed having a place to sell tickets, and workers to man it, at the upcoming Popeye's Picnic at Chester on Sep. 7-9, 2012. We will be drawing the winning ticket at our Sep. meeting on the 11th.

We still have not gotten our telephone changed to include an answering machine, have to get some changes made in our line, but hope to have that done soon.

Robert Morrow has put together a book of his Mathew/Morrow family history and he donated a copy of this book to our research library. Thank you, Robert! We have an extensive section of family histories in our library, available for research, for those researching these family lines.

We have had a lot of researchers come to our library this summer to work on their family research, they have been happy with the information they were able to find. This past two weeks we have had a thirteen year old boy, researching his family history. He was visiting his grandmother and came several days to research. This is unusual, having a researcher that young, but we are delighted to see that happening. There is a growing interest in "finding your roots", it brings out the "detective" in all of us.

We had a call from a man in Chicago who is writing a book and seeking information on James Thompson, an early pioneer in our county, who became a surveyor, as well as a Judge. James Thompson surveyed the

early city of Chicago and laid out all the streets, even the alleys, of the city. We have been researching and sending him what information we could find. Each day brings something new and interesting in our office and library.

Midge has been busy completing the project of deceased veterans of Randolph County. She is alphabetizing the lists she's typed and printing them off the computer. She will soon be finished with that project. She is also putting together a book listing all the "stillborn" deaths, from our death records in the library. When she has finished all this, she will join Augie and Leona in their project working with old newspapers. We were given a collection of old newspapers from the middle of the last century and they are clipping items of genealogical interest and will be putting them into books for our research shelves.

June is still typing on the early marriages—redoing our current Early Marriage Book, making corrections and adding missed marriages found in our microfilm collection.

Janice continues to work with our microfilm, currently working with land records. She abstracts what is contained on each film, types that information and puts it in a book for our shelves.

Lottie and Joyce work with Virginia on Tuesday's and they clip newspaper articles, obits, births, marriages, etc. from our weekly county newspapers and compile a book of research material for each year, for our shelves. Virginia takes care of the office business and is the editor of our quarterly publication, "The Trails". Lottie and Joyce help her with this, also, and help her with the newsletter mailing.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sep. 11, 2012, 6:30pm at the library. It is Joyce's birthday that day, and she said she will bring refreshments for after the meeting.

We hope you are finding answers in your search for elusive ancestors. If we can be of help, let us know. If you are coming through our area, stop in to see us.

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