

Randolph County Genealogical Society  
NEWSLETTER  
October, 2012

Nine members of our society met at the library for the October meeting, two of our officers were absent. We began with the Pledge to our flag and roll call of officers, then heard the reports and approved them.

Member, Linda Waite Smith, from Minnesota, had visited our library recently, when she was in our area. She visited other libraries, too, in her research, and purchased two books which she donated to our library—*Sparta News Plaindealer Newspapers, Obituary Index July 1873—September 1921* and *Sparta News Plaindealer Newspaper, Obituary Index 1922—1931*. The Sparta Library and the Marissa Historical Society both have microfilms of these newspapers. These books are now on our shelves and will aid researchers in finding obituaries from these newspapers. Thank you, Linda, for your gift to our library.

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned old newspapers that were given to our library. I misunderstood—they do not belong to us, they are on loan to our library. They range from 1950 through the 1970's, copies of the Steeleville Ledger. Some years are covered pretty well, but some years are missing a lot of copies. Some of the papers are in bad shape, falling apart, so volunteers are saving what they can from these issues and putting them in notebooks, in page protectors.

We discussed, in our meeting, the idea of having research "Open House" a couple times a year, with volunteers available to help prospective researchers. There is a growing interest in family research since the television show, "Who do you think you are" has aired. We remember, when we first started to research, we didn't know where to begin or how to go about it. So we want to help people who want to get started researching their family history. We will probably do this on a Saturday to accommodate people who work during the week. We are open on the third Saturday of each month, from 9am until noon, and so we are thinking of doing it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, but maybe extend it until 2pm. With the holiday season coming up, a busy time for most people, we will probably wait until January, for the first one, with another one during the summertime.



We would like to have more people, who live in our area, to be able to take advantage of our research library and avail themselves with the many resources that we have.

We have had a lot of researchers come to our library from out of state this past month. One couple, from Minnesota, came for a wedding and spent three days here gathering information and took home a stack of notes and copies of records and documents that they said would keep them busy all through the winter ahead.

One couple came from North Carolina to attend a class reunion and spent some time in our library researching their family. A lady from Virginia, came to our area for a family event and took advantage of her time here to do some research, and gathered information from our church records on her family.

We have had several rains in recent weeks, and while we have not recovered all the moisture lost during the drought, and the crops are not yielding the amount of harvest usually expected, we are seeing green grass again instead of brown. The Mississippi river is still very low, which is not good for the barge traffic. The days are cooler now, the leaves are turning colors and we still have beauty around us to enjoy.

Next month we will go back to standard time instead of daylight-saving time. And because it gets dark earlier then, we will again, as we voted last year, have our meeting in the afternoon at 2pm, when the library closes. We will meet for our next meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm. Our refreshments will be Pie and coffee, or cold drink. We hope to see a good turn-out.

We hope you all are having good results in your research, finding long sought answers. I have been blessed this summer by a "computer savvy" daughter, who has been bitten by the "research bug" and found all kinds of interesting things in our family lines. It has been fun!

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June James, Pres.